

MAR 14 2012

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AN  
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN TO THE TSUNAMI DEBRIS GENERATED  
BY THE MARCH 2011 EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN THAT MAY REACH  
HAWAII'S SHORES.

1 WHEREAS, this body finds that Japan experienced an  
2 earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 9.1 in March 2011, the  
3 fourth most powerful ever recorded; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the earthquake generated a tsunami that dragged  
6 three million to four million tons of debris into the ocean  
7 after tearing up Japanese harbors and homes; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, scientists believe ocean currents are carrying  
10 some of the debris across the Pacific Ocean toward the United  
11 States and one to five percent of the one million to two million  
12 tons of debris still in the ocean may reach the shores of  
13 Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington in the United States and  
14 British Columbia in Canada; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the majority of the objects expected to be among  
17 the debris are from Japan's fishing industry, for example large  
18 buoys suspected to be from Japanese oyster farms that were found  
19 on the shores of Alaska in late 2011; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, debris that washes up on coral reefs or beaches  
22 could harm wildlife, such as endangered Hawaiian monk seals; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, the debris is largely dispersed over a wide area  
25 that makes it difficult to rely on satellite imagery to track  
26 the debris; and  
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii must stand prepared to ensure prompt and  
29 effective action if the debris reaches the shores of Hawaii;  
30 now, therefore,  
31

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,  
34 that the Director of State Civil Defense is requested to convene



1 a task force to develop an international response plan to ensure  
2 prompt and effective action to address tsunami debris generated  
3 by the March 2011 earthquake in Japan if it reaches Hawaii's  
4 shores; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include the  
7 Director of State Civil Defense, or the Director's designee, and  
8 a representative from:

- 9  
10 (1) The military;  
11  
12 (2) The National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at  
13 the University of Hawaii;  
14  
15 (3) The Rotary Club;  
16  
17 (4) The Lions Club International;  
18  
19 (5) Kiwanis International;  
20  
21 (6) The Nature Conservancy;  
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23 (7) The National Audubon Society;  
24  
25 (8) The Sierra Club; and  
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27 (9) The Surfrider Foundation; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
30 address the following as part of the international response  
31 plan:

- 32  
33 (1) Whether available information must be updated to  
34 include information on debris that may reach Hawaii's  
35 shores;  
36  
37 (2) Identify needs such as sirens, evacuation procedures,  
38 road closures, transportation of evacuees to safe  
39 areas, available emergency personnel, and emergency  
40 supplies, for various situations involving the tsunami  
41 debris;  
42  
43 (3) Coordination and execution by local and state  
44 authorities of emergency response plans and other



1 activities in preparation for the arrival, collection,  
2 and disposal of the debris;

3  
4 (4) Safeguards that must be put in place to prevent or  
5 minimize the harm to wildlife, such as the endangered  
6 Hawaiian monk seal, that may be caused by floating  
7 debris; and

8  
9 (5) Any other relevant issues that may be important to  
10 ensuring prompt and effective action to avoid or  
11 mitigate the negative impacts of any debris that may  
12 reach Hawaii's shores; and

13  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall  
15 not receive compensation for their service but shall be  
16 reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel expenses,  
17 incurred in the performance of their duties; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
20 submit a report detailing the international response plan and  
21 any relevant findings and recommendations to the Legislature no  
22 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
23 Session of 2014; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on  
26 June 30, 2014; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of State  
30 Civil Defense, the Director of the National Disaster  
31 Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii at  
32 Manoa, the Rotary Club, the Lions Club International, Kiwanis  
33 International, The Nature Conservancy, the National Audubon  
34 Society, the Sierra Club, and the Surfrider Foundation.

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