

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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
32 economic impacts on households and institutions throughout the
33 state and nation; and

SR HMS 2007-3118



1 WHEREAS, on January 10, 2007, President Bush announced his
2 intention to escalate the war by sending an additional 21,500
3 troops in an effort to salvage the failed occupation and has
4 already begun to implement this escalation; and
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6 WHEREAS, a national poll conducted on the day following the
7 President's announcement indicated that 70 percent of the
8 American people are opposed to further escalation of the
9 situation in Iraq; and
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11 WHEREAS, all indications point to rapidly declining support
12 for the war in Iraq among the people of Hawaii; and
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14 WHEREAS, the members of the Hawaii State Legislature have
15 the greatest respect for troops deployed to Iraq and elsewhere,
16 and criticisms of the nation's policies are not intended to be
17 construed as a lack of support for the men and women in the
18 armed forces who risk their lives each day; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature wishes to join more
21 than 20 state legislatures in the United States that have
22 already passed resolutions expressing opposition to the
23 continuation of the war in Iraq; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
27 that the President of the United States and Congress are urged
28 to discontinue further escalation of the war in Iraq and to
29 immediately commence the orderly withdrawal of American military
30 forces from Iraq; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bush Administration and
33 Congress are strongly urged to fully fund all veterans' benefits
34 to appropriately care for the men and women of the armed
35 services as they return from the war; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
39 Secretary of Defense, and each member of Hawaii's Congressional
40 delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

SR HMS 2007-3118



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