
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC COMMAND DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A WARNING SYSTEM FOR MILITARY-RELATED EMERGENCIES AFFECTING THE STATE AND THAT THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC COMMAND BE THE SOLE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING PUBLIC ALERTS OR WARNINGS RELATING TO MILITARY MATTERS AFFECTING THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, history has shown that Hawaii's isolated yet
2 militarily strategic location makes the State a real target for
3 a military-related attack; and
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5 WHEREAS, to ensure the protection and safety of the State's
6 citizens, it is necessary that citizens be properly and timely
7 informed of any actual military-related threat; and
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9 WHEREAS, under existing law, the Hawaii Emergency
10 Management Agency is the agency charged with issuing public
11 alerts and warnings in cases of emergency or disaster; and
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13 WHEREAS, on January 13, 2018, the Hawaii Emergency
14 Management Agency issued a false incoming ballistic missile
15 alert warning that caused widespread distress and panic across
16 the State; and
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18 WHEREAS, although the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
19 has explained that the issuance of this warning was the result
20 of human error, the fact remains that the Agency has the
21 capability and authority to issue such a warning despite lacking
22 the necessary resources to detect and confirm that such a
23 military-related threat actually exists; and
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25 WHEREAS, United States Pacific Command is the nearest
26 agency capable of detecting an imminent military-related threat
27 to the State; and
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1 WHEREAS, United States Pacific Command is therefore the
2 appropriate agency to issue statewide public alerts and warnings
3 for any military-related emergency; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
8 Pacific Command is requested to develop and implement a warning
9 system for military-related emergencies affecting the State; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests that the
12 United States Pacific Command be the sole agency responsible for
13 issuing public alerts or warnings relating to military matters
14 affecting the State; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the
18 United States Pacific Command and Director of the Hawaii
19 Emergency Management Agency.

