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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO CONSULT WITH  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIRECT TRADITIONAL, CULTURAL,  
AND FAMILIAL TIES TO THE DISTRICT OF PUNA TO ESTABLISH  
APPROPRIATE NAMES FOR THE FISSURE 8 VENT AND OTHER FEATURES  
OF THE 2018 ERUPTION OF KILAUEA VOLCANO.

1           WHEREAS, section 4E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides  
2 that the members of the State Board on Geographic Names shall  
3 consist of the following or their representatives: the  
4 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the  
5 Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chairperson  
6 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Director of the Office of  
7 Planning, the President of the University of Hawaii, the State  
8 Land Surveyor, and the Director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum;  
9 and

10  
11           WHEREAS, section 4E-3(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires  
12 the Board to "designate the official names and spellings of  
13 geographic features in Hawaii and provide for circulation  
14 thereof to the appropriate state and other agencies" and, in its  
15 deliberations, to "solicit and consider the advice and  
16 recommendations of the appropriate county government officials,  
17 and, should the board desire, other knowledgeable persons"; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, on May 3, 2018, following a magmatic intrusion  
20 into the East Rift Zone of Kilauea Volcano, the first of two  
21 dozen fissures erupted near Mohalu Street in Leilani Estates;  
22 and  
23

24           WHEREAS, on May 5, 2018, the eighth fissure, known as  
25 Fissure 8, opened near Luana Street in Leilani Estates, and  
26 briefly erupted lava fountains that reached an estimated two  
27 hundred thirty feet in height, sending a slow-moving lava flow



1 approximately 0.6 miles northward and covering many homes in the  
2 subdivision; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, on the night of May 23, 2018, Fissure 8  
5 reactivated and sent a fast-moving flow northward that crossed  
6 Pohoiki Road; surrounded Puna Geothermal Venture; crossed  
7 Highway 132; covered Noni Farms Road and Railroad Avenue;  
8 inundated papaya farm land; crossed Highway 137; entered Ka Wai  
9 a Pele (Green Lake); burned hundreds of homes in Kapoho Farm  
10 Lots, Kapoho Vacationland, and Kapoho Beach lots; filled in  
11 Kapoho Bay; and destroyed the Waiopae Tidepools Marine Life  
12 Conservation District; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, eruptive activity from the twenty-three other  
15 fissures have become concentrated at Fissure 8, where a gushing  
16 fountain has built a broad cone approximately one hundred eighty  
17 feet high; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, because the United States Geological Survey  
20 defines a volcanic fissure as an "elongate fracture or crack at  
21 the surface from which lava erupts", the term "Fissure 8" is an  
22 inaccurate name for the large tephra cone located on the East  
23 Rift Zone within Leilani Estates; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the ongoing eruption is creating numerous other  
26 new and unnamed volcanic features, including the enlarged  
27 crater, or nested caldera, at Halemaumau; the collapsed crater  
28 at Puu Oo; the line of fissures and steam vents extending  
29 through Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens; the ocean entry at  
30 Malama Ki Forest Reserve; and the channelized lava flow to the  
31 ocean at Kapoho Bay; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, the naming of a volcanic feature in the Hawaiian  
34 language may encode information about its physical  
35 characteristics, historical events associated with its  
36 formation, ecological surroundings, geographical location, or  
37 related oral histories; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey uses informal  
40 names to identify and communicate information about volcanic  
41 features, but defers to the local community, including Hawaiian  
42 elders, for formal names; and



# H.C.R. NO. 150

1 WHEREAS, the global community of amateur lava watchers have  
 2 suggested many names for Fissure 8, but the names for this and  
 3 other new volcanic features associated with the current eruption  
 4 should be provided by community members with direct traditional,  
 5 cultural, and familial ties to the district of Puna; now,  
 6 therefore,

7  
 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 9 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
 10 2019, the Senate concurring, that the State Board on Geographic  
 11 Names is urged to consult with community members who have direct  
 12 traditional, cultural, and familial ties to the district of Puna  
 13 to establish appropriate names for the Fissure 8 vent and other  
 14 features of the 2018 eruption of Kilauea Volcano; and

15  
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the State  
 18 Board on Geographic Names.

19  
 20  
 21

OFFERED BY:

*[Large signature]*

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