

FEB 17 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, Mauna Loa is unique as the largest active volcano
2 on Earth, rising approximately 13,680 feet above sea level and
3 encompassing more than half the land mass of Hawai'i Island; and
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5 WHEREAS, having erupted thirty-three times since 1843, a
6 future eruption of Mauna Loa along its southwest rift zone would
7 put developed South Kona and Ka'u communities at risk; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Kilauea volcano is currently erupting with
10 lava pouring into the lava lake within Halema'uma'u crater, with
11 a potential eruption on its southwest flank posing a direct
12 threat to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, as well as the
13 district of Ka'u; and
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15 WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021, the United States Geological
16 Survey, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, and County of Hawai'i Civil
17 Defense provided a brief to the Hawai'i Island Legislative
18 Delegation regarding the probability of an eruption at Mauna
19 Loa, where it was identified that there is no current evacuation
20 plan in place specifically for lava zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6; and
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22 WHEREAS, pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 51 (2021), which
23 requested the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to develop an
24 evacuation plan for the areas within lava zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and
25 6, the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency has reported issues
26 with staffing that prevent the agency from adequately responding
27 to the Legislature's request; and
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29 WHEREAS, in light of the Hawai'i Emergency Management
30 Agency's response and coordination of multiple immediate
31 emergencies, including the 2018 disasters and the coronavirus
32 disease 2019 pandemic, it is vital that the Hawai'i Emergency
33 Management Agency prioritizes proactive planning, which includes



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1 developing operational support emergency management plans for
2 volcanic eruptions throughout the State; and
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4 WHEREAS, the imminent threat of Mauna Loa and Kilauea
5 volcanic eruptions to Hawai'i Island warrants the Hawai'i
6 Emergency Management Agency to expeditiously collaborate with
7 the County of Hawai'i to develop a preliminary draft evacuation
8 plan for lava zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
12 that the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is requested to
13 develop a preliminary draft evacuation plan for the areas within
14 lava zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, which include but are not limited
15 to South Kona and Ka'u; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i Emergency Management
18 Agency is requested to submit the preliminary draft evacuation
19 plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
20 convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Hawai'i
24 Emergency Management Agency, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, and
25 members of the Hawai'i County Council.
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OFFERED BY:

