

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL CIVIL DEFENSE WARNING SIRENS
IN AREAS STILL WITHOUT SIRENS AND ENSURE THAT ALL SIRENS
ARE IN WORKING ORDER AT ALL TIMES IN CASE OF DISASTER
EMERGENCIES.

1 WHEREAS, at 7:46 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time, on March 11,
2 2011, an earthquake with a magnitude of approximately 9.0 was
3 felt in the city of Sendai on the island of Honshu in Japan; and
4

5 WHEREAS, within forty minutes a tsunami with wave heights
6 of over twenty feet struck the city of Sendai with a brutal
7 force, killing thousands of residents; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii shares a similar landscape,
10 oceanography, and population with Japan; and
11

12 WHEREAS, a similar type of earthquake may happen within the
13 Hawaiian island chain to cause a tsunami to strike any island
14 within 30 minutes or less of an earthquake occurring beneath or
15 around the Pacific Ocean; and
16

17 WHEREAS, section 128-6(8)(D), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
18 relating to civil defense powers, authorizes the Governor to act
19 through the Civil Defense Division of the state Department of
20 Defense to provide warnings and signals for drills, alerts, or
21 attacks and the mechanical devices to be used in conjunction
22 therewith; and
23

24 WHEREAS, news reports of the March 11, 2011, tsunami in
25 Hawaii indicated that some civil defense warning sirens were
26 inoperable or that there were still pockets of communities
27 without warning sirens; and
28

29 WHEREAS, additional civil defense warning sirens and public
30 safety communications equipment throughout the State of Hawaii



1 will improve the timeliness of the Emergency Alert System in
2 transmitting evacuation and other information to the public
3 through radio and television; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Act 5, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005,
6 relating to civil defense, states the legislative findings in
7 pertinent part:
8

9 "The legislature finds that the State's growing population
10 and a general lack of awareness on the part of the public
11 with respect to natural disaster preparedness, dictates
12 appropriate government action. This Act addresses the need
13 for disaster preparedness by appropriating funds for
14 natural disaster preparedness, including tsunami and
15 hurricane preparedness efforts . . ."
16

17 WHEREAS, Act 5 appropriated out of the hurricane reserve
18 trust fund the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much thereof as may be
19 necessary for fiscal year 2005-2006, and the sum of \$2,000,000
20 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-
21 2007, for tsunami and hurricane preparedness efforts, including
22 installing and maintaining new siren systems, among other
23 things; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Civil Defense
28 Division of the state Department of Defense is requested to
29 install, as a matter of immediate urgency, additional civil
30 defense warning sirens in areas still without sirens and ensure
31 that all sirens are in working order at all times in case of
32 disaster emergencies; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Defense Division
35 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2012 on the status and
37 progress of the installation of additional civil defense warning
38 sirens in areas still without sirens and efforts to ensure that
39 all sirens are in working order at all times in case of disaster
40 emergencies; and
41

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director



S.C.R. NO. 163

1 of Public Safety, Adjutant General, Vice Director of Civil
2 Defense, and Comptroller.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:

Will Egan
James M. Don

Amey H. Bal
Fahai Daza
Michelle Sedani

