

MAR 09 2018

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE GOVERNOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO IMPROVE HAWAII'S EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS AND HAZARD MITIGATION MEASURES.

1 WHEREAS, scientific consensus posits that storm activity,  
2 including hurricane activity, is becoming more intense and more  
3 frequent due to climate change; and  
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5 WHEREAS, especially in light of the effects of Hurricane  
6 Maria on Puerto Rico, it is critical to be prepared for repeated  
7 intense weather events, such as Category 4 hurricanes, because  
8 Hawaii is remote and isolated; and  
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii relies primarily on school buildings for  
11 emergency shelters; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces major challenges in the use of  
14 schools as shelters, including the safety and security of these  
15 structures and a lack of governance to implement solutions  
16 adequately; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, more attention is required to harden Hawaii's  
19 school facilities that serve as evacuation shelters, including a  
20 system that provides for:  
21

- 22 (1) Hardening and maintenance of school shelters;
- 23
- 24 (2) Training of shelter volunteers and school staff;
- 25
- 26 (3) Periodic evacuation drills;
- 27
- 28 (4) Safety and security measures; and
- 29
- 30 (5) Appropriate resources; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency funds  
33 three Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs, including  
34 the:  
35



- 1 (1) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which matches a  
2 fraction of disaster relief funds to help states  
3 mitigate harms from future, similar disasters;  
4
- 5 (2) Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, which  
6 provides funding to reduce or eliminate long-term  
7 risks to properties insured under the National Flood  
8 Insurance Program; and  
9
- 10 (3) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, which assists  
11 with implementation of a sustained pre-disaster  
12 natural hazard mitigation program to reduce the  
13 overall risk to the population and structures,  
14
- 15 which make funds available to state, tribal, and territorial  
16 governments for hazard mitigation; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, for states with Standard Mitigation Plans, the  
19 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program matches estimated aggregate  
20 disaster assistance up to fifteen percent of the first  
21 \$2,000,000,000, up to ten percent for amounts between  
22 \$2,000,000,000, and \$10,000,000,000, and up to 7.5 percent for  
23 amounts between \$10,000,000,000 and \$35,333,000,000; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, for states with Enhanced Mitigation Plans, such as  
26 California, Florida, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, and the  
27 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program matches estimated aggregate  
28 disaster assistance up to twenty percent for amounts up to  
29 \$35,333,000,000; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a Standard Mitigation Plan; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, in the event of a major natural disaster, Hawaii  
34 could receive hundreds of millions less in hazard mitigation  
35 grants to prepare for and mitigate the potential harms of future  
36 natural disasters than if the State had an Enhanced Mitigation  
37 Plan; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, an Enhanced Mitigation Plan will also help the  
40 State prepare for and reduce the potential harms and costs of  
41 future disasters; and  
42



1 WHEREAS, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program and  
2 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program could also provide  
3 assistance to help Hawaii prepare for future disasters before  
4 they occur, including by upgrading critical facilities such as  
5 shelters; now, therefore,

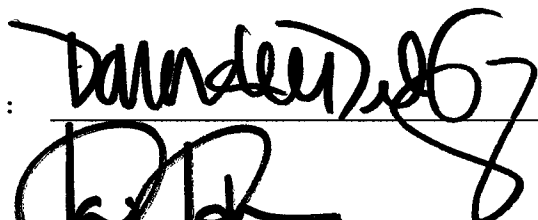


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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
9 that the Governor and Director of the Hawaii Emergency  
10 Management Agency are urged to improve Hawaii's emergency  
11 preparedness and hazard mitigation measures; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Director of  
14 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency are requested to apply  
15 for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program and  
16 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program; and

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Hawaii  
19 Emergency Management Agency is requested to develop an Enhanced  
20 Mitigation Plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management  
21 Agency, including plans to harden schools used as emergency  
22 shelters; and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant General, and  
26 Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

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28  
29 OFFERED BY:

  
  
Clarence M. Kihikihi  
  
Michelle St. Louis

