
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A PRIORITY LIST FOR
REPAIRING PUBLIC SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS AND STUDY
ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, properly functioning fire alarm systems are
2 essential for public school safety; and
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4 WHEREAS, the impact of fires is significantly worsened for
5 aging facilities; and
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7 WHEREAS, as of 2022, the average age of public school
8 buildings in Hawaii is seventy-two years, according to the
9 Department of Education; and
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11 WHEREAS, approximately twenty percent of Hawaii's two
12 hundred fifty-seven public schools are more than one hundred
13 years old; and
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15 WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association Life
16 Safety Code, commonly known as NFPA 101, requires schools to
17 have functioning fire alarm systems; and
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19 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Department of Education acknowledged
20 that King Intermediate School in Kaneohe had not had a working
21 fire alarm system for seven years; and
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23 WHEREAS, in 2022, teachers at Konawaena Elementary School
24 on Hawaii Island reported that the school's fire alarm system
25 has been out of service for two years; and
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27 WHEREAS, a fire broke out at Konawaena Elementary shortly
28 after the school's fire alarm system became inoperative in 2020;
29 and
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1 WHEREAS, properly functioning fire alarms can be the
2 difference between life and death should a fire break out at a
3 public school; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
7 that the Department of Education is urged to create a priority
8 list for repairing public school fire alarm systems and study
9 acceptable alternatives; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Education is
12 requested to provide the priority list, along with a timeline
13 for completing repairs, to the Legislature no later than twenty
14 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
18 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of
19 Education.

