
HOUSE 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 (HEMA) does
21 not 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, rather than 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 that include vulnerable areas of the State and
29 vulnerable people with disabilities as defined under the
30 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and others with access and



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

