
HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE PEACE CORPS ON ITS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY.

1 WHEREAS, on March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed
2 an executive order establishing the PEACE CORPS, a public
3 service organization dedicated to encouraging progress, creating
4 opportunity, and fostering mutual respect and understanding
5 throughout the world; and
6

7 WHEREAS, over the past five decades, over 200,000 current
8 and returned PEACE CORPS volunteers have collectively served in
9 nearly 140 countries to fulfill President Kennedy's vision by
10 bringing a wealth of practical assistance to communities around
11 the world, including addressing critical needs in the areas of
12 education, health care, agriculture, environmental protection,
13 and youth development; and
14

15 WHEREAS, working and living side-by-side with the people
16 they assist, PEACE CORPS volunteers serve as ambassadors for our
17 country, demonstrating the very best that our country has to
18 offer, and return after their service enriched by their
19 experiences, having gained a much deeper understanding and
20 appreciation of the interconnected world we live in; and
21

22 WHEREAS, our State has served as a willing partner in
23 assisting the PEACE CORPS in the recruitment and training of
24 volunteers; and
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26 WHEREAS, in 1962, Sargent Shriver, the founding Director of
27 the PEACE CORPS, contacted Dr. Jake Stalker of the University of
28 Hawaii at Hilo and Kio Hamakawa of the Department of Education
29 to establish one of the first training centers in the Hilo area
30 on the island of Hawaii; and



1 WHEREAS, training for PEACE CORPS volunteers at the
2 training center took place primarily at sites in and around
3 Hilo, including the former Hilo Hospital which housed the
4 administrative office, classrooms, and dormitories, and former
5 school sites in Kurtistown, Waiakea-Uka, Pepeekeo, Ookala,
6 Hakalau, Honomu; Honohina, and Kohala Girls School; and
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8 WHEREAS, a field station for the training center was also
9 established in Waipio Valley to prepare PEACE CORPS volunteers
10 for the rigors and obstacles that they would face in carrying
11 out their service missions in unfamiliar foreign lands; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Hilo training center and Waipio Valley field
14 station offered numerous advantages for the PEACE CORPS,
15 including the geography, climate, ethnic composition of the
16 communities in which volunteer training sites were based, and
17 the spirit of cooperation found in these communities; and
18

19 WHEREAS, between June of 1962 and September of 1971, over
20 7,000 PEACE CORPS volunteers were trained on the island of
21 Hawaii; and
22

23 WHEREAS, on Christmas Day in 1963, PEACE CORPS trainees and
24 staff at the Hilo training center dedicated a plaque in memory
25 of President Kennedy in front of the former Hilo Hospital; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Hawaii will
28 be hosting a series of events during November of 2011 to
29 commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the PEACE CORPS, to include a
30 rededication of the plaque honoring President Kennedy; now,
31 therefore,
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2011, that this body hereby commends and congratulates the
36 PEACE CORPS on its 50th Anniversary and acknowledges in
37 particular the contributions made by those hard working
38 volunteers and staff involved in the Hilo training center and
39 Waipio Valley field station.

OFFERED BY:



