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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT AND UNITED STATES CONGRESS ADOPT  
THE MILITARY READINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT WHICH INSTITUTES A  
POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION BASED UPON SEXUAL ORIENTATION,  
AND REPEAL THE "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY.

1           WHEREAS, the codification into law by the National Defense  
2 Authorization Act of 1994 of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't  
3 Pursue, Don't Harass" policy has led to the discharge of a great  
4 number of lesbian and gay service members, thereby ending their  
5 military careers and burdening them with a lifelong stigma; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces' capacity to carry  
8 out its missions, including those of the Global War on  
9 Terrorism, is hindered when competent and qualified individuals  
10 are involuntarily discharged; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the Armed Forces have been forced to retain  
13 Reserve and National Guard service members on active duty beyond  
14 standard deployment lengths to carry out their missions during  
15 the Global War on Terrorism; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the Armed Forces' ability to recruit and retain  
18 the best and brightest of Americans is reduced by a policy of  
19 exclusion based solely on sexual orientation; and  
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21           WHEREAS, lesbian and gay service members have served with  
22 honor throughout United States history, and continue to serve  
23 with distinction in the Global War on Terrorism, including  
24 engagement in the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and  
25 Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq; and  
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27           WHEREAS, these men and women have received military honors,  
28 decorations, and promotions to the highest ranks of their  
29 respective services for valor and service to the people of the  
30 United States; and  
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1           WHEREAS, United States allies in the War on Terrorism,  
2 including the United Kingdom, Australia, and Israel, all allow  
3 lesbian and gay service members to serve openly; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal  
6 Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the  
7 National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and  
8 other federal departments handling national security allow their  
9 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender personnel to serve  
10 openly; and  
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12           WHEREAS, a February 2005 Government Accountability Office  
13 report states that more than 9,488 service members have been  
14 discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, including  
15 at least 757 service members in "critical occupations" such as  
16 counterintelligence experts, at a cost to taxpayers of nearly  
17 \$200,000,000; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the Department of Defense reported that 209  
20 language specialists have been discharged from the military  
21 under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, including fifty-four  
22 Arabic and nine Farsi translators, which are of vital importance  
23 to intelligence gathering and have been in critical shortage;  
24 and  
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26           WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Center for the Study Of  
27 Sexual Minorities in the Military suggests that the "Don't Ask,  
28 Don't Tell" policy increases gay troops' stress levels; lowers  
29 morale; reduces access to medical care, psychological services  
30 and religious consultations; and limits their ability to form  
31 trusting bonds with peers, advance professionally, and join and  
32 remain in the services; and  
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34           WHEREAS, every Department of Defense authorized study has  
35 shown that there is no correlation between sexual orientation  
36 and unit cohesion in the Armed Forces; and  
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38           WHEREAS, the majority of American citizens support keeping  
39 trained and skilled openly gay and lesbian service members in  
40 the military; and  
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42           WHEREAS, the United States military's readiness to protect  
43 and defend our nation is severely compromised by the  
44 discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, particularly when



1 enforced by commanders whose personal beliefs may influence  
2 their disciplinary action; and  
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4 WHEREAS, discharges under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are  
5 historically fewer when troop strength is low, as in times of  
6 war, which illustrates both a tacit military recognition that  
7 lesbian and gay service members are fit and capable of service,  
8 and the capricious nature of the policy; and  
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10 WHEREAS, according to a 2005 local news estimate, Hawaii  
11 had 83 of the country's 425 major military installations which  
12 are home to thousands of military personnel and their families;  
13 and  
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15 WHEREAS, according to a 2004 Urban Institute study, an  
16 estimated 6,300 lesbian and gay veterans live in Hawaii; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the Legislature and courts of the State of Hawaii  
19 have extended protections based on sexual orientation to prevent  
20 invidious discrimination which affirm lesbian and gay citizens  
21 are entitled to equality under the law; and  
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23 WHEREAS, House Resolution 1059 of 2005, known as the  
24 Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which would repeal the  
25 standing discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that has  
26 lead to the discharge of lesbian and gay service members on the  
27 basis of sexual orientation, has been introduced in the United  
28 States Congress; and  
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30 WHEREAS, military readiness is enhanced when every  
31 qualified, capable American, regardless of sexual orientation,  
32 is welcomed into our Armed Forces and has their talents utilized  
33 to the advantage of American national security; now, therefore  
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature of the  
38 state of Hawaii requests that the Hawaii Congressional  
39 delegation support House Resolution 1059 of 2005, the Military  
40 Readiness Enhancement Act, which would institute a military  
41 policy of nondiscrimination based upon sexual orientation; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's  
3 Congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

