
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 that had been scheduled to begin in
30 early 2022 but has been postponed and, if commenced, is expected
31 to 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

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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

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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

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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 Ocean and turning the wastewater into a transboundary issue, or
27 alternatively, using bioremediation by 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

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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,

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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

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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:

- 13
14 (1) Urging Japan to reconsider alternatives that better
15 protect the surrounding marine environment and the
16 people who inhabit it;
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18 (2) Reaffirming every person's fundamental right to a
19 clean, safe, and hospitable living environment free
20 from potential toxins, pollutants, and substances that
21 may negatively impact the health and lives of people,
22 the marine environment, and other organisms; and
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24 (3) Reiterating the statement released by the Special
25 Rapporteurs from the United Nations, as cited in House
26 Joint Resolution 22-11 of the Twenty-second Northern
27 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, that "the release
28 of one million tons of contaminated water into the
29 marine environment imposes considerable risks to the
30 full enjoyment of human rights of concerned
31 populations in and beyond the borders of Japan"; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Prime Minister of Japan;
35 Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; Minister of the
36 Environment of Japan; Consul General of Japan in Honolulu;
37 President of the United States; Vice-President of the United
38 States; Administrator of the United States Environmental
39 Protection Agency; United States Secretary of the Interior;
40 United States Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
41 Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and
42 Atmospheric Administration; members of Hawaii's Congressional



- 1 Delegation; Governor; and Mayors of the counties of Hawaii,
- 2 Kauai, and Maui, and the City and County of Honolulu.

