

MAR 09 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO EXEMPT HAWAII, ALASKA, GUAM, AND PUERTO RICO FROM THE JONES ACT FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF THEIR RESIDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, historically the United States has sought to
2 protect its shipping industry through carbotage laws, such as
3 the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, commonly known as the Jones
4 Act; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the Jones Act strictly limits the shipping of
7 merchandise between the United States and its territories to
8 American-built and registered ships crewed by United States
9 citizens; and

10
11 WHEREAS, eighty per cent of the goods consumed in Hawaii
12 are imported from the mainland or foreign countries, and ninety-
13 eight per cent of these goods come by ship; and

14
15 WHEREAS, while transpacific shipping costs are some of the
16 lowest in the world, especially from the United States to Asia,
17 the freight rates between the mainland and Hawaii are some of
18 the highest; and

19
20 WHEREAS, much of the high cost of living in Hawaii can be
21 attributed to unnecessarily high shipping costs caused by the
22 Jones Act; and

23
24 WHEREAS, such excess costs present an immense and unfair
25 burden on the people of Hawaii; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Congress has already recognized the unique aspects
28 of the Pacific region and the excessive burdens placed on it by
29 the Jones Act when it exempted the Northern Marianas and
30 American Samoa from the applicability of the Jones Act; and
31



1 WHEREAS, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico are also heavily
2 dependent on the shipping industry and endure similar hardships
3 as a result of the restrictions of the Jones Act; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the almost total dependence on sea freight
6 services makes the economies of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto
7 Rico extremely sensitive to even minor restrictions or
8 disruptions in transportation; and
9

10 WHEREAS, any disruption in the delivery of oil, food, or
11 other vital goods would severely threaten the health, safety,
12 and security of residents in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto
13 Rico, as well as visitors to these destinations; and
14

15 WHEREAS, an exemption from the Jones Act would protect the
16 collective health, safety, and security of the people of Hawaii,
17 Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and
18

19 WHEREAS, there are no ocean-going livestock carriers in the
20 Jones Act fleet and the approximately one-hundred and sixty
21 livestock carriers comprising the world fleet are registered in
22 other nations; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the currently available waterborne transportation
25 aboard container ships are not inherently well-suited for large-
26 scale movement of livestock, thereby restricting the development
27 of the Hawaii beef cattle industry; and
28

29 WHEREAS, allowing foreign shippers to participate in the
30 United States mainland trade to Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto
31 Rico would protect the health, safety, and security of the State
32 and territorial residents therein, and would also foster
33 shipping competition which will result in economic benefit to
34 consumers; now, therefore,
35

36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
38 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
39 respectfully requests the Congress of the United States to pass
40 legislation granting an exemption from the Jones Act to Hawaii,
41 Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and
42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Legislature
44 respectfully requests the President of the United States and his



1 administration to support the congressional legislation
2 requested herein; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
5 delegation is urged to request Congress to exempt Hawaii,
6 Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico from the Jones Act; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
10 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
12 Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, and
13 to members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
14
15
16

OFFERED BY: _____

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]

