

MAR 03 2016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, THE JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY, AND THE NATIONAL DIET OF JAPAN TO TAKE ACTION TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED MILITARY FACILITIES EXPANSION IN HENOKO, OKINAWA AND WORK TO REDUCE THE DISPROPORTIONATE CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY IN OKINAWA.

1 WHEREAS, this body understands the need for a strong United
2 States military presence in the Asia-Pacific region due to the
3 uncertainty of the North Korean regime and the interests and
4 influence of China; and

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6 WHEREAS, this body has been supportive of the Okinawan
7 community, both locally and abroad; and

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9 WHEREAS, Okinawans began immigrating to Hawaii as
10 industrial agricultural labor in 1900, resulting in one of the
11 largest communities of Okinawans outside of Okinawa, and forming
12 a community that has become an integral part of the social
13 fabric of Hawaii, with many contributions to the larger
14 community of the State of Hawaii; and

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16 WHEREAS, war between Japan and the United States resulted
17 in the Battle of Okinawa in which almost one-third of the
18 Okinawan people were killed, as well as a multitude of Japanese
19 and American soldiers; and

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21 WHEREAS, Okinawans in Hawaii assisted Okinawans in United
22 States military intelligence units and rallied to send aid such
23 as livestock and clothing to war-torn Okinawa, in a spirit of
24 international support which Okinawa seeks again today; and
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1 WHEREAS, seventy-four percent of United States military
2 forces in Japan continues to be concentrated in Okinawa, which
3 is only 0.6 percent of Japan's landmass; and
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5 WHEREAS, Okinawa Island, the largest island of the Ryukyu
6 archipelago, is smaller than Kauai at only four hundred sixty
7 square miles, yet has nearly double the population density of
8 the island of Oahu; and
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10 WHEREAS, the people and the government of Okinawa have
11 consistently repeated appeals for land, air, and sea space to
12 improve Okinawa's struggling economy and the well-being and
13 safety of its people; and
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15 WHEREAS, military lands returned for civilian development
16 have shown significant economic improvement up to ten to two
17 hundred times, such as the Naha Shintoshin and Chatan Hamby
18 areas; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United States Congress is implementing a
21 policy of sequestration that has resulted in the necessity for
22 the Pentagon to make difficult cuts; and
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24 WHEREAS, communities across the United States with
25 stateside military facilities have rallied to maintain troop
26 strength domestically where painful cuts have been proposed; and
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28 WHEREAS, the United States military has over eight hundred
29 overseas bases; and
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31 WHEREAS, the United States military is already in a process
32 of realignment in the Asia-Pacific region to meet the
33 sophistication of security in the twenty-first century, which
34 requires more mobility, and with the United States Marine Corps
35 already evolving from its previous garrison-type presence in
36 Okinawa to a more expeditionary orientation, with the deploying
37 of units on rotations, such as to Darwin, Australia; and
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39 WHEREAS, recent revision of the United States-Japan defense
40 cooperation guidelines will increase collaboration by Japanese
41 forces operations rendering large concentrations of United
42 States Marines as less essential; and



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2 WHEREAS, polls consistently show the majority of Okinawans
3 favor some degree of demilitarization, such as polls conducted
4 by the Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper and Okinawa Television
5 Broadcasting showing that 80.2 percent of Okinawans disapprove
6 of any expansion in Henoko and support the unconditional closure
7 and removal of Futenma Marine Corps Air Station; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the
12 United States, the United States Department of Defense, and the
13 United States Congress, in concert with the Prime Minister of
14 Japan, the Japan Defense Agency, and the National Diet of Japan,
15 are requested to recommit their efforts to negotiate and
16 expedite an agreeable solution in lieu of relocation of military
17 facilities within Okinawa prefecture and adjustment,
18 realignment, and overall reduction of the current presence of
19 the United States military forces in Okinawa and other Japanese
20 land areas, with the intent to return land and facilities
21 cleared of any toxic contaminations and other public health and
22 safety hazards, not requisite for direct military purposes back
23 to Okinawa Prefecture, as recommended by the final report of the
24 Special Action Committee on Okinawa and the Treaty of
25 Obligations; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States, Japan, and
28 all of its allies are requested to work in unison and cooperate
29 to promote the overall safety and security of the Asia-Pacific
30 region to maintain peace and economic prosperity; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
34 United States, the Prime Minister of Japan, the United States
35 Secretary of Defense, the Minister of State for Defense of
36 Japan, the Commander of the United States Pacific Command, the
37 chairpersons and ranking members of the United States Senate and
38 United States House of Representatives Committees on
39 Appropriations Sub-committee on Defense, the chairpersons and
40 ranking members of the congressional delegation from Hawaii, the
41 President of the House of Councillors of the National Diet of
42 Japan, the Consul-General of Japan in Honolulu, the Governor of



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1 the State of Hawaii, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, the
 2 Chairperson of the All-Okinawa Council, the Chairperson of the
 3 Save Life Society organization in Henoko, the Chairperson of the
 4 Veterans for Peace-Ryukyu Working Group, and the Hawaii United
 5 Okinawa Association, who in turn, is requested to transmit it to
 6 its member organizations.

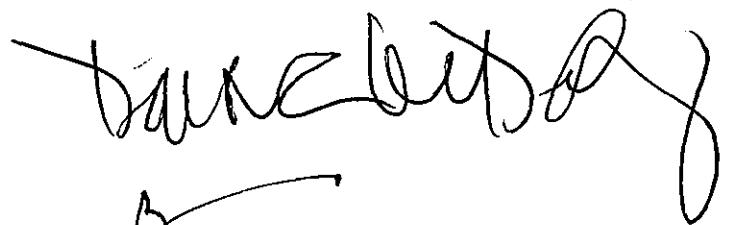
OFFERED BY:



Clarence K. Mishioka

Will Eyo

Shannon Ann Oakeley



Terrence R. Honye

