
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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 16th
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
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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 19th 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 19th
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, on May 16, 1854, King Kamehameha III proclaimed
21 Hawaii's neutrality that was to be respected by all
22 Belligerents; and
23

24 WHEREAS, like Geneva, Hawaii attracts visitors from around
25 the world and many different languages can be heard on the
26 streets, in stores, in hotels and businesses, in institutions of
27 higher learning, and on school campuses in Hawaii; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Hawaii is centrally located in the middle of the
30 Pacific Ocean and is accessible to people from the Americas,
31 Oceania, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Russian
32 Federation, the European nation that borders the Pacific; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the United States is currently in a war, and it
35 becomes increasingly evident that war is not the answer to the
36 world's problems; and
37

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

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii received a national award in 2005 for the
2 Hawaii State government's emphasis on promoting diversity and
3 advancing minorities and women in the workplace; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in 1918, President Woodrow Wilson's speech, "Fourteen
6 Points," depicted his vision for lasting peace, leading to the
7 development of the League of Nations; and
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9 WHEREAS, Geneva became the headquarters of the League of
10 Nations in 1920 and served as the forerunner to the United
11 Nations and is presently the European Headquarters of the United
12 Nations; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute
15 for Peace at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH), founded on
16 the late United States Senator Spark Matsunaga's encouragement
17 for Hawaii, "to create . . . a sanctuary for seekers of peaceful
18 ways and traditions"; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Senator Spark Matsunaga, like President Woodrow
21 Wilson, believed that the world would be better if more of us
22 learned how to peacefully resolve disputes of all kinds from
23 interpersonal to global; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace is a
26 multi-disciplinary academic community of scholars, students,
27 practitioners, and visitors who, through teaching, research,
28 service, and application, seeks to use Hawaii's "strategic
29 Pacific location to bring people together and renew the
30 University's responsibility to provide a safe sanctuary for a
31 civil and respectful exchange of perspectives and ideas", and
32 regularly convenes forums, workshops, classes, and public
33 meetings; and
34

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

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2007, that the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for
4 Peace, located within the Center for Policy Studies at the
5 University of Hawaii at Manoa, is requested to convene a working
6 group to explore the possibility of designating Hawaii as the
7 "Geneva of the Pacific"; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written summary of the
10 working group's findings be submitted to the Legislature no
11 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
12 of 2008; and
13

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