

MAR 16 2011

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## SENATE 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  
31 were directed to evacuation sites that were located close to  
32 shorelines and in flat, low-lying areas; and  
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1 WHEREAS, when major damage or loss of life is avoided, a  
2 natural disaster experience provides an important opportunity to  
3 review emergency procedures and preparedness plans; now,  
4 therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,  
8 that the Civil Defense Division of the Hawaii Department of  
9 Defense is requested to work with the Civil Defense Agency of  
10 the County of Hawaii, the Department of Emergency Management of  
11 the City and County of Honolulu, the Civil Defense Agency of the  
12 County of Kauai, and the Civil Defense Agency of the County of  
13 Maui to evaluate the appropriateness of tsunami evacuation sites  
14 in each of the counties of the State; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the evaluation of tsunami  
17 evacuation sites include an assessment of the sites' elevation,  
18 distance from the shoreline, proximity to gas lines or other  
19 potentially hazardous infrastructure, and vulnerability to the  
20 effects of a tsunami or related disaster such as wind damage,  
21 flooding, and inundation with debris, and also include  
22 recommendations for improving tsunami evacuation sites; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Defense Division of  
25 the Hawaii Department of Defense is requested to submit a report  
26 of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later  
27 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
28 of 2012; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General of the Hawaii  
32 Department of Defense, Administrator of the Civil Defense Agency  
33 of the County of Hawaii, Director of the Department of Emergency  
34 Management of the City and County of Honolulu, Civil Defense  
35 Manager of the Kauai Civil Defense Agency, and Emergency  
36 Management Officer of the Maui Civil Defense Agency.  
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