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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE  
CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY.

1           WHEREAS, the main mission of the State Department of  
2 Defense is "[t]o maintain readiness to respond to the needs of  
3 the people in the event of disasters, either natural or human-  
4 caused", according to the Multi-Year Program and Financial Plan  
5 and Executive Budget; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the Department is headed by a military commander  
8 and not a civilian public officer; and  
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10          WHEREAS, to perform its mission, the Department has four  
11 divisions: the Hawaii Army National Guard, the Air National  
12 Guard, the Hawaii State Defense Force, and the State Civil  
13 Defense; and  
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15          WHEREAS, the first three are military divisions, the duties  
16 of which include responding to federal orders during times of  
17 war or national emergency; and  
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19          WHEREAS, the Civil Defense Division is a civilian  
20 organization that prepares for and responds to natural disasters  
21 and other emergencies; and  
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23          WHEREAS, there is increasing sentiment that the Department  
24 of Defense places its primary focus on its military duties and  
25 responsibilities to the detriment of the Civil Defense Division;  
26 and  
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28          WHEREAS, because of the secondary focus on the Civil  
29 Defense Division, the Department has been criticized as not  
30 having sufficient plans and equipment to adequately respond to  
31 the various types of natural disasters and emergencies and  
32 protect the public; and



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WHEREAS, one often discussed structural change to resolve the problem is the separation of the Civil Defense Division from the Department of Defense; and

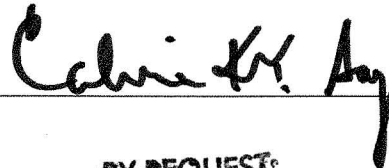
WHEREAS, such a structural change requires study to determine if it should be implemented; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a study of separating the Civil Defense Division from the supervision and control of the Department of Defense and upgrading the Division to an independent agency, the head of which shall report directly to the Governor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit the study to the Legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Adjutant General, the Vice Director of Civil Defense, and the Auditor.

OFFERED BY:



BY REQUEST

