

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CONGRESS TO
DISCONTINUE FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE WAR IN IRAQ AND TO
IMMEDIATELY COMMENCE THE ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN
MILITARY FORCES FROM IRAQ.

1 WHEREAS, in March 2003, the United States (U.S.) initiated
2 a military incursion into Iraq; and

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4 WHEREAS, in March 2003, the American public was told that
5 the primary reason for the incursion was to eliminate weapons of
6 mass destruction, and it has since been documented that none
7 were stockpiled in Iraq at the time U.S. military forces entered
8 the country; and

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10 WHEREAS, it is now apparent that the U.S. Department of
11 Defense did not develop an exit strategy prior to the invasion,
12 incorrectly assuming that the Iraqi people would welcome U.S.
13 forces with open arms and that withdrawal would occur without
14 difficulty; and

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16 WHEREAS, the continuing onslaught of sectarian violence and
17 indications of ethnic cleansing in some areas of Iraq have
18 proven disruptive to all aspects of Iraqi society; and

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20 WHEREAS, more than 3,000 American military personnel and
21 tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians and military personnel have
22 died since March 2003; and

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24 WHEREAS, thousands of Hawaii National Guard troops have
25 served in Iraq since March 2003, with more slated for deployment
26 in the coming months if the policies of the Bush Administration
27 continue on their current course; and

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29 WHEREAS, the cost of this war to date, according to the
30 Congressional Research Service, is at least \$379,000,000,000,
31 with even higher military expenditures, promising severe



1 economic impacts on households and institutions throughout the
2 State and nation; and
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4 WHEREAS, on January 10, 2007, President Bush announced his
5 intention to escalate the war by sending an additional 21,500
6 troops in an effort to salvage the failed occupation and has
7 already begun to implement this escalation; and
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9 WHEREAS, a national poll conducted on the day following the
10 President's announcement indicated that seventy per cent of the
11 American people are opposed to further escalation of the
12 situation in Iraq; and
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14 WHEREAS, all indications point to rapidly declining support
15 for the war in Iraq among the people of Hawaii; and
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17 WHEREAS, the members of the Hawaii State Legislature have
18 the greatest respect for troops deployed to Iraq and elsewhere,
19 and criticisms of the nation's policies are not intended to be
20 construed as a lack of support for the men and women in the
21 armed forces who risk their lives each day; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature wishes to join more
24 than twenty state legislatures in the U.S. that have already
25 passed resolutions expressing opposition to the continuation of
26 the war in Iraq; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the
31 United States and Congress are urged to discontinue further
32 escalation of the war in Iraq and to immediately commence the
33 orderly withdrawal of American military forces from Iraq; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bush Administration and
36 Congress are strongly urged to fully fund all veterans' benefits
37 to appropriately care for the men and women of the armed
38 services as they return from the war; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the



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1 United States, Secretary of Defense, and each member of Hawaii's
2 Congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

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