
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE TO WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH UNITED SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS HAWAII AND ALL INVOLVED MILITARY SERVICES TO
REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF UNITED SERVICES ORGANIZATION'S
FACILITIES LOCATED AT HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

1 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States
2 military are part of a long and proud tradition of excellence
3 that exemplifies honor, courage, and self-sacrifice; they defend
4 our nation's borders and protect the citizens of the United
5 States from the atrocities of war, and these men and women truly
6 are heroes; and

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8 WHEREAS, the United Service Organizations (USO) is a
9 nonprofit organization that is operated by volunteers who
10 believe that the United States owes a great debt to the
11 courageous members of our armed forces, and it strives to
12 provide a "special brand of comfort, morale and recreational
13 services to the military" and believes that they should always
14 be treated and held in the highest regards; and

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16 WHEREAS, the USO lounge located in Honolulu International
17 Airport, between baggage claim areas E and F, was created as an
18 expression of the country and the State's appreciation and
19 gratitude to the United States military members; and

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21 WHEREAS, USO's volunteers, knowing that the military men
22 and women who pass through the gates of Honolulu International
23 Airport might be seeing their family for the last time, have
24 allowed the families of departing military members to accompany
25 them to airport departure gates, a benefit not provided to the
26 general public; and

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1 WHEREAS, the two thousand-square-foot USO lounge is barely
2 adequate to host the twenty thousand military members that pass
3 through the lounge, and its infrastructure shows the wear and
4 tear of high usage; and lounge visitors are allowed only twenty
5 minutes on the lounge's three computers, hardly enough time to
6 write letters to loved ones; and

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8 WHEREAS, the dedicated efforts on the part of the
9 volunteers cannot make up for the fact that the United Service
10 Organizations facility needs extensive upgrades; and although
11 the volunteers may assist in the process of upgrading the
12 lounge, for them to accept the entire burden of upgrading the
13 lounge would be overwhelming; and

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15 WHEREAS, improvements to the USO lounge should be provided
16 the State, in the spirit of the Hawaii State Medal of Honor, to
17 recognize and thank our military men and women for their
18 countless sacrifices; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
23 Transportation and the Department of Defense are requested to
24 work in collaboration with the United Service Organizations and
25 all involved military branches to review and report on the
26 current USO facilities at the Honolulu International Airport and
27 to prioritize for improvements; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments are requested
30 to meet no later than September, 2008 to determine what course
31 of action is needed to make necessary upgrades to the facility;
32 and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
35 Transportation and the Department of Defense are requested to
36 submit a report of findings and recommendations to the
37 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
38 the Regular Session of 2009; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant



H.C.R. NO. 210

1 General, Director of Transportation, Director of the Office of
2 Veterans Services, and the Directors of the national office and
3 Hawaii office of the United Service Organizations, respectively.

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OFFERED BY:

Cindy Brown

MAR 1 1 2008

