

MAR 13 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO CONFER PRIORITY STATUS TO CHILDREN BORN TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL AND FOREIGN WOMEN DURING AND UP TO NINE MONTHS AFTER DEPLOYMENT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AND EXPEDITE THE IMMIGRATION OF THESE CHILDREN AND WOMEN TO THE UNITED STATES.

1 WHEREAS, children born to military or civilian United
2 States Department of Defense personnel, during or up to nine
3 months after deployment in a foreign country are not
4 automatically conferred status as United States citizens or
5 nationals; and

6
7 WHEREAS, on the other hand, children born within the United
8 States are automatically accorded citizenship or national
9 status, depending on the mother's status; and

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11 WHEREAS, Department of Defense personnel are frequently
12 deployed to areas where public health facilities are unable to
13 assist the mothers of these children and the fathers are
14 frequently rotated out; and

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16 WHEREAS, children up to age five are most vulnerable to
17 adverse health outcomes and this is exacerbated in many areas
18 where Department of Defense personnel are deployed; and

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20 WHEREAS, conferring status as a citizen or national to
21 children born to Department of Defense personnel during or up to
22 nine months after deployment in a foreign country would:

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24 (1) Facilitate the father's expression of responsibility
25 to the child by shortening the process by which both
26 the child and the mother may immigrate to the United
27 States; and

28
29 (2) Help restore the ethical standing of the United States
30 by enabling its overseas military representatives to



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1 assume proper responsibility for their actions by not
 2 abandoning an army of children behind when they leave;
 3 and
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5 WHEREAS, legislation to enable this to occur can be
 6 fashioned to protect the privacy of medical records of
 7 Department of Defense personnel involved; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
 11 that the President of the United States and members of the
 12 United States Congress are strongly urged to enact legislation
 13 to confer priority status to children born to Department of
 14 Defense personnel and foreign women during and up to nine months
 15 after deployment in order to facilitate and expedite the
 16 immigration of these children and women to the United States;
 17 and
 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 21 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
 22 the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of
 23 Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Chair of the
 24 Joint Chiefs of Staff, and members of Hawaii's congressional
 25 delegation.
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