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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO INCLUDE IN ALL LIVE AND RECORDED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM VIDEO BROADCASTS, AN ON-SCREEN INTERPRETER DISSEMINATING THE EMERGENCY INFORMATION IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AT ALL TIMES, INCLUDING DURING GRAPHIC PRESENTATIONS.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency established  
2 within the Department of Defense plans for and responds to both  
3 natural and human-caused emergencies, including emergencies  
4 resulting from all hazards, including tsunamis, wildfires, and  
5 hurricanes, and incidents involving hazardous materials or  
6 nuclear power; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency manages  
9 Hawaii's Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is a public alert  
10 and warning system that leverages the communications assets of  
11 EAS participants, including terrestrial broadcasters, cable  
12 television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital  
13 audio radio service providers, direct broadcast satellite  
14 services, and wireline video service providers, to allow the  
15 President of the United States the capability to address the  
16 American public during a national emergency; and

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18           WHEREAS, Hawaii's EAS is also used by state and local  
19 authorities to deliver important emergency information,  
20 including America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response  
21 (AMBER) alerts and the National Weather Service's emergency  
22 weather alerts and advisories; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, upon eruptions of volcanoes, information that is  
25 critical to the safety of Hawaii residents, including volcano  
26 alert levels, aviation threat levels, seismic activity levels,  
27 lava flow, and other threats to the community are disseminated  
28 to the public through the EAS; and

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30           WHEREAS, due to the critical nature of EAS alerts and  
31 warnings, and to prevent confusion caused by misinformation,



1 lack of information, or difficulty in finding accurate  
2 information following sudden disasters, EAS broadcasts should be  
3 provided using every communication tool available; and  
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5 WHEREAS, during the recent volcanic eruptions on Hawaii  
6 Island, the EAS live video broadcasts did not consistently  
7 provide American Sign Language interpretation on screen, thereby  
8 depriving many Hawaii residents who are deaf or hard of hearing  
9 of emergency information that is imperative for the protection  
10 of their lives and property; now, therefore,  
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
14 that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is urged to:  
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16 (1) Include in all live and recorded EAS video broadcasts,  
17 an on-screen interpreter disseminating the emergency  
18 information in American Sign Language at all times,  
19 including during graphic presentations;  
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21 (2) Provide training for American Sign Language  
22 interpreters by including them in all training  
23 provided to EAS broadcasters; and  
24

25 (3) Have all video broadcasts have one camera showing the  
26 American Sign Language interpreter at all times; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Adjutant General.

