

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

03/28/2018-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

BILL NO. 32-0178

Thirty-Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 7, 2018

A Resolution to honor and commend All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response

PROPOSED BY: Senator Jean A. Forde

1 **WHEREAS**, All Hands Volunteers was a United States based 501(3) non-profit
2 organization incorporated by David Campbell in 2010, which history began in December 2004
3 when a tsunami, resulting from an earthquake, devastated communities located along the Indian
4 Ocean coastline; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Campbell, a business professional, spontaneously traveled to Thailand
6 with the intent to remain there for one week, providing assistance in whatever capacity he could;
7 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the one-week stay extended to one month, during which time Mr. Campbell
2 co-established HandsOnThailand with Darius Monsef and worked with more than 200 volunteers
3 to rebuild five fishing villages in Phuket; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in August 2005, after Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the United States
5 Gulf Coast states, Mr. Campbell and several HandsOnThailand volunteers established
6 HandsOnUSA, coordinating 1,500 volunteers to help survivors of Hurricane Katrina; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2010, HandsOnUSA changed its name to All Hands Volunteers; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Happy Hearts Fund, founded in 2005 by international supermodel Petra
9 Nemcova in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, of which Nemcova herself was a survivor, has
10 rebuilt 171 schools all over the world in the aftermath of natural disasters, thus allowing 102,000
11 schoolchildren to resume their educations; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in the fall of 2017, All Hands Volunteers and Happy Hearts merged their
13 resources and organizations to form All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response to focus on delivering
14 a “smart response” to those suffering from disasters, domestically and internationally; and

15 **WHEREAS**, All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response is a volunteer-powered disaster
16 relief organization dedicated to rebuilding hope for people impacted by natural disasters by
17 engaging and leveraging volunteers, and by partnering with other organizations and local
18 communities; and

19 **WHEREAS**, All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response works with communities to meet
20 their long-term needs by rebuilding the basic “hubs” of a community, places such as: homes,
21 schools, day care facilities, and community centers; and

1 **WHEREAS**, All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response partners with organizations and
2 local communities to help homeowners by engaging in activities such as: “mucking and gutting”
3 after a flood, “rubbling” after an earthquake, and safe demolitions for dangerous buildings; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, All Hands and Hearts—Smart
5 Response has made a two-year commitment to building safe, sturdy schools for thousands of
6 children throughout the Caribbean; and

7 **WHEREAS**, All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response’s vision is to demonstrate the power
8 and value of volunteer service by bringing hope to affected communities and by providing a
9 transformative experience to its volunteers; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in the Virgin Islands, as of March 2018, All Hands and Hearts—Smart
11 Response has: donated over 4,839 volunteer hours, mucked and gutted 123 sites, removed debris
12 from 149 sites, performed chainsaw work at 125 sites, completed demolition at three sites, worked
13 on three schools and two churches, donated bicycles to twelve schools, and has impacted over
14 4,700 individuals; and

15 **WHEREAS**, All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response has, between 2004 and the present,
16 mobilized over 45,500 volunteers and assisted over 500,000 people around the world; Now,
17 Therefore,

18 ***Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

19 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
20 Islands, honors and commends All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response for its volunteer work in
21 the Virgin Islands and throughout the world.

22 **SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of All Hands Volunteers-Smart Response
23 service to the people of the Virgin Islands in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the

1 President of the Legislature or his designee shall prepare and present a perma plaque copy of this
2 Resolution to All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response at an appropriate ceremony.

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BILL SUMMARY

5 This bill honors and commends All Hands and Hearts—Smart Response for its service to
6 the Virgin Islands in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

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8 **BR17-0843/ March 6, 2018/SLR**

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