
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO IMPROVE ITS
MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, on the morning of January 13th, 2018, the Hawaii
2 Emergency Management Agency broadcasted an alert to cellphones,
3 televisions, and radios, stating that a ballistic missile was
4 inbound to Hawaii, instructing people to seek shelter
5 immediately, and stating falsely that "THIS IS NOT A DRILL"; and
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7 WHEREAS, in the ensuing panic, people rushed to shelter,
8 fled city centers, contacted friends and family to find comfort,
9 and said their final prayers in what they thought would be their
10 last moments; and
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12 WHEREAS, the United States Pacific Command confirmed with
13 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency that there was no threat
14 just three minutes after the alert went out, but it took twelve
15 minutes for the first public false alarm notification to appear
16 on social media; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency took
19 thirty-eight minutes before it issued a comprehensive false
20 alarm broadcast to all cellphones, televisions, and radios; and
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22 WHEREAS, reports indicate that the Hawaii Emergency
23 Management Agency was completely unprepared for a false alarm
24 situation, and had not even considered the need to send a false
25 alert broadcast until the thirty-eight minutes of panic, during
26 which the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency called the Federal
27 Emergency Management Agency for help and advice; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the false alarm incident revealed the utter
30 incompetence of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and
31 showed the necessity for an overhaul of the agency's management
32 and operations procedures; and



1 WHEREAS, the residents and guests of Hawaii should be able
2 to have absolute confidence in the truthfulness of official
3 messages about potential threats, and in the trustworthiness and
4 competence of the public officials responsible for their
5 protection; and

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7 WHEREAS, the near-total confusion during those thirty-eight
8 minutes of panic also show the need for further disaster-
9 preparedness education and readiness training; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii cannot afford to be anything
12 but prepared, educated, and ready because global tensions are at
13 their highest point since the end of the Cold War and the
14 enemies of the United States have explicitly targeted Hawaii;
15 now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2018, that the House of Representatives condemns the thirty-
20 eight minutes of terror unnecessarily experienced by residents
21 and visitors to Hawaii on Saturday, January 13th, 2018,
22 expresses sympathy for all those affected, and resolves to do
23 everything in its power to prevent such a mistake from
24 reoccurring; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
27 Agency is urged to conduct a comprehensive review of its
28 management and operational procedures to create more
29 accountability, efficiency, accuracy, and preparedness for the
30 State of Hawaii; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
33 Agency is urged to work closely with schools and other community
34 organizations to conduct additional public education campaigns
35 concerning the proper way to prepare and react in the
36 catastrophic event of a ballistic missile or other threat
37 becoming a reality; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Director, the Administrator,
41 and the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Emergency Management



H.R. NO. 6

1 Agency, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Mayor of
2 Honolulu, the Mayor of Maui, the Mayor of Kauai, and the Mayor
3 of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

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2/20/2018

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JAN 19 2018

