

JAN 24 2013

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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;  
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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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WHEREAS, closing combat specialties do not keep women out of combat or safe; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that the President and the United States Congress are requested to immediately repeal the combat exclusionary rules as contrary to good order and discipline and as the humane, ethical thing to do; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States of America, the Secretary of Defense, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY: *Erin Anne Chun Oshiro*

*Ronald H. Baker*  
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*JM*