
HOUSE 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 (SO₂) 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 SO₂ 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
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33 WHEREAS, City Watch uses computer-generated maps with the
34 phone numbers and addresses of registered residents to target
35 specific communities on the island; and



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

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

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

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

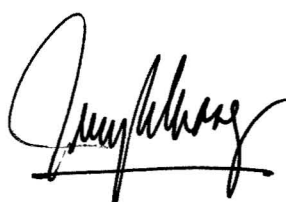
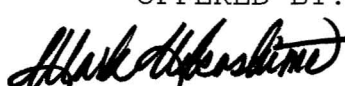
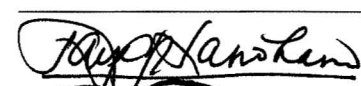
WHEREAS, City Watch was purchased by State Civil Defense and given to the County of Hawaii as a pilot project; and

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

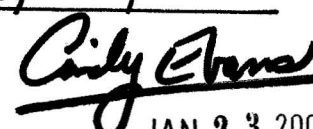

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that the County of Hawaii is urged to make City Watch permanent; and

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


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of State 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.

 OFFERED BY: _____

 HR HMS 2009-1179



 JAN 23 2009