

JAN 22 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO CONDUCT
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYS, PARTICULARLY WITHIN LAVA-FLOW HAZARD
ZONES 1 AND 2, TO UPDATE ITS LONG-TERM LAVA-FLOW HAZARD MAP
OF HAWAII ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, for emergency management purposes, a hazard is an
2 event or condition of the physical environment that results or
3 may likely result in damage to property: injury to or death of
4 individuals; or damage to the environment; and
5

6 WHEREAS, active volcanos are natural hazards that can
7 repeatedly threaten public safety; and
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9 WHEREAS, the tephra, ashfall, lahars, volcanic gas, lava
10 flows, pyroclastic density currents, and volcanic landslides
11 from a volcanic eruption can not only lead to an immediate loss
12 of life and property, but also negatively alter the nearby
13 environment for years to come; and
14

15 WHEREAS, there are six volcanoes that are classified as
16 active in the State: Kilauea, Mauna Loa, Hualalai, and Mauna Kea
17 on Hawaii Island; Haleakala on the east side of Maui; and Loihi,
18 an underwater volcano within state waters southeast of Hawaii
19 Island; and
20

21 WHEREAS, in 1974, the United States Geological Survey
22 (USGS) prepared a map of Hawaii Island showing long-term lava-
23 flow hazards based on existing geologic data. This map was
24 updated in 1992 and published as "USGS Miscellaneous Field
25 Studies Map 2193" and is still used today; and
26

27 WHEREAS, USGS Miscellaneous Field Studies Map 2193 divides
28 Hawaii Island into nine lava-flow hazard zones that are
29 numerically ranked on a scale of decreasing hazard as the
30 numbers increase; for example, Zone 1 is at highest risk and
31 includes the summits and rift zones of active volcanoes where



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1 volcanic vents have been repeatedly active in historic time, and
2 Zone 2 includes areas adjacent to and encompassing the downslope
3 of active rift zones; and
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5 WHEREAS, these zones are designated based on the locations
6 of probable eruption sites, the likely path of lava flows
7 erupting from those sites, the frequency of lava flow inundation
8 of an area over the past several thousand years, and structural
9 and topographical features that would affect the direction of
10 lava flows; and
11

12 WHEREAS, USGS Miscellaneous Field Studies Map 2193 is
13 intended to communicate long-term lava-flow hazards by may not
14 reflect the vulnerability of resources that are likely to be
15 affected by lava flows, the value of the lives or property that
16 is threatened by lava flows, nor does it account for the
17 elevation differences within the lava-flow hazard zones; and
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19 WHEREAS, since 1992, while most lava flows erupted from
20 Kilauea Volcano on Hawaii Island have remained within the Hawai'i
21 Volcanoes National Park, according to the USGS, the volcano's
22 geologic history indicates that future activity will continue to
23 threaten residential areas on the volcano's south flank; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the USGS Miscellaneous Field Studies Map 2193 was
26 last updated in 1992, and an update to that map could provide
27 state and county emergency management agencies, and affected
28 residents and businesses to better understand risks from
29 volcanic hazards on Hawaii Island; now, therefore,
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
33 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
34 Geological Survey is urged to conduct topographical surveys,
35 particularly within lava-flow hazard zones 1 and 2, to update
36 USGS Miscellaneous Field Studies Map 2193; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the updated surveys are
39 requested to include more detailed assessments of risk based on
40 elevation differences within each lava-flow hazard zone included
41 in the existing version of USGS Miscellaneous Field Studies Map
42 2193; and

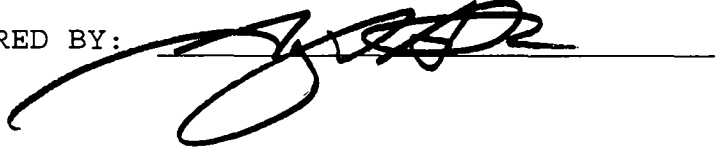


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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
United States Geological Survey.

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be "J. S. ...".