HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2007.

WHEREAS, there is a long-standing history of National Guard leaders not being consulted beforehand concerning strategic force structure and budgetary policies; and

WHEREAS, there is clear agreement that a strong National Guard to address crises and emergencies, both foreign and domestic, is vital to the interests of the United States; and

WHEREAS, S.430, the National Guard Empowerment Act of 2007, was introduced in the United States Senate and is designed to make the National Guard a stronger and more responsible defense agency that will improve the nation's defense and improve the military's ability to support civilian authorities during domestic emergencies; and

WHEREAS, an identical bill, H.R. 718, was introduced in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the bills call for elevating the Chief of the National Guard to the rank of full general and making that officer a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

WHEREAS, the bills will require the National Guard to work with the states to identify gaps between federal and state capabilities in responding to emergencies and further grants the National Guard the authority to set equipment requirements and procure equipment for this domestically oriented mission; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives are urged to pass S.430 and H.R. 718, respectively, for the adoption of the National Guard Empowerment Act of 2007; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of the Hawaii delegation to the United States Congress.

OFFERED BY:

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