
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS REQUESTED WORK WITH THE COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE OR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES TO EVALUATE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF TSUNAMI EVACUATION SITES IN THE STATE.

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 can move hundreds
4 of miles per hour through the open ocean, building in height,
5 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, vulnerability to the
20 effects of a tsunami or related disaster such as wind damage,
21 flooding, and inundation with debris, and 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, Administrator
32 of the Civil Defense Agency of the County of Hawaii, Director of
33 the Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of
34 Honolulu, Civil Defense Manager of the Kauai Civil Defense
35 Agency, and Emergency Management Officer of the Maui Civil
36 Defense Agency.

