WHEREAS, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and European satellite data, the rate of global sea level rise has been accelerating in recent decades; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, a study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences projected that in a low carbon emission scenario, global sea levels would rise thirty centimeters by the year 2050 and sixty-nine centimeters by the year 2100, with these calculations increasing to thirty-four centimeters by the year 2050 and one hundred eleven centimeters by the year 2100 in a high emission scenario; and

WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by the year 2100; and

WHEREAS, over the next thirty to seventy years, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission estimates that six thousand five hundred structures and nineteen thousand eight hundred people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding; and

WHEREAS, approximately thirty-eight miles of roadways and five hundred fifty cultural sites may be chronically flooded because of sea level rise, according to the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; and

WHEREAS, flooding of land and structures located in sea level rise exposure areas could result in an estimated $19 billion economic loss to the State, according to the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; and
WHEREAS, Hawaii has a 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area, one-third of which is designated for urban use; and

WHEREAS, preparing communities for the impact of sea level rise is essential to protecting Hawaii's economy and safeguarding public health; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is requested to conduct disaster preparedness outreach and education throughout the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disaster preparedness outreach and education conducted by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency include information about enhancing community resilience and building awareness of hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

OFFERED BY:  

[Signatures]

MAR 05 2020