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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A PRIORITY LIST FOR  
REPAIRING PUBLIC SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS AND STUDY  
ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES.

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WHEREAS, properly functioning fire alarm systems are essential for public school safety; and

WHEREAS, the impact of fires is significantly worsened for aging facilities; and

WHEREAS, as of 2022, the average age of public school buildings in Hawaii is seventy-two years, according to the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, approximately twenty percent of Hawaii's two hundred fifty-seven public schools are more than one hundred years old; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code, commonly known as NFPA 101, requires schools to have functioning fire alarm systems; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Department of Education acknowledged that King Intermediate School in Kaneohe had not had a working fire alarm system for seven years; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, teachers at Konawaena Elementary School on Hawaii Island reported that the school's fire alarm system has been out of service for two years; and

WHEREAS, a fire broke out at Konawaena Elementary shortly after the school's fire alarm system became inoperative in 2020; and



1           WHEREAS, properly functioning fire alarms can be the  
2 difference between life and death should a fire break out at a  
3 public school; now, therefore,  
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5           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
8 Education is urged to create a priority list for repairing  
9 public school fire alarm systems and study acceptable  
10 alternatives; and  
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12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Education is  
13 requested to provide the priority list, along with a timeline  
14 for completing repairs, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
15 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant  
19 Governor, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the  
20 Board of Education.

