
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a statewide warning system to warn
2 residents of emergencies, including natural disasters, and acts
3 of war, such as an incoming ballistic missile; and
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5 WHEREAS, this system includes emergency broadcasts on
6 television and radio, alerts sent to mobile phones via email or
7 text, and an audible system of warning sirens; and
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9 WHEREAS, the false missile alert that occurred on
10 January 13, 2018, exposed that the warning systems currently in
11 place are not reaching all people, as some people did not
12 receive the alerts and also could not hear any audible sirens;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, outdoor warning sirens have an audible range of
16 approximately one mile and cost approximately \$100,000 each to
17 install, which would make it extremely costly to install enough
18 sirens to cover all populated areas of Hawaii; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency does not
21 have a systematic way to determine where new sirens are most
22 needed and where the installation of new sirens is a priority;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, instead of using a systematic, data-driven
26 approach to determine where new sirens should be installed, such
27 as considering hazards, population density, vulnerable
28 populations, and other relevant factors, the Hawaii Emergency



1 Management Agency instead makes decisions regarding new siren
 2 locations based on how many people request a siren or complain
 3 about not hearing or having a siren; and
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5 WHEREAS, resources for new sirens are limited and should be
 6 directed to the areas that have high hazard risks and will serve
 7 the most people and should not be allocated based on how many
 8 people have called to request those resources without assessing
 9 other relevant data; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 13 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Emergency
 14 Management Agency is urged to update the process for determining
 15 the locations for new outdoor warning sirens so that it is
 16 systematic, transparent, and data-driven; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
 19 Agency is urged to consider population density, vulnerable
 20 populations, hazard risks, and any other data deemed to be
 21 appropriate to the decision-making process; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
 24 Agency is requested to submit a report containing a list of the
 25 locations where new outdoor warning sirens are planned for
 26 installation during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, no later than
 27 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 28 2019; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 32 Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, the Mayor of
 33 each county, and the Directors of each county's Civil Defense
 34 and Emergency Management Agency.
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