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HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO IDENTIFY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FACILITIES THAT CAN BE USED AS EMERGENCY SHELTERS DURING A NATURAL DISASTER ON MOLOKAI.

WHEREAS, Hawaii is vulnerable to natural disasters and extreme weather including floods, hurricanes, tidal waves, tsunamis, high surf, earthquakes, mudslides, and volcanic activity; and

WHEREAS, sufficient planning for a natural disaster in Hawaii can ensure public safety and save lives; and

WHEREAS, Molokai may be particularly vulnerable to certain types of disasters: when a tsunami hit the State of Hawaii in 2011, twenty-five out of the twenty-nine damage claim cases in the County of Maui were from Molokai; and

WHEREAS, Molokai's relative isolation and rural character may increase its vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, the Molokai Emergency Action Committee is currently working on a plan to address the needs of residents and visitors in case of a natural disaster on Molokai; and

WHEREAS, one of the keys to planning for a natural disaster on Molokai is identifying facilities that can be used as emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the County of Maui have the personnel, facilities, knowledge, and relationships to work with various parties to identify Department of Education facilities that can be used as emergency shelters during a natural disaster on Molokai and to determine whether those facilities require any improvements to be suitable for shelter use: now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that the Department of Education, with assistance from the County of Maui, is requested to:

(1) Identify and list the Department of Education facilities that can be used as emergency shelters during a natural disaster on Molokai;

(2) Identify and describe any deficiencies that would jeopardize the health and safety of individuals seeking shelter at the listed facilities as well as required improvements to make the facilities suitable for emergency shelter use; and

 (3) Submit the list of all identified facilities along with findings and recommendations on the deficiencies and required improvements to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education; Superintendent of Education; Mayor of the County of Maui; Adjutant General; and the Emergency Management Officer of the Maui County Civil Defense Agency.

OFFERED BY: Mele Carrel

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