

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE CIVIL DEFENSE OR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES TO EVALUATE TSUNAMI EVACUATION SITES.

1 WHEREAS, a tsunami is a series of powerful waves that are
2 generated by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake,
3 landslide, volcanic eruption, or meteorite and that can move
4 hundreds of miles per hour through the open ocean, building in
5 height, before crashing into coastal land; and

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7 WHEREAS, tsunamis occur relatively frequently in the
8 Pacific Ocean because of high levels of seismic activity in the
9 region; and

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11 WHEREAS, according to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic
12 Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and
13 Cultural Organization, the devastation wrought over the past
14 decade by tsunamis in Java; the Solomon Islands and Chile;
15 Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga; Haiti, Chile, and Indonesia;
16 and most recently, Japan, should act as a reminder for
17 communities in or near potentially tsunamigenic regions to
18 increase efforts to develop awareness, preparedness, and
19 mitigation procedures; and

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21 WHEREAS, according to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic
22 Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and
23 Cultural Organization, areas less than twenty-five feet above
24 sea level and within one mile of the shoreline are at greatest
25 risk of damage including inundation, contamination of drinking
26 water, fires from ruptured gas lines or tanks, and destruction
27 of structures; and

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29 WHEREAS, during the tsunami warnings issued on March 10th
30 and 11th of 2011, many residents in the State's evacuation areas



1 were directed to evacuation sites that were located close to
2 shorelines and in flat, low-lying areas; and

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4 WHEREAS, when major damage or loss of life is avoided, a
5 natural disaster experience provides an important opportunity to
6 review emergency procedures and preparedness plans; now,
7 therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Civil Defense
12 Division of the Hawaii Department of Defense is requested to
13 work with the Civil Defense Agency of the County of Hawaii, the
14 Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of
15 Honolulu, the Civil Defense Agency of the County of Kauai, and
16 the Civil Defense Agency of the County of Maui to evaluate the
17 appropriateness of tsunami evacuation sites in each of the
18 counties of the State; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the evaluation of tsunami
21 evacuation sites include an assessment of the sites' elevation,
22 distance from the shoreline, proximity to gas lines or other
23 potentially hazardous infrastructure, and vulnerability to the
24 effects of a tsunami or related disaster such as wind damage,
25 flooding, and inundation with debris, and also include
26 recommendations for improving tsunami evacuation sites; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Defense Division of
29 the Hawaii Department of Defense is requested to submit a report
30 of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later
31 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
32 of 2012; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General of
 3 the Hawaii Department of Defense, Administrator of the Civil
 4 Defense Agency of the County of Hawaii, Director of the
 5 Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of
 6 Honolulu, Civil Defense Manager of the Kauai Civil Defense
 7 Agency, and Emergency Management Officer of the Maui Civil
 8 Defense Agency.

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