
HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING OVERMILITARIZATION TO BE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF
HAWAII AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND URGING
PRIORITIZATION OF HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE UNITED STATES'
RESPONSE TO THE UKRAINIAN CONFLICT AND INCREASED EFFORTS TO
STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION.

1 WHEREAS, in February of 2022, Russia invaded the nation of
2 Ukraine, producing the greatest humanitarian crisis in Europe
3 since World War II; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to Filippo Grandi, the United Nations
6 high commissioner for refugees, the conflict between Russia and
7 Ukraine has displaced 1,500,000 Ukrainians as of March 6, 2022;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, human rights experts have estimated that the
11 Ukrainian exodus from Russia's invasion could result in up to
12 ten million refugees fleeing the conflict; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Russian attack on Ukraine is a clear violation
15 of international law that has been strongly and rightfully
16 condemned by the international community, including the United
17 Nations General Assembly; and
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19 WHEREAS, to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, the United
20 States must couple its condemnation of Russian imperialism with
21 a reconsideration of the United States' militaristic foreign
22 policy; and
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24 WHEREAS, following the end of the Cold War, the United
25 States gradually expanded its military footprint in Europe,
26 including through the acceptance of Poland, the Czech Republic,
27 and Hungary into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
28 in 1998, and later including in NATO additional Baltic nations
29 that are perched on the border of the Russian Federation; and
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1 WHEREAS, numerous foreign policy experts warned that these
2 actions would lead to future Russian aggression, including
3 former United States ambassador to the Soviet Union George
4 Kennan, who said, "I think it is the beginning of a new cold
5 war"; and

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7 WHEREAS, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates stated in
8 his memoir that "US agreements with the Romanian and Bulgarian
9 governments to rotate troops through bases in those countries
10 was a needless provocation" and that "trying to bring Georgia
11 and Ukraine into NATO was truly overreaching" and a case of
12 "recklessly ignoring what the Russians considered their own
13 vital national interests"; and

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15 WHEREAS, in December of 2021, the United States Congress
16 authorized \$768 billion in defense spending, including
17 authorization for nuclear weapons programs, which was by some
18 measures the biggest defense spending authorization bill in
19 history; and

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21 WHEREAS, a primary international security concern of the
22 Russian assault is a potential attack on a NATO member, which
23 could draw the United States into a military conflict involving
24 countries that possess nuclear weapons; and

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26 WHEREAS, this concern was magnified on February 27, 2022,
27 when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his nation's
28 nuclear forces into special combat readiness; and

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30 WHEREAS, a commitment to nuclear nonproliferation is
31 essential to maintaining peace and security for the community of
32 nations and all mankind; and

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34 WHEREAS, defense industry contractors often use
35 international conflicts as opportunities to lobby for
36 appropriations that generate profits for the United States'
37 military-industrial complex; and

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39 WHEREAS, former United States President Dwight D.
40 Eisenhower warned about the expansion of the military-industrial
41 complex in a 1961 speech given at the height of the Cold War,
42 saying, "In the councils of government, we must guard against



1 the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or
2 unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for
3 the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will
4 persist."; and

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6 WHEREAS, overmilitarization also poses grave domestic
7 consequences, including for the people of Hawaii; and

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9 WHEREAS, in November of 2021, the Department of Health,
10 Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and United States Navy found
11 that the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility was leaking
12 petroleum into Honolulu's water supply; and

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14 WHEREAS, according to water sampling results released by
15 the Department of Health on December 10, 2021, state testing of
16 the Navy's Red Hill shaft found levels of gasoline and diesel-
17 range hydrocarbons that were as much as three hundred fifty
18 times higher than state approved levels for drinking water; and

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20 WHEREAS, mitigating the impact of the leak required the
21 temporary closure of Honolulu's largest water source, the Halawa
22 shaft, which provides approximately twenty percent of Oahu's
23 daily water supply and serves roughly four hundred thousand
24 residents; and

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26 WHEREAS, the military has also been responsible for the
27 desecration of Hawaii's natural resources and ceded lands; and

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29 WHEREAS, in a unanimous decision in August of 2019, the
30 Hawaii Supreme Court concluded that the State has a duty to
31 protect ceded land, even when such land is leased to the
32 military; and

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34 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Supreme Court further found that the
35 State had failed in its constitutional duty to inspect and
36 monitor lands at the Pōhakuloa Training Area on Hawaii Island;
37 and

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39 WHEREAS, in response to the ruling, the Native Hawaiian
40 Legal Corporation stated, "As a result of today's decision, the
41 State is required to 'develop and execute a plan to conduct
42 regular, periodic monitoring and inspection' for the lands at



1 Pōhakuloa and to 'take an active role in preserving trust
2 property and may not passively allow [trust lands] to fall into
3 ruin'; and

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5 WHEREAS, preserving Hawaii's natural resources is critical
6 to safeguarding the public trust, protecting Native Hawaiian
7 rights and culture, and advancing the State's goal of creating a
8 sustainable economy; and

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10 WHEREAS, reconsidering the social, economic, and foreign
11 policy impacts of unchecked militarization does not in any way
12 undermine the force of the United States' denunciation of
13 Russia's unjustified violation of Ukrainian sovereignty or the
14 atrocities that Russia has committed against the Ukrainian
15 people; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2022, that this body declares overmilitarization to be a
20 threat to Hawaii and the international community; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Joseph Biden and the
23 United States Congress are urged to commit to prioritizing
24 humanitarian aid in the United States' response to the Ukrainian
25 conflict; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Joseph Biden and the
28 United States Congress are urged to increase efforts to
29 strengthen the international nuclear nonproliferation regime and
30 reinforce its foundational bilateral and international
31 agreements; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the United Nations Secretary-
35 General, President of the United States, Vice President of the
36 United States, United States Secretary of Defense, United States
37 Secretary of the Navy, United States Secretary of the Army,
38 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of
39 the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's
40 congressional delegation, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of
41 Land and Natural Resources, and Chairperson of the Board of
42 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



H.R. NO. 85

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer", written over a horizontal line.

MAR 11 2022

