William P. Kenoi
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WHEREAS, Act 111 of the 2014 Hawai'i State Legislature, provides for the establishment of County organizations for emergency management and disaster relief with the Mayor having direct responsibility and authority over emergency management within the County; and

WHEREAS, Act 111 of the 2014 Hawai'i State Legislature and Chapter 7, Articles 1 and 2 of the Hawai'i County Code, establishes a Civil Defense Agency within the County of Hawai'i and prescribes its powers, duties, and responsibilities, and Section 13-23 of the Hawai'i County Charter empowers the Mayor of the County to declare emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on September 4, 2014 has raised its Volcano Alert Level from Watch to Warning and has reported that the June 27th flow from Kilauea's East Rift Zone is within 1.3 kilometers or .8 miles of the eastern boundary of the Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve in the District of Puna, County and State of Hawai'i, and if unimpeded will cross Highway 130 at an unknown time; and

WHEREAS, in advance of the actual lava flow may be threats of wildfire and methane explosions; and

WHEREAS, Highway 130 is the only major thoroughfare servicing lower Puna; and

WHEREAS, other access into and out of Lower Puna are unimproved and often 4-wheel drive only roads incapable of supporting standard travel; and

WHEREAS, due to the prior eruption events of 1983 to 2013, Highway 130 remains inundated by lava and impassible between the Highway 137, a.k.a. the Kapoho-Kalapana Road Beach Road ("Red Road")/Highway 130 junction and Chain of Craters road in the Volcanoes National Park; and

WHEREAS, with the June 27th flow to the north and the 1983-2013 eruption to the south, residential communities, schools, government facilities, business and industry in the affected area are under threat of disaster due to lava inundation and/or being land locked and isolated from the rest of the County; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that 2010 Census of approximately 8,211 people residing in the area directly under threat from this flow in the subdivisions of Hawaiian Beaches southward to Kalapana is unrepresentative of the present population since it has been reported that the District of Puna is the fastest growing population in the State; and

WHEREAS, due to the threat of disaster due to property damage and/or bodily injury to residents of Hawai'i Island, and the need for government agencies and representatives from the private sector to mobilize and provide immediate services to our island residents, a state of emergency is authorized pursuant to Act 111 of the 2014 Hawai'i State Legislature, and Chapter 7 of the Hawai'i County Code; and

WHEREAS, Sections 12 and 13, Act 111 of the 2014 Hawai'i State Legislature authorizes additional powers of the Mayor during a state of emergency including but not limited to the authority to direct and control the conduct of civilians and movement and cessation of movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic and to direct and control the mandatory evacuation of the civilian population as needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM P. KENOI, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim and declare that a state of emergency exists due to threat of disaster on Hawai'i Island, District of Puna, effective September 4, 2014, and continuing thereon for 60 days or until further act by this office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 4th day of September 2014 in Hilo, Hawai'i.

WIILIAM P. KENOI
Mayor
County of Hawai'i