HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING APPLICATION FOR, GRANTING OF, AND FISCAL SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND EMERGENCY PREVENTION EFFORTS FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND THE COUNTY OF MAUI IN THE WAKE OF THE MARCH 2011 TSUNAMI.

WHEREAS, the Japanese earthquake on March 10, 2011, and the resulting tsunami on March 10th and 11th caused catastrophic damage to the country of Japan, resulting in widespread loss of life; and

WHEREAS, according to United States Geological Survey records, the earthquake measuring 8.9 on the richter scale was the strongest in recorded history to hit Japan; and

WHEREAS, many residents of Hawaii have been deeply affected by the disaster and especially by the tsunami generated by the earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the tsunami caused significant damage within the County of Hawaii and County of Maui; and

WHEREAS, some of the hardest hit areas include Kealakekua on the Island of Hawaii, where a home was dragged into Kealakekua Bay, and Maalaea Harbor and Kahului on Maui also experienced significant damage; and

WHEREAS, many businesses and homes will need to be rebuilt or restored as a result of the tsunami; and

WHEREAS, immediate action and emergency relief is needed to restore general health and safety to these counties and to limit economic hardship and job loss; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the County of Hawaii and County of Maui are requested to apply for the maximum amount of federal relief funds available and to cover the requisite cost share for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's public assistance program

and individual assistance program, as required by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is hereby requested to assist the County of Hawaii and County of Maui to recover from the tsunami by maximizing available matching funds for federal reimbursements; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii assemble an intergovernmental task force to expedite relief for the County of Hawaii and County of Maui; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is hereby urged to refrain from making any cuts to the critically important Tsunami Pacific Alert System; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii and County of Maui are requested to expedite building permits for home owners and business owners who suffered damage to their properties from the tsunami so that they may promptly rebuild their establishments and more quickly recover from the destruction; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, United States Congressional Delegation for Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, County of Maui Planning Department, County of Hawaii Planning Department, and Director of the Hawaii office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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OFFERED BY:

Tunkellens

H.R. NO. 157

MAR 1 6 2011

