
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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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2 WHEREAS, construction setbacks have reportedly postponed
3 the discharge into the Pacific Ocean until spring or summer 2022
4 at the earliest; and

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

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

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

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

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

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



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the federal
3 government to convey to the Government of Japan, on behalf of
4 the people of Hawaii, the critical importance of exhausting
5 other alternatives to disposal of the wastewater from the
6 Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean;
7 and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body joins other Pacific
10 Island governments, including the Commonwealth of the Northern
11 Marianas Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, regional
12 entities such as the Pacific Islands Forum, and international
13 experts in:

- 14
15 (1) Expressing its immense disappointment in the
16 Government of Japan's decision to release the
17 wastewater from the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power
18 Plant into the Pacific Ocean;
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20 (2) Urging Japan to reconsider alternatives that better
21 protect the surrounding marine environment and the
22 people who inhabit it;
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24 (3) Reaffirming every person's fundamental right to a
25 clean, safe, and hospitable living environment free
26 from potential toxins, pollutants, and substances that
27 may negatively impact the health and lives of people,
28 the marine environment, and other organisms; and
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30 (4) Reiterating the statement released by the Special
31 Rapporteurs from the United Nations, as cited in House
32 Joint Resolution 22-11 of the Twenty-second Northern
33 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, that "the release
34 of one million tons of contaminated water into the
35 marine environment imposes considerable risks to the
36 full enjoyment of human rights of concerned
37 populations in and beyond the borders of Japan"; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Prime Minister of
41 Japan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Minister of the
42 Environment of Japan, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu,

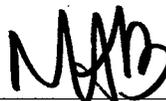


H.C.R. NO. 196

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

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MAB', is written over a horizontal line.

MAR 10 2023

