
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO REQUIRE ALL
TELEVISION STATIONS THAT BROADCAST IN HAWAII TO DEDICATE
TIME SLOTS TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC THROUGH PUBLIC
SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON HOW TO PREPARE FOR NATURAL AND
MAN-MADE DISASTERS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's geographic location puts the islands at
2 risk of various natural disasters, such as tsunamis, hurricanes,
3 and tropical storms; and
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5 WHEREAS, man-made disasters are also a threat to the safety
6 of Hawaii's residents and visitors, especially in light of
7 recent domestic and international events; and
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9 WHEREAS, while there are safety measures in place in the
10 event of natural and man-made disasters, much of the public
11 remains unaware of the proper procedures to take during any type
12 of disaster; and
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14 WHEREAS, the recent scare of a false ballistic missile
15 threat proved that regardless of safety measures the State has
16 in place, the public is not sufficiently educated on the
17 necessary steps and procedures to take in the event of a real
18 disaster; and
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20 WHEREAS, although disaster procedures and related
21 information are available online, not all of the public has
22 access to the Internet; therefore, it is important to give the
23 public a variety of means to access disaster procedures and
24 related information to cover all the platforms of information
25 dissemination, which includes television, radio, and the
26 Internet; and
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28 WHEREAS, all public broadcast messages or service
29 announcements need to be accessible to people with disabilities,
30 including people who are blind, deaf, or hard of hearing, or who
31 have cognitive disabilities; and



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2 WHEREAS, all emergency and disaster planning efforts should
3 be able to be communicated across various platforms so that no
4 population is left out; and
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6 WHEREAS, public safety, especially in the context of
7 emergency preparedness, can be effected through collaboration
8 with the federal government; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission regulates
11 interstate and international communications by radio,
12 television, wire, satellite, and cable in the United States and
13 is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing
14 the United States' communications law and regulations; now,
15 therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
19 that the Federal Communications Commission is requested to
20 require all television stations that broadcast in Hawaii to
21 allocate time slots in their programs to broadcast public
22 service announcements to educate the public on how to prepare
23 for all disasters, natural and man-made, in Hawaii; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any and all information
26 broadcast on local television stations that offer public service
27 announcements is requested to be:
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- 29 (1) Accessible to people with disabilities, including
30 through the use of audio descriptions for people who
31 are blind, open captions and sign language
32 interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of
33 hearing, and basic English for people with cognitive
34 disabilities;
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36 (2) Equivalent to information accessible to persons
37 without disabilities; and
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39 (3) Unobstructed by any other messages; and
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- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
- 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Federal
- 3 Communications Commission and Hawaii's congressional delegation.

