
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A REVIEW AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE REMOVAL OF MARINE DEBRIS CREATED BY
THE 2011 TSUNAMI IN JAPAN.

1 WHEREAS, the 2011 Japanese tsunami has generated marine
2 debris expected to affect the entire northern Pacific region;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, in response to the aftermath of the tsunami, the
6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration organized a
7 workshop on January 19, 2012, where forty organizations and
8 agencies discussed contingency response plans to assess and
9 respond to anticipated marine debris; and

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11 WHEREAS, the issue of proper assessment and disposal of
12 marine debris by the State was not addressed as part of the
13 workshop discussion; and

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15 WHEREAS, marine debris is expected to reach the Northwest
16 Hawaiian Islands in the winter of 2012, and the main Hawaiian
17 Islands in 2014; and

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19 WHEREAS, an area of concern regarding the arrival of marine
20 debris is the assessment of and response to large non-hazardous
21 material by the State and counties who will be responsible for
22 handling the effects of debris landing on the beaches of the
23 Hawaiian Islands; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that preparation by the
26 State for removal of the Japanese tsunami debris is essential;
27 now, therefore,

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H.C.R. NO. 108

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Environmental Health
 4 Administration and Environmental Management Division of the
 5 Department of Health, in consultation with state and federal
 6 agencies and other appropriate organizations, are requested to
 7 review and make recommendations on the removal of marine debris;
 8 and

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 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
 11 the review include, but not be limited to, collection, disposal,
 12 permitting, access, evaluation of material, sources of funding,
 13 and identifying stakeholders; and

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 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 16 requested to report to the Legislature on its findings and
 17 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later
 18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions
 19 of 2013 and 2014; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 23 Director of Health, the Adjutant General, the Chairperson of the
 24 Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Mayor of each county,
 25 and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 26 Administration.

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OFFERED BY:

Cindy Erana

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