
SENATE 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
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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
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11 WHEREAS, eighty per cent of the good consumed in Hawaii are
12 imported from the mainland or foreign countries, and ninety-
13 eight per cent of these goods come by ship; and
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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
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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
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24 WHEREAS, such excess costs present an immense and unfair
25 burden on the people of Hawaii; and
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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
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32 WHEREAS, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico are also heavily
33 dependent on the shipping industry and endure similar hardships
34 as a result of the restrictions of the Jones Act; and
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1 WHEREAS, the almost total dependence on sea freight
2 services makes the economies of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto
3 Rico extremely sensitive to even minor restrictions or
4 disruptions in transportation; and
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6 WHEREAS, any disruption in the delivery of oil, food, or
7 other vital goods would severely threaten the health, safety,
8 and security of residents in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto
9 Rico, as well as visitors to these destinations; and
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11 WHEREAS, an exemption from the Jones Act would protect the
12 collective health, safety, and security of the people of Hawaii,
13 Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and
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15 WHEREAS, there are no ocean-going livestock carriers in the
16 Jones Act fleet and the approximately one-hundred and sixty
17 livestock carriers comprising the world fleet are registered in
18 other nations; and
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20 WHEREAS, the currently available waterborne transportation
21 aboard container ships are not inherently well-suited for large-
22 scale movement of livestock, thereby restricting the development
23 of the Hawaii beef cattle industry; and
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25 WHEREAS, allowing foreign shippers to participate in the
26 United States mainland trade to Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto
27 Rico would protect the health, safety, and security of the State
28 and territorial residents therein, and would also foster
29 shipping competition which will result in economic benefit to
30 consumers; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
34 that this body respectfully requests the Congress of the United
35 States to pass legislation granting an exemption from the Jones
36 Act to Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Senate
39 respectfully requests the President of the United States and his
40 administration to support the congressional legislation
41 requested herein; and
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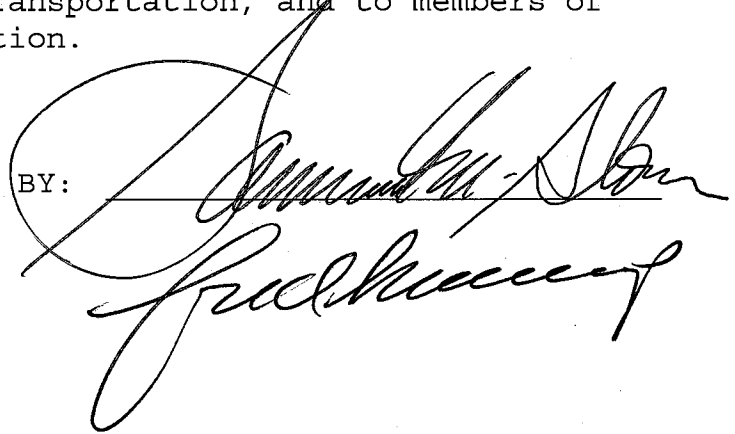


S.R. NO. 73

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
2 delegation is urged to request Congress to exempt Hawaii,
3 Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico from the Jones Act; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
7 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
8 United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the
9 United States Department of Transportation, and to members of
10 Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The top signature is more cursive and appears to be 'Samuel M. Stone'. The bottom signature is also cursive and appears to be 'Fred K. ...'. The signatures are positioned to the right of the 'OFFERED BY:' text.