THE SENATE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021 STATE OF HAWAII

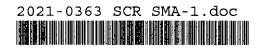
S.C.R. NO. 69

MAR 0 5 2021

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO DEVELOP AN EVACUATION PLAN FOR THE AREAS WITHIN LAVA ZONES 1, 2, 3, 4, AND 6.

| 1        |   | EAS, Mauna Loa is the largest active volcano on Earth,        |  |
|----------|---|---|--|
| 2<br>3   | rising approximately 13,680 feet above the Pacific Ocean; and   |   |  |
| 4        | WHER  | EAS, Mauna Loa encompasses more than half the area of         |  |
| 5        | the island of Hawai'i; and  |   |  |
| 6        |   |   |  |
| 7        | WHER  | EAS, since 1843, Mauna Loa has erupted thirty-three           |  |
| 8        | times, averaging one eruption every five years; and   |   |  |
| 9        |   |   |  |
| 10       |   | EAS, Mauna Loa's most recent eruption occurred from           |  |
| 11       | March 24 to April 15, 1984, the result of more than two years of increased seismicity and summit inflation; and |   |  |
| 12<br>13 | Increased   | seismicity and summit inflation; and                          |  |
| 13       | WHER  | EAS, volcanic hazards associated with a Mauna Loa             |  |
| 15       | eruption include:   |   |  |
| 16       | 1.  |   |  |
| 17       | (1)   | Voluminous, fast-moving lava flows due to its steep           |  |
| 18       |   | slopes;   |  |
| 19       |   |   |  |
| 20       | (2)   | Potentially large and destructive earthquakes and             |  |
| 21<br>22 |   | ground motion due to vertical and horizontal movements        |  |
| 22<br>23 |   | of the volcano's flanks as it inflates;                       |  |
| 24       | (3)   | Volcanic gas emissions and dense vog that can be a            |  |
| 25       | (-)   | nuisance or potential health hazard to people downwind        |  |
| 26       |   | of the vent; and  |  |
| 27       |   |   |  |
| 28       | (4)   | Possible explosive eruptions and associated ashfall           |  |
| 29       |   | that can impact air traffic; and                              |  |
| 30       | T. TT T T T   |   |  |
| 31       | WHEREAS, the Kilauea volcano is currently erupting with   |   |  |
| 32       | tava pour   | va pouring into the lava lake within Halema'uma'u crater; and |  |



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1 2 WHEREAS, volcanic hazards associated with the active 3 Kilauea volcano include: 4 5 (1) High levels of volcanic gas being continuously released during eruptions, and 6 7 Rockfalls and minor explosions, which may suddenly 8 (2) 9 occur without warning; and 10 WHEREAS, lava flows from Kilauea and Mauna Loa will 11 12 interfere with human activity and infrastructure as development and communities increase around these active volcanos; and 13 14 WHEREAS, according to the 2010 census, the island of Hawai'i 15 is the fastest growing region in the State, which includes 16 17 several developments on the slopes of Mauna Loa including 18 Hawaiian Ocean View Estates; and 19 20 WHEREAS, if a Mauna Loa eruption occurs along the southwest rift zone, slopes steeper than fifteen degrees, a history of 21 high effusion rates, and the close proximity of developed areas 22 put South Kona and Ka'u at significant risk; and 23 24 25 WHEREAS, eruptions on the southwest flank of Kilauea are a threat to land within the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and the 26 district of Ka'u; and 27 28 29 WHEREAS, as Mamalahoa Highway remains the only infrastructure connecting Ka'u to South Kona, an eruption on 30 31 Mauna Loa's southern flank would be especially devastating to 32 those individuals who do business in Kona town; and 33 WHEREAS, precious little time may be available for response 34 or evacuation efforts in the South Kona and Ka'u areas; and 35 36 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is the 37 emergency management agency for the State and serves as the 38 coordinating agency between the four county emergency management 39 40 agencies; and 41



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WHEREAS, while all disaster response starts at the county 1 level, it is critical that the Hawai'i Emergency Management 2 3 Agency be prepared to respond to county requests for state 4 assistance in the case of hazardous volcanic activity; now, 5 therefore, 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first 7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the 8 9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is requested to develop an evacuation plan for 10 11 the areas within lava zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, which include but 12 are not limited to South Kona and Ka'u; and 13 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is requested to submit the evacuation plan to the 15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of 16 17 the Regular Session of 2022; and 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the 20 Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency and Mayor of the County of 21 22 Hawaiʻi. 23 24 25 OFFERED BY:

