HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE 2018 VOLCANIC DISASTER.

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the worst volcanic disaster in Hawaii's history destroyed over seven hundred homes in the Puna district of the County of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, many of the homes affected by the volcanic disaster are now inaccessible or completely destroyed, and residents are facing extraordinary challenges; and

WHEREAS, reimbursements received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency have not been sufficient for affected residents to cover the cost of purchasing a new home or rebuilding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the Senate concurring, that the County of Hawaii is urged to use funds received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State to establish a housing assistance plan for residents affected by volcanic disaster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in establishing a housing assistance plan, the County of Hawaii is urged to consider:

- (1) Providing property tax relief to residents who own real property that is inaccessible or was destroyed by the 2018 volcanic disaster;
- (2) Providing tax breaks on property purchased in the County of Hawaii to replace real property rendered unusable by the 2018 volcanic disaster;

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14 15 (3) Offering low-interest loans for residents who rebuild their homes that were damaged or destroyed by the 2018 volcanic disaster or purchase real property elsewhere in Hawaii; or

(4) Other housing relief options for residents so affected; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the County of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 0 8 2019