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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO MAKE PERMANENT ITS MASS EMERGENCY  
NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, on March 12, 2008, a new gas vent broke through  
2 the east wall of Halema`uma`u crater, increasing sulfur dioxide  
3 (SO<sub>2</sub>) emission rates at Kilauea's summit to a record since  
4 measurements were first taken in 1979 - up to 2,000 tons; and  
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6           WHEREAS, when SO<sub>2</sub> and other volcanic gases combine and  
7 interact chemically in the atmosphere with oxygen, moisture,  
8 dust, and sunlight over periods of minutes to days, developing  
9 into a visible haze consisting of gas plus a suspended mixture  
10 of tiny liquid and solid particles, vog is created; and  
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12           WHEREAS, in response to the increased vog, the House  
13 Special Committee on Vog Effects (Committee) was created to  
14 bring together experts to examine the effects of vog on the  
15 people of Hawaii, and the Committee held a series of fact-  
16 finding meetings focusing on the impacts on health, public  
17 safety, agriculture, the economy, and tourism; and  
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19           WHEREAS, one of the concerns raised during the meetings was  
20 the ability to quickly contact residents when measures need to  
21 be taken in response to dangerous levels of vog; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency recently  
24 acquired a new mass emergency notification system allowing  
25 County agencies to easily notify the public in emergencies; and  
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27           WHEREAS, the electronic notification system, also known as  
28 "City Watch" -- a system used in numerous communities, most  
29 notably in California amid the recent rash of wildfires -- can  
30 speedily notify residents via phone or email about impending or  
31 imminent emergencies and appropriate measures to take; and



1           WHEREAS, City Watch uses computer-generated maps with the  
2 phone numbers and addresses of registered residents to target  
3 specific communities on the island; and

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5           WHEREAS, once activated, City Watch sends registered  
6 residents a brief voice or e-mail message; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, City Watch, to be activated only in major  
9 emergencies, will supplement the more traditional means of  
10 communicating with the public, such as radio broadcasts; and

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12           WHEREAS, to receive the free City Watch notification  
13 messages, residents can register via mail or online and provide  
14 their name, street address, city, zip code, home phone number,  
15 cell phone number, cell phone carrier, and e-mail address; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, City Watch can be used to contact residents in  
18 emergency situations relating to vog; and

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20           WHEREAS, City Watch was purchased by State Civil Defense  
21 and given to the County of Hawaii as a pilot project; and

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23           WHEREAS, the pilot stage of City Watch will be free to the  
24 County of Hawaii, and in subsequent years the County will pay an  
25 annual fee of approximately \$40,000 for the system; now,  
26 therefore,

27  
28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the County of Hawaii is  
31 urged to make City Watch permanent; and

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33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Watch also be used to  
34 contact residents in emergency situations relating to vog; and

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36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of State  
38 Civil Defense, Chief of the Department of Health Emergency



Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, and Administrator of the County of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency.

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OFFERED BY:

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