

MAR 07 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO INCLUDE IN ALL
LIVE AND RECORDED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM VIDEO BROADCASTS,
AN ON-SCREEN INTERPRETER DISSEMINATING THE EMERGENCY
INFORMATION IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AT ALL TIMES,
INCLUDING DURING GRAPHIC PRESENTATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency established
2 within the State Department of Defense plans for and responds to
3 both natural and human-caused emergencies, including emergencies
4 resulting from all hazards, including tsunamis, wildfires, and
5 hurricanes, and incidents involving hazardous materials or
6 nuclear power; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency manages
9 Hawaii's Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is a public alert
10 and warning system that leverages the communications assets of
11 EAS participants, including terrestrial broadcasters, cable
12 television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital
13 audio radio service providers, direct broadcast satellite
14 services, and wireline video service providers, to allow the
15 President of the United States the capability to address the
16 American public during a national emergency; and
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18 WHEREAS, Hawaii's EAS is also used by State and local
19 authorities to deliver important emergency information,
20 including America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response
21 (AMBER) alerts and the National Weather Service's emergency
22 weather alerts and advisories; and
23

24 WHEREAS, upon eruptions of volcanos, information that is
25 critical to the safety of Hawaii residents, including volcano
26 alert levels, aviation threat levels, seismic activity levels,
27 lava flow, and other threats to the community are disseminated
28 to the public through the EAS; and
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30 WHEREAS, due to the critical nature of EAS alerts and
31 warnings, and to prevent confusion caused by misinformation,
32 lack of information, or difficulty in finding accurate



1 information following sudden disasters, EAS broadcasts should be
2 provided using every communication tool available; and
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4 WHEREAS, during the recent volcano eruptions on Hawaii
5 Island, the EAS live video broadcasts did not consistently
6 provide American Sign Language interpretation on screen, thereby
7 depriving many Hawaii residents who are deaf or hard of hearing
8 of emergency information that is imperative for the protection
9 of their lives and property; now, therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
13 that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is urged to:
14

- 15 (1) Include in all live and recorded EAS video broadcasts,
16 an on-screen interpreter disseminating the emergency
17 information in American Sign Language at all times,
18 including during graphic presentations;
19
- 20 (2) Provide training for American Sign Language
21 interpreters by including them in all training
22 provided to EAS broadcasters; and
23
- 24 (3) Have all video broadcasts have one camera showing the
25 American Sign Language interpreter at all times; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Adjutant General.
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31

OFFERED BY: 

