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SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO ADOPT A CURRICULUM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH CIVIL DEFENSE CORPS.

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) serves as the official emergency management agency for the State and is the primary coordinating agency between the State and each county emergency management agencies; and

WHEREAS, as established under chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, HI-EMA's primary role is to maintain a comprehensive, coordinated, and cooperative emergency management program that prepares for, mitigates against, responds to, and recovers from emergencies and disasters that threaten or impact the State; and

WHEREAS, to effectively complete this broad mandate, HI-EMA must establish a shared framework for the coordination of response and recovery actions, including the organization of state agencies, private sector entities, local communities, and civilians; and

WHEREAS, during emergencies and disasters, pre-trained volunteers can fill the need for additional emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, a youth civil defense corps, to be established by the Department of Education can enable HI-EMA to effectively lead statewide emergency management efforts; and

WHEREAS, by training high school students through a civil defense program, the Department of Education can further hazard mitigation and recovery plan implementation in the event of an emergency or disaster; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that the Department of Education, in consultation with the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, is requested to establish a Youth Civil Defense Corps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Youth Civil Defense Corps is requested to be administered at high schools to train students to participate in the State Emergency Response Team Program; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and Administrator of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency.

OFFERED BY: