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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO KEEP THE TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY PROGRAM INTACT BY REJECTING THE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE PROGRAM'S REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Toxics Release Inventory program, established  
2 under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of  
3 1986 and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, was  
4 enacted in response to the toxic gas leak by a Union Carbide  
5 Corporation plant in Bhopal, India, that injured from one  
6 hundred fifty thousand to six hundred thousand people and killed  
7 at least fifteen thousand people; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the Toxics Release Inventory is a publicly  
10 available United States Environmental Protection Agency database  
11 that contains information on toxic chemical releases and other  
12 waste management activities reported annually by certain covered  
13 industry groups as well as federal facilities; and  
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15           WHEREAS, according to data from the United States  
16 Environmental Protection Agency, the simple act of reporting and  
17 disclosing toxic releases has prompted corporations to cut toxic  
18 pollution by nearly fifty per cent; and  
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20           WHEREAS, despite the success of the Toxics Release  
21 Inventory, the United States Environmental Agency has proposed a  
22 significant roll back of the program's reporting requirements to  
23 reduce the paperwork burden on corporations, including:  
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- 25           (1) Requiring biennial reporting rather than annual  
26           reporting for all facilities;
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- 28           (2) Changing the reporting threshold from five hundred  
29           pounds to five thousand pounds, thereby allowing  
30           companies to release up to ten times more pollution



1 than previously allowed before requiring them to  
2 report on how much pollution was produced and where it  
3 went; and  
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- 5 (3) Allowing facilities to withhold information on the  
6 low-level production of persistent bioaccumulative  
7 toxins, including lead and mercury, which are  
8 dangerous even in small quantities because of their  
9 toxicity and because they persist in the environment  
10 and accumulate in people's bodies; and  
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12 WHEREAS, according to United States Senator James Jeffords,  
13 ranking member of the Environmental Committee of the United  
14 States Senate, the foregoing proposals "would deny communities  
15 up-to-date information about local toxic releases, reduce  
16 incentives to minimize the generation of toxic waste, and  
17 undermine the ability of public health agencies and researchers  
18 to identify important trends"; and  
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20 WHEREAS, an up-to-date Toxics Release Inventory is needed  
21 to pinpoint specific facilities that are releasing hazardous  
22 pollutants so that pollution prevention and controls can be  
23 implemented; and  
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25 WHEREAS, first responders, including those working in the  
26 aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, need current Toxics  
27 Release Inventory data to identify factories and industrial  
28 sites where toxic chemical releases may be possible; and  
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30 WHEREAS, a bipartisan group of twelve state attorneys  
31 general have joined in opposition to the foregoing proposals,  
32 arguing that it would impede governments, first responders, and  
33 citizens from protecting people from the harm caused by toxic  
34 chemicals; now, therefore,  
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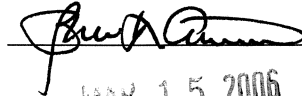
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
38 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United  
39 States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and  
40 the United States Congress are urged to keep the Toxics Release  
41 Inventory program intact by rejecting the proposals to reduce  
42 its reporting requirements; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
3 United States, the Administrator of the United States  
4 Environmental Protection Agency, and the members of Hawaii's  
5 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 15 2006

