

FEB 12 2010

S.R. NO. 36

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR REPEAL OF THE DON'T ASK DON'T TELL POLICY  
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES.

1           WHEREAS, Title 10, United States Code, Section 654 sets out  
2 the policy concerning homosexuality in the armed services, which  
3 provides in pertinent part that "A member of the armed services  
4 shall be separated from the armed services under regulations  
5 prescribed by the Secretary of Defense . . ."; and  
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7           WHEREAS, "Don't ask, don't tell" is the denomination of the  
8 policy of the United States Armed Services to stop gay, lesbian,  
9 and bisexual individuals from serving in the military; and  
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11           WHEREAS, President Barack Obama, United States Secretary of  
12 Defense Robert Gates, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
13 Admiral Mike Mullen have expressed their preference for ending  
14 the ban on homosexual individuals serving in the United States  
15 Armed Services; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in his State of the Union address, President Obama  
18 said he would work with Congress and the military to repeal the  
19 1993 law that bars openly gay and lesbian people from serving in  
20 the military; and  
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22           WHEREAS, Admiral Mullen testified before the United States  
23 Congress on February 2, 2010, that letting gays serve openly in  
24 the military is "the right thing to do . . . I cannot escape  
25 being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which  
26 forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to  
27 defend their fellow citizens"; and  
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29           WHEREAS, it has been reported that since going into effect  
30 in 1993, "Don't ask, don't tell" has resulted in the discharge  
31 of more than 13,500 service members for being gay, and at the  
32 present time when the military is desperately short of foreign-  
33 language expertise, it has fired over sixty-five gay Arabic and  
34 Farsi linguists; and  
35



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1 WHEREAS, anytime there is a restriction on the pool of  
 2 candidates from which one is recruiting which is unrelated to  
 3 the task at hand, one ends up excluding outstanding people whose  
 4 presence would improve the organization's performance; and  
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6 WHEREAS, allowing homosexuals to serve in the military  
 7 would significantly augment the nation's military capabilities;  
 8 and  
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10 WHEREAS, homophobia has no place in a modern, enlightened  
 11 society, and the military is no exception; now, therefore,  
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
 14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,  
 15 that the Legislature expresses support for repeal of the "don't  
 16 ask, don't tell" policy of the United States Armed Services, and  
 17 of the federal law upon which it is based; and  
 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 20 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States;  
 21 Secretary of Defense Robert Gates; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs  
 22 of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen; the Majority Leader of the United  
 23 States Senate, and the Speaker of the United States House of  
 24 Representatives.  
 25  
 26  
 27

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