

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON AN APPROPRIATIONS BILL TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT FISCAL CRISIS AND MITIGATE ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE MILITARY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN HAWAII AND ACROSS THE NATION.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a historic relationship with United
2 States national security and strategy in the Asian Pacific
3 region that extends back to the days of the Hawaiian Kingdom;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, the United States' military and strategic role in
7 Hawaii developed when the United States needed a coaling station
8 to service its naval ships transiting the Pacific Ocean during
9 the Spanish-American War fought in the Philippines in 1898 and
10 the Philippine-American War that immediately followed; and

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12 WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, the United States began to
13 forward deploy its Navy, Marines, and Army to Hawaii; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Army Air Corps brought the first aviators to
16 Hawaii from the West Coast of the United States, which paved the
17 way for air mail delivery to the islands; and

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19 WHEREAS, following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941,
20 Hawaii became the transit station for hundreds of thousands of
21 United States service men and women during World War II until
22 1945, and then the Korean War during the early 1950s, and the
23 Vietnam War during the period from 1960 to 1972; and

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25 WHEREAS, the use of Hawaii as a primary forward-deployed
26 base for the United States in the Asian Pacific region has
27 continued during the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and



1 WHEREAS, in bolstering its military presence in Hawaii, the
2 United States has invested in an assortment of world-class
3 military infrastructure in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii serves as the headquarters for United
6 States military operations in the Pacific and is central to the
7 United States' security strategy in the Asian Pacific region;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, the United States Pacific Command, the nation's
11 largest combatant command, is located in Honolulu; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Pacific Command is joined in the State by the
14 headquarters for the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl
15 Harbor, where the Pacific Submarine Force and Pearl Harbor Naval
16 Shipyard are based; Pacific Air Forces at Hickam, where the
17 Hawaii Air National Guard's C-17, KC-135, and F-22 aviation
18 units are located; United States Army Pacific at Fort Shafter;
19 Marine Forces Pacific at Camp Smith; and the Coast Guard's
20 Pacific region operation at Sand Island; and
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22 WHEREAS, other important resources include the 25th Infantry
23 Division at Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Field; Third Marine
24 Regiment at Marine Corps Base Hawaii; High Speed Computing
25 Center on Maui; and Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Combat
26 Infantry Brigade and Combat Aviation unit at Kalaeloa and
27 Wheeler Field; and
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29 WHEREAS, currently, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter,
30 Hickam Field, Pearl Harbor, Camp Smith, Tripler Army Medical
31 Center, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii are in full operation; and
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33 WHEREAS, the varied and extensive United States military
34 presence in Hawaii remains critical as the United States and our
35 allies in the Pacific confront the security challenges posed by
36 instability in parts of Africa and the Middle East; unrest in
37 Pakistan and India; terrorist cells operating in Southeast Asia;
38 continued division of the Korean peninsula and North Korea's
39 proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles; and
40 China's surge in military capabilities, challenges along its
41 borders, and assertiveness in controlling the vital economic sea
42 lanes of the South China Sea; and



1 WHEREAS, these growing threats to the security of the
2 region have caused the United States to shift its focus and
3 reaffirm Hawaii's crucial role in the United States' security
4 strategy for the Pacific; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's forward-deployed units, coupled with
7 those based in Japan, South Korea, and Guam, serve as highly
8 visible deterrent forces to the nation's adversaries; and

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10 WHEREAS, this strategy of deterrence has contributed to the
11 relative peace and stability in the Asian Pacific region since
12 the end of the Vietnam War in 1975; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Hawaii's forward-deployed forces enable rapid
15 response and aid to nations affected by natural disasters and
16 are an essential element enabling commerce and trade to thrive;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, the military presence in Hawaii not only drives
20 our state economy but also provides safety, security, and peace
21 on a global level; and

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23 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, the military's presence is a critical
24 component of the State's economy, with the direct and indirect
25 impacts of defense spending estimated at more than \$14.7 billion
26 and accounting for more than 102,000 jobs that report aggregate
27 annual household incomes totaling \$8.7 billion; and

