

MAR 16 2011

SENATE 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
31 will improve the timeliness of the Emergency Alert System in
32 transmitting evacuation and other information to the public
33 through radio and television; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Act 5, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005,
3 relating to civil defense, states the legislative findings in
4 pertinent part:

5
6 "The legislature finds that the State's growing population
7 and a general lack of awareness on the part of the public
8 with respect to natural disaster preparedness, dictates
9 appropriate government action. This Act addresses the need
10 for disaster preparedness by appropriating funds for
11 natural disaster preparedness, including tsunami and
12 hurricane preparedness efforts . . ."

13
14 WHEREAS, Act 5 appropriated out of the hurricane reserve
15 trust fund the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much thereof as may be
16 necessary for fiscal year 2005-2006, and the sum of \$2,000,000
17 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-
18 2007, for tsunami and hurricane preparedness efforts, including
19 installing and maintaining new siren systems, among other
20 things; now, therefore,

21
22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
24 that the Civil Defense Division of the state Department of
25 Defense is requested to install, as a matter of immediate
26 urgency, additional civil defense warning sirens in areas still
27 without sirens and ensure that all sirens are in working order
28 at all times in case of disaster emergencies; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Defense Division
31 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2012 on the status and
33 progress of the installation of additional civil defense warning
34 sirens in areas still without sirens and efforts to ensure that
35 all sirens are in working order at all times in case of disaster
36 emergencies; and

37
38



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Public
3 Safety, Adjutant General, Vice Director of Civil Defense, and
4 Comptroller.

5
6
7

OFFERED BY: Will Eyo
Sumell. Ston
Randy de Pa
Folaitgan
Michelle Sideri

