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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE SPARK M. MATSUNAGA INSTITUTE FOR PEACE, LOCATED WITHIN THE CENTER FOR POLICY STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF DESIGNATING HAWAII AS THE "GENEVA OF THE PACIFIC".

1 WHEREAS, Geneva is internationally recognized as a center  
2 for conflict resolution, a site for international peace efforts,  
3 a convenient location for conferences and conventions, and the  
4 headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross;  
5 and

6  
7 WHEREAS, Geneva shares many connections with Hawaii,  
8 including the fact that the missionaries who settled in Hawaii  
9 were the descendents of the original Calvinist pilgrims who  
10 arrived in the New World on the Mayflower, espousing the 16<sup>th</sup>  
11 century creed of Jean Calvin of Switzerland; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, Geneva, like Hawaii, is a forward-looking,  
14 generous, international city with a global persona and multi-  
15 national perspectives in which numerous countries have a  
16 Consulate General; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, there are presently six career Consulates General  
19 and 34 Consulates in Honolulu, representing 40 nations; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, Hawaii has maintained a diplomatic and consular  
22 network of 93 diplomatic posts around the world and legations  
23 from France, Great Britain, Japan, Portugal, and the United  
24 States, as well as 20 Consulates, that existed in Honolulu in  
25 1892; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, Hawaii was the first non-  
28 Western nation to be accepted into the Family of Nations, a  
29 consortium of 45 fully independent nations; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii was the leader of the Pacific in the 19<sup>th</sup>  
2 century and had diplomatic representation in the series of  
3 British colonies that now comprise Australia; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawaii has always been internationally oriented,  
6 with King Kalakaua, the first head of State, to go around the  
7 world while in office in 1881 to establish diplomatic relations;  
8 and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the first delegation from Japan to Washington,  
11 D.C. stopped en route to Hawaii and was received by Kamehameha  
12 IV in 1864 before meeting the President of the United States;  
13 and  
14

15 WHEREAS, Geneva was an independent country, a city-state,  
16 for many centuries, and on November 28, 1843, Great Britain and  
17 France, in a joint declaration, recognized the independence of  
18 the Kingdom of Hawaii; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, like Geneva, Hawaii attracts visitors from around  
21 the world and many different languages can be heard on the  
22 streets, in stores, in hotels and businesses, in institutions of  
23 higher learning, and on school campuses in Hawaii; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, Hawaii is centrally located in the middle of the  
26 Pacific Ocean and is accessible to people from the Americas,  
27 Oceania, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Russian  
28 Federation, the European nation that borders the Pacific; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, the United States is currently in a war, and it  
31 becomes increasingly evident that war is not the answer to the  
32 world's problems; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, Hawaii is the perfect location for exploring  
35 peacekeeping options because Hawaiian values are values of peace  
36 - acceptance, unconditional personal regard, harmony, balance,  
37 patience, respect, pleasantness, and humility - expressed  
38 through the Hawaiian concepts of *mahalo*, *aloha*, *lokahi*, *pono*,  
39 *ahonui*, *akahai*, *`olu`olu*, *`ihi*, and *ha`aha`a*; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, Hawaii received a national award in 2005 for the  
42 Hawaii State government's emphasis on promoting diversity and  
43 advancing minorities and women in the workplace; and



1 WHEREAS, in 1918, President Woodrow Wilson's speech,  
2 "Fourteen Points," depicted his vision for lasting peace,  
3 leading to the development of the League of Nations; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Geneva became the headquarters of the League of  
6 Nations in 1920 and served as the forerunner to the United  
7 Nations and is presently the European Headquarters of the United  
8 Nations; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute  
11 for Peace at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH), founded on  
12 the late United States Senator Spark Matsunaga's encouragement  
13 for Hawaii, "to create . . . a sanctuary for seekers of peaceful  
14 ways and traditions"; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, Senator Spark Matsunaga, like President Woodrow  
17 Wilson, believed that the world would be better if more of us  
18 learned how to peacefully resolve disputes of all kinds from  
19 interpersonal to global; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace is a  
22 multi-disciplinary academic community of scholars, students,  
23 practitioners, and visitors who, through teaching, research,  
24 service, and application, seeks to use Hawaii's "strategic  
25 Pacific location to bring people together and renew the  
26 University's responsibility to provide a safe sanctuary for a  
27 civil and respectful exchange of perspectives and ideas", and  
28 regularly convenes forums, workshops, classes, and public  
29 meetings; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the mission of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute  
32 for Peace is dedicated to building on Hawaii's cultural heritage  
33 and island values, including aloha, mutual aid and respect,  
34 sense of community, caring for the land, and reliance on each  
35 other, to promote cross-cultural communication and peacemaking  
36 leadership; now, therefore,  
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
40 Session of 2007, that the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for  
41 Peace, located within the Center for Policy Studies at the  
42 University of Hawaii at Manoa, is requested to convene a working  
43 group to explore the possibility of designating Hawaii as the  
44 "Geneva of the Pacific"; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written summary of the working group's findings be submitted to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace.

OFFERED BY:

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