

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 7

Honolulu, Hawaii

July 30, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 34

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor & Public Employment, to which was referred H.B. No. 34 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to voice Hawaii's opposition to the humanitarian crisis presently occurring in the Darfur Region of Sudan by prohibiting the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) from investing in securities of companies that have active business operations with Sudan.

The Sudan Divestment Task Force, Hawaii Coalition for Darfur, Roman Catholic Church, Hawaii Family Forum, Hawaii Committee for Africa, American Friends Service Committee, Americans for Democratic Action, and numerous individuals testified in support of this bill. The ERS took no position on the measure.

Your Committee finds that a tragedy is currently occurring in the Darfur Region of Sudan. The United States, along with the international community and hundreds of humanitarian and faith based organizations, have all agreed that genocide is occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan. At present, over 400,000 people have been killed in the region, with another 2.5 million people being displaced from their homes despite calls from the international community that the Sudanese Government put an end to these atrocities. Your Committee believes that placing economic

HB34 HSCR LAB HMS 2007-1608

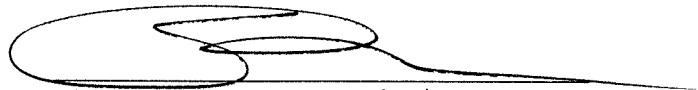


pressure on the Sudanese Government by prohibiting the ERS to invest in companies that do business with Sudan is but one step that can be taken to remedy this tragic situation. This similar action was taken against the country of South Africa during the 1980s as a means of ending the policy of apartheid.

ERS did not take a position on this measure, explaining that the ERS Board of Trustees has not yet met to discuss whether the ERS currently invests in companies that conduct business with Sudan and what effects this legislation may have on the ERS.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor & Public Employment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 34 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on International Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor & Public
Employment,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ALEX M. SONSON', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ALEX M. SONSON, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSR 7

Record of Votes of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 34		Date: 1-26-07		
Committee Referral: LAB, INT, FIN		<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.		
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments, for recommittal for further consideration				
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SONSON, Alex M. (C)	✓			
2. NAKASONE, Bob (VC)	✓			
3. EVANS, Cindy				✓
4. HAR, Sharon E.				✓
5. LEE, Marilyn B.	✓			
6. LUKE, Sylvia	✓			
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
8. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	✓			
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.				✓
10. TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.	✓			
11. TAKUMI, Roy M.	✓			
12. MEYER, Colleen Rose	✓			
13. PINE, Kymberly Marcos	✓			
TOTAL	9			4
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s) <i>St Nakamura</i>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Clerk's Office				