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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO REQUIRE ALL TELEVISION STATIONS THAT BROADCAST IN HAWAII TO DEDICATE TIME SLOTS TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC THROUGH PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON HOW TO PREPARE FOR NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's geographic location puts the islands at  
2 risk of various natural disasters, such as tsunamis, hurricanes,  
3 and tropical storms; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, man-made disasters are also a threat to the safety  
6 of Hawaii's residents and visitors, especially in light of  
7 recent domestic and international events; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, while there are safety measures in place in the  
10 event of natural and man-made disasters, much of the public  
11 remains unaware of the proper procedures to take during any type  
12 of disaster; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the recent scare of a false ballistic missile  
15 threat proved that regardless of safety measures the State has  
16 in place, the public is not sufficiently educated on the  
17 necessary steps and procedures to take in the event of a real  
18 disaster; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, although disaster procedures and related  
21 information are available online, not all of the public has  
22 access to the Internet; therefore, it is important to give the  
23 public a variety of means to access disaster procedures and  
24 related information to cover all the platforms of information  
25 dissemination, which includes television, radio, and the  
26 Internet; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, all public broadcast messages or service  
29 announcements need to be accessible to people with disabilities,  
30 including people who are blind, deaf, or hard of hearing, or who  
31 have cognitive disabilities; and



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2 WHEREAS, all emergency and disaster planning efforts should  
3 be able to be communicated across various platforms so that no  
4 population is left out; and

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6 WHEREAS, public safety, especially in the context of  
7 emergency preparedness, can be effected through collaboration  
8 with the federal government; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission regulates  
11 interstate and international communications by radio,  
12 television, wire, satellite, and cable in the United States and  
13 is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing  
14 the United States' communications law and regulations; now,  
15 therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
19 that the Federal Communications Commission is requested to  
20 require all television stations that broadcast in Hawaii to  
21 allocate time slots in their programs to broadcast public  
22 service announcements to educate the public on how to prepare  
23 for all disasters, natural and man-made, in Hawaii; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any and all information  
26 broadcast on local television stations that offer public service  
27 announcements is requested to be:

- 28  
29 (1) Accessible to people with disabilities, including  
30 through the use of audio descriptions for people who  
31 are blind, open captions and sign language  
32 interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of  
33 hearing, and basic English for people with cognitive  
34 disabilities;
- 35  
36 (2) Equivalent to information accessible to persons  
37 without disabilities; and
- 38  
39 (3) Unobstructed by any other messages; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Federal  
3 Communications Commission and Hawaii's congressional delegation.

