

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO LIFT THE BAN ON PRIVATE FUNDING OF ABORTIONS AT MILITARY BASES.

1 WHEREAS, the ban on privately funded abortions
2 discriminates against women and their families who have
3 volunteered to serve their country and have been assigned to
4 military posts overseas; and

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6 WHEREAS, by refusing to allow a woman to use her own funds
7 to pay for an abortion at a military facility, except in very
8 limited circumstances, the United States Congress has placed an
9 often insurmountable obstacle in her path that does not exist
10 for civilian women and families; and

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12 WHEREAS, the ban on privately funded abortions in military
13 facilities poses grave health risks and leaves service women and
14 their families far worse off than civilian women; and

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16 WHEREAS, if a servicewoman (or family member) is prohibited
17 from accessing abortion services on a military base, she may
18 have no choice but to use local facilities that may be
19 substandard or unsafe, and the costs, time, and obvious risks
20 involved prevent some women from obtaining the care they
21 otherwise could have received; and

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23 WHEREAS, in light of the tragically high incidence of rape
24 and sexual assaults suffered by women in the military,
25 servicewomen should not be further harmed by the denial of safe
26 abortion services; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
30 that the United States Congress is requested to:
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- 1 (1) Recognize that over 365,000 women serve in the United
2 States Armed Forces and that more than 100,000 are
3 currently stationed and serving overseas;
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- 5 (2) Express concern that at a time when the United States
6 is engaged in wars on two fronts, and servicewomen put
7 their lives and limbs at risk to preserve American
8 rights and freedom, it is deeply troubling that
9 American servicewomen are denied access to safe, legal
10 abortion when they serve abroad; and
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- 12 (3) Act to lift the ban on private funding of abortions at
13 military bases; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United
17 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
18 Representatives, and to the members of Hawaii's congressional
19 delegation.
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OFFERED BY: *Randy H. Bell*

