HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SIMULATION EXERCISE.

WHEREAS, Hawaii is the most isolated community in the world with its nearest neighbor no less than 2,200 miles away; and

WHEREAS, the State is largely dependent on sea and air transportation for the importation of goods, including agricultural products, and depends heavily on cyberspace for the exchange of information; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii has never experienced a major disaster that has simultaneously affected critical sectors of the community such as government, first responders, military, sea and air transportation, finance, commerce, medical services, and agriculture or a disaster event that affected the entire community over an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, if such a major disaster were to occur, it is unclear whether the State will have the resiliency to overcome it in a timely, efficient, and safe manner; and

WHEREAS, every year, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency of the State Department of Defense holds a statewide hurricane preparedness exercise called Makani Palihi to evaluate the resiliency of the State in the face of a hurricane; and

WHEREAS, in the past, these Makani Palihi exercises have not considered the effects of other types of major disasters, widespread devastation, or effects on multiple sectors of the community; and

WHEREAS, the resiliency of the State after a major disaster is dependent on all sectors of the community working and

communicating together to effectuate an efficient, timely, and safe recovery; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency of the Department of Defense, with cooperation from the Pacific Forum Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Department of Health, is urged to develop and implement a statewide emergency management simulation exercise that includes all sectors of the community; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is requested to incorporate the simulation exercise into the annual Makani Palihi exercise with its military, business, and community partners, including the Disability and Communication Access Board; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency submit a report on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant General, Director of Health, Chairperson of the Disability and Communication Access Board, and President of the Pacific Forum Center for Strategic and International Studies.