
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON TO REOPEN PEACE CORPS EAST
TIMOR.

1 WHEREAS, Peace Corps was created in 1961 by Senator John F.
2 Kennedy and has since trained and arranged for nearly 200,000
3 volunteers to serve in 139 host countries; and
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5 WHEREAS, Peace Corps East Timor was the first new Peace
6 Corps program of the 21st century, and the diplomatic note of
7 2002 formally establishing the program was signed by Nobel Peace
8 Laureate and East Timor Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Ramos-
9 Horta; and
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11 WHEREAS, Peace Corps volunteers worked to meet crucial
12 community development needs in East Timor, such as
13 organizational development, health promotion, small-scale
14 agriculture, water and sanitation, nutrition, environment,
15 HIV/AIDS, and women's and youth development; and
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17 WHEREAS, Peace Corps volunteers were the first
18 international group to be trained in Tetum, the local language
19 of East Timor; and
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21 WHEREAS, since Peace Corps East Timor volunteers were
22 evacuated in 2006 due to civil unrest and government
23 instability, the country has stabilized and is safer now than it
24 was when the Peace Corps East Timor program was first
25 established in 2002; and
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27 WHEREAS, the need for Peace Corps volunteers in East Timor
28 is greater now than ever, as the country remains one of the
29 poorest in Asia and throughout the world, and 40% of its
30 population survives on less than \$1 per day; and
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1 WHEREAS, nearly half of the country's population is
2 children under the age of fifteen, many of whose parents are
3 struggling to support them; and
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5 WHEREAS, Peace Corps Washington is sending an assessment
6 mission to East Timor in April, 2010 to determine whether or not
7 to reopen the country's Peace Corps program, just as it will
8 reopen Peace Corps Indonesia in the summer of 2010 after 45
9 years of absence from the country; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2010, that this body urges Peace Corps Washington to reopen
14 Peace Corps East Timor as soon as practicable for the mutual
15 benefit of Peace Corps Volunteers and the people of East Timor;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to Peace Corps Washington, the offices
20 of the President and Prime Minister of East Timor, the Embassy
21 of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Washington DC, the
22 United States Embassy in Timor-Leste and USAID in Washington, DC
23 and Timor-Leste.
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