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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SUPPORT OF THE REPEAL OF COMBAT EXCLUSIONARY  
RULES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States military has an epidemic rate of  
2 rape in all branches of the armed services; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in her book, "The Lonely Soldier: The Private War  
5 of Women Serving in Iraq", Helen Benedict refers to several  
6 studies of the military funded by the United States Department  
7 of Veteran Affairs; and  
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9 WHEREAS, according to these studies, thirty per cent of  
10 military women are raped while serving, seventy-one per cent are  
11 sexually assaulted, and ninety per cent are sexually harassed;  
12 and  
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14 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense  
15 acknowledges the problem, estimating in its 2009 annual report  
16 on sexual assault, that approximately ninety per cent of  
17 military sexual assaults are never reported; and  
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19 WHEREAS, the combat arms specialties of the United States  
20 military continue to foster misogynist attitudes such as those  
21 expressed in this still-popular Jody call: "Who can take a  
22 chainsaw, Cut the bitch in two, F\*\*\* the bottom half, And give  
23 the upper half to you..."; and  
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25 WHEREAS, military policy provides that women cannot be  
26 assigned to units whose primary mission is to engage the enemy;  
27 these policies are not based on women's proven abilities; and  
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29 WHEREAS, where and how women serve in the military should  
30 be based on ability and training, not gender; and  
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32 WHEREAS, in today's all-volunteer force, women have  
33 accepted the challenges, responsibilities, and dangers of  
34 military service, and have proven themselves time and time  
35 again; and  
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1 WHEREAS, closing combat specialties do not keep women out  
2 of combat or safe; and

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4 WHEREAS, women have been toting M60 machine guns and M16  
5 rifles into the forefront of battle zones for decades; and

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7 WHEREAS, these combat exclusionary rules keep women from  
8 promotion, in contrast to exclusively male combat specialties  
9 that are often fast-tracked; and

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11 WHEREAS, there is a failure of leadership with regard to  
12 women on and off the battlefield; and

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14 WHEREAS, women and gay service members are harassed and  
15 assaulted as too many male commanders tolerate such abuse; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, senior military leaders of both genders have  
18 stated that combat exclusionary rules degrade both morale and  
19 readiness; now, therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,  
23 that the President and the United States Congress are requested  
24 to immediately repeal the combat exclusionary rules as contrary  
25 to good order and discipline and as the humane, ethical thing to  
26 do; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States  
30 of America, the Secretary of Defense, the Majority Leader of the  
31 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
32 Representatives, and members of Hawaii's Congressional  
33 delegation.

