

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF MAUI, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MAUI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, TO CONDUCT REAL-TIME WILDFIRE AND OTHER DISASTER DRILLS INVOLVING THE MAUI COMMUNITY.

1 WHEREAS, the devastating impact of wildfires and other  
2 natural disasters in Maui and throughout the State has  
3 underscored the critical need for comprehensive and community-  
4 involved emergency preparedness measures; and  
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6 WHEREAS, recent natural disasters have demonstrated the  
7 importance of real-time, practical emergency response training  
8 that incorporates both emergency personnel and members of  
9 affected communities; and  
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11 WHEREAS, several municipalities in the United States and  
12 other jurisdictions implemented community-based disaster drills,  
13 successfully engaging residents in the planning, execution, and  
14 evaluation of emergency response exercises to increase  
15 preparedness and resilience; and  
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17 WHEREAS, Culver City, California's annual community-wide  
18 disaster drills, Japan's extensive public disaster preparedness  
19 education programs, Vietnam's community-based disaster risk  
20 management initiative, and Indonesia's tsunami evacuation drills  
21 in coastal villages are examples of successful community-based  
22 disaster drills and response programs; and  
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24 WHEREAS, real-time wildfire and disaster drills that  
25 include community participation enhance public awareness,  
26 familiarize residents with evacuation protocols, and create  
27 opportunities for immediate feedback and improvement in  
28 emergency response strategies; and  
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30 WHEREAS, involving community members in all phases of  
31 disaster drill preparation, execution, and evaluation fosters a  
32 sense of ownership, responsibility, and empowerment that leads  
33 to more effective and coordinated emergency response; and



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WHEREAS, lessons learned from disaster preparedness drills will provide invaluable insight for the Maui Emergency Management Agency, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and Department of Defense in refining disaster response strategies, improving communication channels, and identifying gaps in existing emergency protocols; and

WHEREAS, a proactive approach to disaster preparedness, emphasizing hands-on community engagement, will create a resilient and well-informed population that is better equipped to respond effectively when natural disasters occur; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that the County of Maui, in conjunction with the Maui Emergency Management Agency, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and Department of Defense, are urged to conduct real-time wildfire and other disaster drills involving the Maui community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the drills are urged to be designed to include local residents in planning, participation, and post-drill evaluations to ensure continuous improvements in disaster preparedness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maui Emergency Management Agency is urged to collaborate with community leaders, local businesses, schools, and other stakeholders to maximize participation and effectiveness of disaster preparedness drills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant General, Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Mayor of the County of Maui, and Administrator of the Maui Emergency Management Agency.

OFFERED BY: 

