

MAR 05 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY EVACUATION CHAIRS FOR
DISTRIBUTION AND INSTALLATION IN EVERY STATE BUILDING
HAVING TWO OR MORE FLOORS.

1 WHEREAS, sixty-one million adults in the United States live
2 with a disability; and

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4 WHEREAS, nearly sixteen percent of adults in Hawaii have
5 some type of disability, including nearly eight percent who have
6 significant mobility issues; and

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8 WHEREAS, mobility disabilities often include conditions
9 requiring the use of one or more devices, such as canes,
10 crutches, wheelchairs, or scooters, to maneuver through an
11 environment; and

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13 WHEREAS, mobility disabilities also often include other
14 ambulatory mobility issues such as the use of walkers, braces,
15 artificial limbs, or orthopedic shoes, as well as respiratory
16 issues and partial or total vision loss; and

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18 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 107-25, Hawaii Revised
19 Statutes, all buildings in the State are required to comply with
20 various building and design codes, including the state fire code
21 as adopted by the State Fire Council; and

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23 WHEREAS, in many emergency situations, including fires,
24 elevators are often an unsafe and unreliable evacuation option;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, vertical evacuation, or evacuation via stairway,
28 is often the preferred method of egress in emergency situations;
29 and

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31 WHEREAS, Hawaii does not currently require that state
32 buildings provide emergency evacuation devices to assist in the



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1 vertical evacuation of personnel or visitors with mobility
2 disabilities or impairments; and
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4 WHEREAS, emergency evacuation chairs are folding chairs
5 that allow people with permanent or temporary mobility
6 limitations to be safely moved downstairs or upstairs during an
7 emergency; and
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9 WHEREAS, placing an emergency evacuation chair at or near a
10 stairwell on each floor of every state building will enhance the
11 safety of persons with mobility impairments who work in or
12 otherwise utilize state buildings; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
15 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
16 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Accounting
17 and General Services is urged to purchase, distribute, and
18 install emergency evacuation chairs in every state building
19 having two or more floors; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
22 and General Services is urged to install, at minimum, one
23 emergency evacuation chair at or near a stairwell on each floor,
24 except the floor of exit discharge, of every state building
25 having two or more floors, provided that each emergency
26 evacuation chair is installed and stored in compliance with the
27 state fire code; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purpose of this
30 Concurrent Resolution, "state building" means a building that is
31 under the management and control of any state department; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every emergency evacuation
34 chair purchased in accordance with this Concurrent Resolution
35 should be capable of ascending and descending stairs; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
38 and General Services, in procuring any emergency evacuation
39 chair or other product necessary to carry out the purposes of
40 this Concurrent Resolution, is urged to do so in accordance with
41 chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
2 and General Services is urged to maintain a current and accurate
3 list of all the emergency evacuation chairs in circulation
4 pursuant to this Concurrent Resolution and to perform yearly
5 inspections to ensure the safe placement and function of each
6 chair; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disability Communication
9 and Access Board, in cooperation with the Department of
10 Accounting and General Services, is urged to conduct annual
11 training to explain the purpose and appropriate safe use of
12 emergency evacuation chairs for relevant personnel from each
13 state building in which at least one emergency evacuation chair
14 is installed; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disability Communication
17 and Access Board is urged to produce informational material
18 describing the purpose, placement, and appropriate use of
19 emergency evacuation chairs for distribution to the occupants of
20 each state building in which an emergency evacuation chair is
21 installed; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
25 Comptroller, Executive Director of the Disability and
26 Communication Access Board, and each member of the State Fire
27 Council.
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OFFERED BY:








