
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE ORGANIZATIONS PUUHONUA O PUNA,
HAWAII VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER, HAWAII
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ASSOCIATION, HAWAII ISLAND UNITED WAY,
THE SALVATION ARMY - HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDS, THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS OF HAWAII, AND THEIR MANY VOLUNTEERS FOR
THE SERVICE AND SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE BIG ISLAND COMMUNITY
DURING THE 2018 KILAUEA LAVA FLOW.

1 WHEREAS, on May 3, 2018, the world witnessed the beginning
2 of the most destructive lava flow in the State of Hawaii's
3 recorded history; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the 2018 Kilauea eruption in Pahoia, Hawaii,
6 resulted in the evacuation of approximately two thousand area
7 residents, the loss of more than seven hundred homes, the
8 destruction of one thousand six hundred acres of farmland, the
9 wreckage of millions of dollars of infrastructure, and the
10 economic devastation of local residents and the small business
11 community; and
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13 WHEREAS, many organizations and individual volunteers, some
14 of whom were victims of the 2018 Kilauea lava flow themselves,
15 donated their time, money, and material goods to the victims;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, in February 2019, a number of organizations and
19 individual volunteers were honored in Pahoia for their service
20 and sacrifice on behalf of the victims of the 2018 Kilauea lava
21 flow, including the Department of Veteran Affairs, University of
22 Hawaii Manoa Ecological Determinants Lab, County of Hawaii
23 Office of Housing and Community Development, County of Hawaii
24 Office of Aging, County of Hawaii Department of Research and
25 Development, Hope Services Hawaii, World Central Kitchen,
26 Bodacious Women of Nanawale, J&W Tour and Taxi, Mainstreet Pahoia
27 Association, Project Vision Hawaii, Aloha Association, Big



1 Island Substance Abuse Council, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Child
2 and Family Service, Connect Point Church, Hawaii First Community
3 Foundation, Hawaii Community Ventures, East Hawaii Family
4 Guidance Center, Hawaiian Community Assets, Hilo Vet Center,
5 Kailua-Kona Vet Center, Hilo Medical Center, Hawaii Medical
6 Service Association, Interfaith Communities in Action, Lions
7 Clubs International Foundation, Neighborhood Place of Puna,
8 Ikaika Marzo, and April Buxton; and
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10 WHEREAS, the breadth of the disaster was so extensive and
11 unpredictable due to the unknown path and duration of the lava
12 flow, causing organizations to expend far more money and deploy
13 many more volunteers than would be expected in other disasters;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, amid the fear and uncertainty that followed the
17 opening of the fissures in Leilani Estates, many organizations
18 and individuals rallied together to serve the unprecedented and
19 ever-changing needs of the community during what would become
20 the most destructive natural event in the history of Hawaii's
21 Puna region; and
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23 WHEREAS, in May 2018, the organization Puuhonua o Puna was
24 established under the leadership of local volunteers in response
25 to the unique and growing community needs stemming from the
26 Kilauea lava flow; and
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28 WHEREAS, Puuhonua o Puna served as a community resource
29 center during the 2018 Kilauea lava flow crisis, providing
30 affected residents with valuable information, hot meals,
31 bedding, clothing, diapers, pet food, tents, and other
32 essentials; and
33

34 WHEREAS, through its work to support, unify, and empower
35 victims of the 2018 Kilauea lava flow, Puuhonua o Puna served as
36 a catalyst for future community-based efforts and became a
37 symbol of inspiration, resiliency, and hope among the Puna
38 community; and
39

40 WHEREAS, during the 2018 Kilauea lava flow, Hawaii
41 Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster served the affected



1 community by coordinating and collaborating with nonprofits,
2 faith-based groups, community organizations, government
3 agencies, and private sector partners to ensure that resources
4 and volunteers were utilized in the most efficient way possible;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association, the
8 support organization for Hawaii's five local Habitat for
9 Humanity affiliates, served the community affected by the 2018
10 Kilauea lava flow by building temporary housing, collecting and
11 distributing supplies and donations, and securing financial
12 resources for the building of temporary shelters, among many
13 other efforts; and

14
15 WHEREAS, since 1967, Hawaii Island United Way has worked to
16 unite people, organizations, and resources to build a healthier
17 community and during the 2018 Kilauea lava flow, the
18 organization served the affected community by assisting
19 displaced residents with rental and mortgage payments, helping
20 the nonprofit Project Vision Hawaii purchase a truck to haul a
21 Hiehie mobile shower trailer to residents, and donating
22 substantial funds for temporary housing at Sacred Heart Shelter;
23 and

24
25 WHEREAS, The Salvation Army - Hawaiian and Pacific Islands,
26 a well-established and comprehensive network of social services
27 and religious programs in Hawaii that serves thousands of men,
28 women, and children each year, supported 2018 Kilauea lava flow
29 evacuees with financial assistance, meal coordination,
30 management of distribution centers, general support at emergency
31 shelters, and donations to fund the construction of temporary
32 shelters; and

33
34 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross of Hawaii, an organization
35 that prevents and alleviates human suffering in emergencies by
36 mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors,
37 expended a substantial proportion of its resources, including
38 thousands of volunteer hours, to provide shelter, counseling,
39 and general aid for recovery efforts and to alleviate human
40 suffering during the 2018 Kilauea lava flow; and

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1 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross of Hawaii also made a
2 generous donation of \$75,000 to help provide safe and secure
3 shelter for the most vulnerable evacuees during the disaster;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, the service and support to the community affected
7 by the 2018 Kilauea lava flow provided by Puuhonua o Puna,
8 Hawaii Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Hawaii
9 Habitat for Humanity Association, Hawaii Island United Way, The
10 Salvation Army - Hawaiian and Pacific Islands, and American Red
11 Cross of Hawaii reflects the compassion of the individuals
12 within these organizations and serves as a testament to their
13 unwavering commitment to the people of Hawaii; now, therefore,
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
17 2019, that this body hereby recognizes and congratulates
18 Puuhonua o Puna, Hawaii Voluntary Organizations Active in
19 Disaster, Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association, Hawaii Island
20 United Way, The Salvation Army - Hawaiian and Pacific Islands,
21 and American Red Cross of Hawaii for their service to the
22 community affected by the 2018 Kilauea lava flow and extends its
23 warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all
24 future endeavors.
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OFFERED BY: 

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