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29 WHEREAS, defense communities throughout the United States
30 are bracing for the severe reductions in military spending that
31 are likely to result from the terms of the Budget Control Act of
32 2011, also known as sequestration; and

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34 WHEREAS, sequestration has recently come into effect, and
35 the Pentagon and service branches will be detailing the specific
36 implications in the weeks to come; and

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38 WHEREAS, nationwide, Hawaii is expected to suffer from the
39 most severe cuts in defense spending on a per capita basis; and

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41 WHEREAS, the military's influence in Hawaii's economy is
42 profound, second only to tourism; and



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1 WHEREAS, the 19,728 Department of Defense personnel
2 anticipated to be furloughed represent 3.2 percent of Hawaii's
3 jobs, making it the most affected state in the nation, with
4 Virginia following as the second most affected; and
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6 WHEREAS, although Hawaii has a strong interest in
7 preventing this severe negative impact to its economy, the State
8 is in fierce competition with all other United States defense
9 communities, such as San Diego, in protecting against the loss
10 of military presence; and
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12 WHEREAS, over the years, Hawaii's strategic location in the
13 Pacific Ocean justified the higher costs of supplies, labor, and
14 other operating costs; however, the current fiscal realities,
15 coupled with the advanced capabilities of modern high-tech
16 weapon systems, may soon override the State's strategic location
17 in future basing decisions; and
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19 WHEREAS, federal spending on procurement, salaries, and
20 wages accounts for 15.8 percent of Hawaii's gross domestic
21 product; and
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23 WHEREAS, the United States Army has already announced that
24 it is mandated to cut spending by \$287 million in the Pacific by
25 September 30, 2013; the United States Navy has indicated that it
26 will likewise reduce its expenditures by \$110 million; and the
27 Pacific Air Forces has projected a \$103 million reduction in
28 operations and maintenance spending; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Pentagon has already announced that budget
31 cuts will largely focus on civilian pay, base operations and
32 training, and reductions in defense contracts; and
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34 WHEREAS, as a result, Department of Defense civilians may
35 be furloughed up to 22 days by September 30, 2013, amounting to
36 a 20 percent loss in pay; and
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38 WHEREAS, the Pentagon has included a base realignment and
39 closure commission in its budget, which increases the distinct
40 possibility of at least one Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
41 proceeding; and
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43 WHEREAS, at a hearing of the United States House Armed
44 Services Committee on March 5, 2013, the Appropriations



1 Committee indicated that a defense bill for Fiscal Year 2013 and
2 a MILCON/VA budget have been approved, which will likely be
3 helpful to provide some relief to the armed services as they
4 strive to complete the fiscal year with minimum damage to
5 operations; and

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7 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, defense contractors will be affected by
8 sequestration; while details are currently unavailable regarding
9 how severe the impact will be, some contractors have already
10 taken steps to reduce their workforce over the past few months,
11 and others are sure to follow in the weeks ahead; and

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13 WHEREAS, as defense contracts are cancelled or suspended,
14 the State should expect small businesses that provide supplies
15 and services to experience cuts, as well; and

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17 WHEREAS, there is much uncertainty surrounding the exact
18 implications that sequestration has had or will have on Hawaii's
19 economy; and

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21 WHEREAS, much more critical, but less discussed, is the
22 possible federal shutdown on March 27, 2013, when the current
23 continuing resolution expires; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser published an article
26 on March 7, 2013, entitled "Top Brass Unsettled by Slashes in
27 Funding," which characterized sequestration as a long, steady,
28 and painful decline in funding over the next ten years;
29 emphasized the severe deleterious effect these financial cuts
30 will have on Hawaii's economy; and suggested that there is
31 potential for some stability and predictability if Congress
32 crafts an appropriations bill; and

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34 WHEREAS, by passing an appropriations bill, Congress can
35 provide a framework for states and government agencies to better
36 manage these serious impacts of sequestration; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the President and
41 Congress are urged to reach an agreement for an appropriations
42 bill to address the current fiscal crisis and mitigate its
43 negative impact on the military and Department of Defense
44 civilian employees in Hawaii and across the nation; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
3 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
4 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
5 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

Will Lopez

