REQUESTING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO CONDUCT A
SYSTEMATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND DATA-DRIVEN ASSESSMENT TO
DETERMINE WHERE NEW WARNING SIRENS ARE NEEDED IN THE STATE,
BASED ON HAZARD RISKS, POPULATION DENSITY, VULNERABLE
POPULATIONS, AND OTHER RELEVANT CRITERIA.

WHEREAS, Hawaii has a statewide warning system to warn
residents of emergencies, including natural disasters, and acts
of war, such as an incoming ballistic missile; and

WHEREAS, this system includes emergency broadcasts on
television and radio, alerts sent to mobile phones via email or
text, and an audible system of warning sirens; and

WHEREAS, the false missile alert that occurred on
January 13, 2018, exposed that the warning systems currently in
place are not reaching all people, as some people did not
receive the alerts and also could not hear any audible sirens;
and

WHEREAS, outdoor warning sirens have an audible range of
approximately one mile and cost approximately $100,000 each to
install, which would make it extremely costly to install enough
sirens to cover all populated areas of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HEMA) does
not have a systematic way to determine where new sirens are most
needed and where the installation of new sirens is a priority; and

WHEREAS, rather than using a systematic, data-driven
approach to determine where new sirens should be installed, such
as considering hazards, population density, vulnerable
populations that include vulnerable areas of the State and
vulnerable people with disabilities as defined under the
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and others with access and
functional needs as defined by the Federal Emergency Management
Agency (FEMA), and other relevant factors, HEMA instead makes
decisions regarding new siren locations based on how many people
request a siren or complain about not hearing or having a siren;
and

WHEREAS, resources for new sirens are limited and should be
directed to the areas that have high hazard risks and will serve
the most people and should not be allocated based on how many
people have called to request those resources without assessing
other relevant data; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
of 2018, that HEMA is urged to update the process for
determining the locations for new outdoor warning sirens so that
it is systematic, transparent, and data-driven; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HEMA is urged to consider
population density, vulnerable populations that include
vulnerable areas of the State and vulnerable people with
disabilities as defined by the ADA and others with access and
functional needs as defined by FEMA, hazard risks, and any other
data deemed to be appropriate to the decision-making process;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HEMA is requested to submit a
report containing a list of the locations where new outdoor
warning sirens are planned for installation during the 2019-2020
fiscal year, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of the
Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, the Mayor of each county,
and the Director of each county's Civil Defense and Emergency
Management Agency.