

place for their kids to go that is safe. You can't have children running around in dangerous places. So people aren't thinking about this in a recovery, but schools have to be up and running, and you really should be able to use some of this money for daycare so the parents can work. Some of them quit their jobs to rebuild their homes. They lived off their savings and they went back to work. It is a tough situation.

But I am happy, and I want to thank Mark Shriver, Save the Children, and the National Commission on Children and Disasters who led this initiative trying to help us focus on the storms of the future, what we could do better to help children to make sure their needs are cared for. We think about adults, but, of course, most of these families have kids, sometimes young children. So we have done a little bit. I wish we could have done more, but we negotiated the best we could, and at least we got the childcare provision in.

It reduces bureaucratic waste by eliminating duplicative agency reviews for the same project and the same set of laws governing environmental, historic preservation, and benefit-cost requirements. It also helps the environment by incentivizing recycling of debris. So if we can find a way to recycle it, then people get paid a little bit more as opposed to just throwing it in the landfills. We think that will be a good opportunity to try to promote some good technologies for recycling. And—this is very important—it also corrects a gap in current law that prohibited tribal governments from requesting Federal assistance. They were completely prohibited under the former law. Really, as a matter of fair policy and the Federal law, tribes should be able to request some assistance as well, and that was corrected in this piece of legislation.

It also, finally, eliminates a perverse incentive in the law to use high-priced contract labor for emergency work instead of local government employees, such as firefighters and police officers, which should save the Federal Government millions of dollars.

In closing, I want to thank all of the different organizations that helped to pass this: the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of County Organizations, International Association of Emergency Managers, International Association of Firefighters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

This is not a subject that is always fun to talk about because when you are talking about it, it is a lot of suffering that is going on, whether it is Joplin, MO, or Gulfport, MS, or New Orleans, LA, or New York, NY, or the boardwalk in New Jersey. And many of those not-so-small beach communities are very highly populated. There is a lot of suffering. But it is important for us to try, when we can, when we see that the

response is not what it should be, to take the time to push out some reforms, to fix what we can fix so that the \$60 billion that I hope we will send to them can be used smartly, quickly, and efficiently.

I am living proof of a Senator who has had to literally help lead the rebuilding of the gulf coast, along with my friends from Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. My hometown is New Orleans. My brother is now the mayor, and he is rebuilding that city every day. Eighty percent of the residential communities on the east bank were destroyed completely. That would be like 80 percent of the District of Columbia but not Anacostia, but 80 percent—which would be the whole other side of DC on this side of the river—being uninhabitable. It is hard for people to get their head around that scale. I think Massachusetts has experienced some of these storms. But the scale and scope of the loss is just hard to get your head around. Even though it is not on the 5 o'clock news or the 6 o'clock news or 10 o'clock news or now 24-hour news, it is still happening. So this money and these reforms are important.

So I hope the Senate will act quickly this week. We may have to take up a few amendments from the minority. We have already had the debate about offsets, and we have decided that in the middle of the battle we don't have to argue about who is going to pay for the bullets. We need to go ahead and send the money, and we will figure out how to pay for it later. We are going to pay for it. It is not a question of whether it is going to be repaid. It will be paid for. We should not be arguing about that while the water is rising or while people are gutting their homes or worshipping in tents along the beach. They need their churches back, they need their communities back, and we need to send them money and the smarter tools to help them with the recovery.

So I again thank so many colleagues for helping with this, particularly Senator Lieberman and Senator COLLINS, who led a lot of these efforts through their leadership of the Homeland Security Committee and spent a significant amount of time along with their staff reviewing and helping to improve this legislation, as well as my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee on Homeland Security.

EXTENSIONS OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the period of morning business be extended until 6 p.m. today, and that all provisions of the previous order remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I deeply miss my friend Danny Inouye.

Danny Inouye's passing leaves a huge void in the Senate and for me personally, as I have lost a dear friend, and now being the sole U.S. Senator to have served in World War II is a lonesome post—especially after losing the presence of a Medal of Honor winner.

Danny was not only a great Senator for his constituents, but also the most popular among his Senate colleagues. He exemplified what it means to serve and represented the very best qualities of our country. Whether in the Army or as Hawaii's representative in Washington since the State's birth, he worked tirelessly to do right by every Hawaiian and every American.

Danny volunteered to serve in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was almost entirely made up of Nisei, or people of Japanese descent born in the United States. Although its members faced discrimination at home and many of their families were in internment camps, the 442nd is widely acknowledged as the most decorated infantry unit in the history of the U.S. Army. All of us who served admired the courage and heroism Danny displayed on the battlefield especially in San Terenzo, Italy when 4 days before the war's end, he lost his arm in battle, earning a Purple Heart.

When Danny first joined the Senate in 1962, World War II veterans were common in our chamber and, over the past five decades, the Senators who served in World War II have shared a bond that overcame partisan politics. But I am now the last of that group and I will continue to look to Danny's example to bring colleagues together to do what is right for all Americans.

Danny and I partnered together time and time again on the Appropriations Committee to write legislation that has made America safer and healthier for our families. I will always be especially thankful for his help in crafting relief bills for New Jersey in our times of need after Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy. In fact, his last piece of legislation in the Senate was one to provide relief to those affected by Sandy.