SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO PRODUCE A RECREATIONAL SAFETY VIDEO FOR VISITORS AND WORK WITH AIRLINE COMPANIES, HOTELS, AND OTHER COMPANIES IN THE VISITOR INDUSTRY TO PROMOTE THE SHOWING OF THE VIDEO.

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health in a February 7, 2013, article in the Honolulu Star Advertiser, two hundred eighty-eight nonresidents and two hundred forty-nine Hawaii residents drowned in the ocean between 2002 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, so far this year, at least a dozen Hawaii visitors have been killed in accidents, including drowning, and on Kauai alone, at least six tourists have drowned; and

WHEREAS, 2013's pace of accidental deaths is relatively high for Hawaii, which usually sees approximately sixty to seventy accidental deaths among nonresidents a year; and

WHEREAS, the high number of deaths in the beginning of 2013 follows an increase in visitor fatalities in recent years something officials say is likely due to several factors, including tourists searching out remote areas to explore or overestimating their swimming abilities in unfamiliar ocean currents; and

WHEREAS, visitors to Hawaii should be encouraged to educate themselves about the State's natural attractions and beautiful beaches to ensure a safe and enjoyable vacation; and

WHEREAS, state and county agencies, as well as the hotel industry, often provide brochures and pamphlets to visitors with tips for traveling safely in the islands; and

WHEREAS, airlines are key players in the Hawaii visitor experience and could also help share the important message of ocean safety with the millions of visitors who arrive in the State each year; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is requested to produce a recreational safety video for visitors; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is requested to work with airline companies, hotels, and other companies in the visitor industry to promote the showing of the video; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, who, in turn, is requested to transmit copies to each manager of Hawaii operations for all airlines operating inbound passenger flights to Hawaii, Hawaii hotels, and other companies in the visitor industry.