
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF EVERY PUBLIC SAFE ROOM IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII PROVIDING SUITABLE SHELTER FROM VOG AND DEVELOP PLANS TO ESTABLISH SUCH SAFE ROOMS IN ADDITIONAL AREAS THAT NEED THEM.

1 WHEREAS, the ongoing eruption at Kilauea Volcano continues
2 to spew thousands of tons of ash and dangerous sulfur dioxide
3 gas daily; and

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5 WHEREAS, when Kona weather with southerly winds settles in,
6 various parts of Hawaii County are immersed in health-
7 threatening vog that forms when sulfur dioxide mixes with
8 sunlight and dust particles; and

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10 WHEREAS, the volume of vog in the air above many
11 communities has jumped dramatically since March 2008, when the
12 amount of sulfur dioxide spewing from Kilauea began to double;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, the noxious gases emitted from a volcano can
16 settle on a community too quickly for the entire community to
17 timely evacuate; and

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19 WHEREAS, in those situations, it would be more practical
20 for residents to remain indoors, minimize outdoor activity, and
21 seek shelter from volcanic emissions in safe rooms; and

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23 WHEREAS, safe rooms equipped with air conditioners and air
24 purifiers can provide effective shelter from vog; and

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26 WHEREAS, a comprehensive account of every publicly
27 accessible safe room providing suitable shelter from vog would
28 greatly bolster vog-related preparation and response efforts;
29 and



1 WHEREAS, in addition to heading the state Department of
2 Defense, the Adjutant General also serves as the state Director
3 of Civil Defense pursuant to section 26-21, Hawaii Revised
4 Statutes; and

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6 WHEREAS, the state Director of Civil Defense is responsible
7 for coordinating the activities of all civil defense
8 organizations in Hawaii, public or private, pursuant to section
9 128-3(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2009, that the Adjutant General is requested to:

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15 (1) Identify the location of every public safe room in the
16 County of Hawaii providing suitable shelter from vog;
17 and

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19 (2) Develop plans to establish such safe rooms in
20 additional areas that need them;

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22 and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General is
25 requested to take steps to obtain funding from the Federal
26 Emergency Management Agency for safe room air conditioners and
27 air purifiers; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General and the
31 Administrator of the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency.

