
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

7
8 WHEREAS, the meltdown was deemed one of the worst nuclear
9 disasters on record; and

10
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

14
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

21
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

26
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



1 early 2022 but has been postponed and, if commenced, is expected
2 to continue over the course of forty years; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

38
39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
41 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that this body urges the
42 Government of Japan to halt its plans to dump wastewater from



1 the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific
2 Ocean; and

3

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

10

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

16

- 17 (1) Urging Japan to reconsider alternatives that better
18 protect the surrounding marine environment and the
19 people who inhabit it;
- 20
- 21 (2) Reaffirming every person's fundamental right to a
22 clean, safe, and hospitable living environment free
23 from potential toxins, pollutants, and substances that
24 may negatively impact the health and lives of people,
25 the marine environment, and other organisms; and
- 26
- 27 (3) Reiterating the statement released by the Special
28 Rapporteurs from the United Nations, as cited in House
29 Joint Resolution 22-11 of the Twenty-second Northern
30 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, that "the release
31 of one million tons of contaminated water into the
32 marine environment imposes considerable risks to the
33 full enjoyment of human rights of concerned
34 populations in and beyond the borders of Japan"; and

35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Prime Minister of
38 Japan; Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; Minister of the
39 Environment of Japan; Consul General of Japan in Honolulu;
40 President of the United States; Vice-President of the United
41 States; Administrator of the United States Environmental
42 Protection Agency; United States Secretary of the Interior;



1 United States Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
2 Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and
3 Atmospheric Administration; members of Hawaii's Congressional
4 Delegation; Governor; and Mayors of the counties of Hawaii,
5 Kauai, and Maui, and the City and County of Honolulu.

