

JAN 19 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that on August 8, 2023,  
2 wildfires devastated the town of Lahaina, Maui killing at least  
3 one hundred fifteen people and leaving thousands homeless.  
4 While mass-notification alerts and warnings were broadcasted and  
5 texted to the public warning of the wildfires, the outdoor  
6 emergency sirens were not activated. Emergency sirens can be  
7 used for a variety of emergencies, including hurricanes, fires,  
8 flooding, and lava. In the aftermath of the Lahaina wildfires,  
9 questions arose as to the efficacy of the outdoor emergency  
10 siren system in warning individuals specifically about  
11 wildfires. The legislature further finds that there is a need  
12 to review the State's outdoor emergency siren system to ensure  
13 that the public receives ample notification about the specific  
14 type of threat or warning being conveyed. Allowing the outdoor  
15 emergency siren system to broadcast different sounds for  
16 specific emergencies may improve public safety and allow for use  
17 of sirens in all types of emergencies.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
2 Hawaii emergency management agency to conduct a study  
3 researching the effectiveness of using distinct sounds or tones  
4 emitted by outdoor warning sirens to warn the public of  
5 different types of emergencies and whether evacuation is  
6 necessary.

7           SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii emergency management agency, in  
8 collaboration with the county emergency management agencies,  
9 shall conduct a study researching the effectiveness of using  
10 distinct sounds or tones emitted by outdoor warning sirens to:

11           (1) Warn the public of different types of emergencies,  
12                 such as tsunamis or fires; and

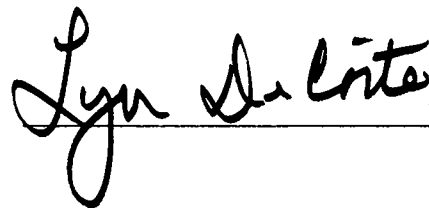
13           (2) Indicate if evacuation is necessary.

14           (b) The Hawaii emergency management agency shall submit a  
15 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
16 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
17 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

18           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



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# S.B. NO. 2771

**Report Title:**

HiEMA; Fires; Distinct Sounds; Report to Legislature

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with the county emergency management agencies, to conduct a study researching the effectiveness of using distinct sounds or tones emitted by outdoor warning sirens to warn the public of different types of emergencies and indicate whether evacuation is necessary. Requires a report to the Legislature before the 2025 Regular Session.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

