

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2709

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 12 2010

RE: S.R. No. 36  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2010  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.R. No. 36 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR REPEAL OF THE DON'T ASK DON'T TELL POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to express support for repeal of the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy of the United States Armed Services, and of the federal law upon which it is based.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from one private entity and three individuals. Testimony in opposition was received from one military association and three individuals. Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that "Don't ask, don't tell" is the denomination of the policy of the United States Armed Services to stop gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals from serving in the military. President Barack Obama, United States Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen have expressed their preference for ending the ban on homosexual individuals serving in the United States Armed Services. It has been reported that since going into effect in 1993, "Don't ask, don't tell" has resulted in the discharge of more than 13,500 service members for being gay, and at the present time when the military is desperately short of foreign-language



expertise, it has fired over sixty-five gay Arabic and Farsi linguists.

Your Committee further finds that allowing homosexuals to serve in the military would significantly augment the nation's military capabilities. Homophobia has no place in a modern, enlightened society, and the military is no exception.

Your Committee has amended this measure to include transmission of certified copies of this measure to Hawaii's congressional delegation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 36, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 36, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Military Affairs,



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WILL ESPERO, Chair



