

No. R-377. House concurrent resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Japan on the first anniversary of the 2011 triple disaster.

(H.C.R.282)

Offered by: Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Bartholomew of Hartland, Buxton of Tunbridge, Clarkson of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Davis of Washington, Donahue of Northfield, Edwards of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, Haas of Rochester, Jerman of Essex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Wolcott, McCullough of Williston, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Poirier of Barre City, Pugh of South Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Sharpe of Bristol, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Wizowaty of Burlington, Woodward of Johnson, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Glover

Whereas, on Friday, March 11, 2011, at 2:46 p.m. local time, the nation of Japan suffered a national tragedy of epic proportions that the Japanese prime minister described as his nation's worst crisis since World War II, and

Whereas, at that moment, an earthquake, which the United States Geological Survey has classified as reaching a 9.0 magnitude, struck Japan's most populous island, Honshu, with an unbelievably intense fury, and

Whereas, some authorities have characterized this earthquake as the worst to ever hit Japan, and this massive earthquake which struck the area surrounding the city of Sendai especially hard was felt many miles away in Tokyo, and

Whereas, unfortunately, the earthquake was merely the first act of a larger tragedy as shortly thereafter a huge tsunami, packing ocean waves nearly

50 feet high, struck coastal communities still experiencing aftershocks from the earthquake, and

Whereas, despite a network of protective seawalls and high-tech tsunami warning devices that are considered the best on earth, the rapidity and mammoth amount of the water's onslaught were impossible for thousands to escape, and

Whereas, these natural disasters precipitated a third catastrophe when the nuclear complex at Fukushima I and II was flooded and severely damaged, precipitating a crisis, the repercussions of which continue to this day, and

Whereas, during the height of the resulting emergency, nearly 500,000 persons sought shelter, and while the exact number of deaths may never be known, over 15,000 individuals were confirmed dead, and many thousands lost their homes and livelihoods, and

Whereas, extensive coastal infrastructure and entire communities were destroyed, and their reconstruction will involve a long, expensive, difficult, and painful rebuilding process, and

Whereas, the people of Japan have suffered enormously, and this past year has been that nation's most emotionally difficult since World War II, and

Whereas, the first anniversary of the triple disasters of March 11, 2011 is a moment for Vermonters to reflect on the continued hardship and trauma the Japanese people are experiencing and to express a hope for a brighter future for Japan, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its solidarity with the people of Japan on the first anniversary of the March 2011 triple disaster, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Takeshi Hikiyara, Consul General of Japan in Boston.