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HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO MAKE NECESSARY UPDATES TO ENSURE THAT TEXTUAL AND AUDIBLE INFORMATION FROM THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ARE MATCHED AND SYNCHRONIZED DURING TELEVISION BROADCASTS.

WHEREAS, in times of national, state, and local emergencies, it is important for members of the public to have timely and often life-saving information; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service work in conjunction to implement the Emergency Alert System at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Alert System is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service providers, and direct broadcast satellite providers to provide the communications capability to the President to address the American public during a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Alert System may also be used by state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information targeted to specific areas; and

WHEREAS, due to deafness, hearing loss, or other reasons, many members of the public are not always able to hear information from the Emergency Alert System, and therefore need to receive that information in a textual form; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the textual information broadcasted on television from the Emergency Alert System match and be synchronized with the broadcasted audible information, which includes more details that the textual information; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Weather Service are urged to make necessary updates to ensure that textual and audible information from the Emergency Alert System are matched and synchronized during television broadcasts; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Federal Communications Commission, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the National Weather Service, the Governor of Hawaii, and the Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii.

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