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HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO AVOID SEQUESTRATION AND AVERT THE DRAMATIC FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SUCH CUTS WOULD HAVE FOR HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the United States has a massive budget deficit that poses a serious crisis for the nation and is a divisive 2 3 problem that both the President and Congress must address; and 4 5 WHEREAS, impending sequestration, which threatened 6 immediate budget cuts as an attempt to drive Democrats and Republicans in Congress to compromise on a solution for the 7 national debt, has not resulted in such compromise; and 8 9 WHEREAS, sequestration will result in critical job losses 10 and decreases in revenue for both defense and nondefense 11 programs in Hawaii and throughout the nation; and 12 13 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the largest recipients of federal 14 defense funding and expenditures in the nation which have been 15 estimated at more than \$8,000,000,000 annually and result in 16 more than \$14,000,000,000 being driven into the State's economy 17 each year; and 18 19 WHEREAS, the proposed cuts and job losses predicted for 20 Hawaii would be a devastating blow to the economy, affecting 21 both military personnel and their family members based in 22 Hawaii, along with those Hawaii residents who depend on the 23 well-paying jobs and the stable source of revenue the military 24 and other defense contractors provide in the State; and 25 26 27 WHEREAS, if sequestration occurs, it is estimated that 28 11,000 jobs would be lost in Hawaii, 19,000 Department of Defense civilian workers would be subject to furloughs, and 29 30 \$2,300,000,000 in defense contracts would be jeopardized; and



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WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has already planned for 1 2 spending cuts, in addition to sequestration cuts, that would 3 further reduce the military presence in Hawaii and affect both the State's security as well as its fiscal budget; and 4 5 6 WHEREAS, should sequestration occur, Hawaii would experience major force realignments that would involve 7 8 relocating units from Hawaii and potential base closures because 9 the threat of activating another Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission looms as early as 2015; and 10 11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's strategic military location in the 12 Pacific, along with serving as the home of the United States 13 14 Pacific Command, is an invaluable resource to the national security of the nation, and the indiscriminate cutbacks of 15 sequestration would have serious and urgent impacts on the 16 nation's military readiness in the Pacific; and 17 18 19 WHEREAS, as the Asia Pacific region becomes more relevant to the nation's strategic interests, particularly in response to 20 recent nuclear tests in North Korea, weakening the nation's 21 military presence in the Pacific would make the United States 22 and Hawaii more vulnerable and slower to respond to serious 23 24 security issues if they should arise; and 25 WHEREAS, cutbacks in federal funding would seriously 26 marginalize the capabilities of the State's civil defense 27 program by depriving the Hawaii National Guard of the resources 28 it needs to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies 29 that may occur statewide, which is especially concerning given 30 Hawaii's isolated location; and 31 32 WHEREAS, two of the State's delegates in the United States 33 Congress, Senator Mazie Hirono and Representative Colleen 34 35 Hanabusa, are members of their respective Armed Services Committees and are in the position to bring forth these serious 36 issues regarding the reduction of military expenditures and the 37 effect this will have on the State of Hawaii; now, therefore, 38 39 40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 41 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



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Session of 2013, that the United States Congress and Hawaii's 1 Congressional delegation are urged to work to prevent 2 sequestration in order to avoid the indiscriminate reductions in 3 defense expenditures that would directly impact Hawaii; and 4 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's Congressional 6 delegation is also urged to initiate interventions to protect 7 8 against the relocation of military units from Hawaii, avert the possibility of base closures, and minimize spending cuts that 9 would place Hawaii's troops and their families, as well as 10 Hawaii's residents, at risk; and 11 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's Congressional 13 14 delegation, in particular Senator Mazie Hirono and Representative Colleen Hanabusa, as they are members of their 15 respective Armed Services Committees, is encouraged to meet with 16 appropriate military commanders as soon as possible to discuss 17 steps that should be taken to minimize the anticipated impacts 18 of cuts in defense spending; and 19 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United 22 States Senate; Speaker of the United States House of 23 24 Representatives; and members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation. 25 26 27 28 OFFERED BY: omlla S FEB 2 6 2013

