

MAR 09 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, THE FEDERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER
SERVICE TO MAKE NECESSARY UPDATES TO ENSURE THAT TEXTUAL
AND AUDIBLE INFORMATION FROM THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ARE
MATCHED AND SYNCHRONIZED DURING TELEVISION BROADCASTS.

1 WHEREAS, in times of national, state, and local
2 emergencies, it is important for members of the public to have
3 timely and often life-saving information; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency, and the National Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service work in
8 conjunction to implement the Emergency Alert System at the
9 federal level; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Emergency Alert System is a national public
12 warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television
13 systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio
14 service providers, and direct broadcast satellite providers to
15 provide the communications capability to the President to
16 address the American public during a national emergency; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Emergency Alert System may also be used by
19 state and local authorities to deliver important emergency
20 information targeted to specific areas; and
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22 WHEREAS, due to deafness, hearing loss, or other reasons,
23 many members of the public are not always able to hear
24 information from the Emergency Alert System, and therefore need
25 to receive that information in a textual form; and
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27 WHEREAS, it is important that the textual information
28 broadcasted on television from the Emergency Alert System match
29 and be synchronized with the broadcasted audible information,
30 which includes more details than the textual information; now,
31 therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
4 that the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal
5 Emergency Management Agency, and the National Weather Service
6 are urged to make necessary updates to ensure that textual and
7 audible information from the Emergency Alert System are matched
8 and synchronized during television broadcasts; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Federal
12 Communications Commission, the Administrator of the Federal
13 Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the National
14 Weather Service, the Governor of Hawaii, and the Adjutant
15 General of the State of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

Rosalee H. Beh

