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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO HALT ITS PLANS TO DUMP  
WASTEWATER FROM THE FUKUSHIMA-DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT  
INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

1           WHEREAS, on March 11, 2011, Japan experienced the strongest  
2 earthquake in its recorded history, triggering a tsunami in the  
3 Tohoku region that displaced four hundred fifty thousand people,  
4 crippled the country's infrastructure, and caused the meltdown  
5 of three nuclear reactors at the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power  
6 Plant; and

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8           WHEREAS, the meltdown was deemed one of the worst nuclear  
9 disasters on record; and

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11           WHEREAS, ever since the disaster, crews have continuously  
12 pumped water through the wrecked reactors to cool the nuclear  
13 fuel, much of which melted; and

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15           WHEREAS, the cooling water picks up radionuclides, many of  
16 which are then captured by a specially developed filtering  
17 process; however, tritium, which is defined by the United States  
18 Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a "mildly radioactive isotope",  
19 slips through the system, and other radionuclides may also be  
20 slipping through; and

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22           WHEREAS, at present, the water is stored in more than one  
23 thousand tanks on the grounds of the power plant; however, owner  
24 Tokyo Electric Power Company says it is running out of space to  
25 store the water on land; and

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27           WHEREAS, after considering five methods of disposal, in  
28 2021, Japan decided to release the treated nuclear wastewater  
29 into the ocean, a process scheduled to begin in early 2022 and  
30 continue over the course of forty years; and  
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1 WHEREAS, construction setbacks have reportedly postponed  
2 the discharge into the Pacific Ocean until spring or summer 2022  
3 at the earliest; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Pacific Ocean is a resource and home for many  
6 in Oceania, who rely on it to provide food, economic  
7 subsistence, and other essential aspects of life; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, although the release of the treated wastewater  
10 into the ocean was selected and supported by the International  
11 Atomic Energy Agency, an independent panel assembled by the  
12 Pacific Islands Forum said there was insufficient evidence that  
13 the release would be safe; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, as a Pacific Islands Forum scientific panel member  
16 and Director of the University of Hawaii Kewalo Marine  
17 Laboratory, Robert Richmond previously raised concerns about the  
18 potential interplay between marine life in the Pacific and  
19 lingering radioactive compounds, which could eventually make  
20 their way into the food system and fundamentally change the  
21 ecosystem; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, Richmond posits that with tritium's half-life of  
24 12.3 years, encasing the treated water in concrete would deal  
25 with the issue without risking potential fallout in the Pacific  
26 and turning the wastewater into a transboundary issue, or  
27 alternatively, using bioremediation, pumping the wastewater  
28 through tanks full of oyster species that consume plankton and  
29 incorporate radionuclides into their shells, then storing the  
30 water for forty to sixty years; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, as reiterated by Richmond, "There is a strong  
33 consensus internationally that continued use of the ocean for  
34 dumping waste is simply not sustainable."; now, therefore,

35  
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
38 Session of 2023, that this body urges the Government of Japan to  
39 halt its plans to dump wastewater from the Fukushima-Daiichi  
40 Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the federal  
2 government to convey to the Government of Japan, on behalf of  
3 the people of Hawaii, the critical importance of exhausting  
4 other alternatives to disposal of the wastewater from the  
5 Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean;  
6 and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body joins other Pacific  
9 Island governments, including the Commonwealth of the Northern  
10 Marianas Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, regional  
11 entities such as the Pacific Islands Forum, and international  
12 experts in:  
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- 14 (1) Expressing its immense disappointment in the  
15 Government of Japan's decision to release the  
16 wastewater from the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power  
17 Plant into the Pacific Ocean;  
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- 19 (2) Urging Japan to reconsider alternatives that better  
20 protect the surrounding marine environment and the  
21 people who inhabit it;  
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- 23 (3) Reaffirming every person's fundamental right to a  
24 clean, safe, and hospitable living environment free  
25 from potential toxins, pollutants, and substances that  
26 may negatively impact the health and lives of people,  
27 the marine environment, and other organisms; and  
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- 29 (4) Reiterating the statement released by the Special  
30 Rapporteurs from the United Nations, as cited in House  
31 Joint Resolution 22-11 of the Twenty-second Northern  
32 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, that "the release  
33 of one million tons of contaminated water into the  
34 marine environment imposes considerable risks to the  
35 full enjoyment of human rights of concerned  
36 populations in and beyond the borders of Japan"; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Prime Minister of Japan,  
40 Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Minister of the  
41 Environment of Japan, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu,  
42 President of the United States, Vice-President of the United



# H.R. NO. 201

1 States, Administrator of the United States Environmental  
2 Protection Agency, United States Secretary of the Interior,  
3 United States Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and  
4 Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and  
5 Atmospheric Administration; members of Hawaii's Congressional  
6 delegation; Governor of the State of Hawaii; and Mayors of the  
7 counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and the City and County of  
8 Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 10 2023

