

MAR 04 2014

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT REFORMS ADDRESSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
AND ASSAULT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces is one of the most  
2 important and respected institutions of this nation; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, evidence suggests that a culture of sexual  
5 harassment and assault in the military threatens to erode the  
6 sense of cohesion, respect, and trust that men and women service  
7 members rely on in the performance of their duties; and  
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9 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Defense Annual  
10 Report on Sexual Assault in the Military for fiscal year 2012,  
11 approximately 26,000 service members experienced rape or  
12 unwanted sexual contact compared to 19,000 in 2010, which is an  
13 increase of almost 40 percent in the estimated rate of sexual  
14 assault in the military; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the same report found that only 3,374 of the  
17 incidents were reported and more women service members filed a  
18 report even though approximately 53 percent of sexual assault  
19 victims in the military are men; and  
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21 WHEREAS, despite the "zero tolerance" sexual harassment and  
22 assault policy implemented by military leadership for the past  
23 twenty-five years, frequent acts of sexual harassment and  
24 assault continue in all branches of the military, as  
25 substantiated by these statistics and several high-profile  
26 cases, including the recent arrest of the Air Force's Chief of  
27 the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office for sexually  
28 assaulting a woman in a parking lot; and  
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30 WHEREAS, the military justice system is not equipped to  
31 handle sexual harassment and assault cases in a fair and  
32 equitable manner, as a case moves forward only if recommended by  
33 a military commander, who also has the authority to overturn a



1 conviction and allow a convicted sex offender to remain in the  
2 military; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, to address the epidemic of sexual harassment and  
5 assault in the military and to reform the broken system of  
6 military justice, which fails to handle cases equitably and  
7 fairly, several bills have been introduced in Congress,  
8 including bills seeking to:

- 9  
10 (1) Improve victims' services;  
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12 (2) Extend victims' rights;  
13  
14 (3) Modify the authority of commanders with respect to  
15 case prosecutions and convictions;  
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17 (4) Professionalize the military justice system;  
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19 (5) Mandate certain punishments for those convicted of  
20 specific sex crimes; and  
21  
22 (6) Require the retention of sexual assault reports and  
23 better data collection; and  
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25 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Congress move swiftly to  
26 enact these bills to ensure the well-being of military service  
27 members by protecting them from sexual harassment and assault  
28 and in so doing, maintain the readiness of our military; now,  
29 therefore;

30  
31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the  
33 House of Representatives concurring, that this body strongly  
34 supports and urges Congress to enact the bills currently  
35 introduced to address sexual harassment and assault in the  
36 United States Armed Forces, including but not limited to bills  
37 seeking to: improve the services available to victims of sexual  
38 harassment and assault; extend victims' rights; modify the  
39 authority of commanders with respect to case prosecutions and  
40 convictions; professionalize the military justice system;  
41 mandate certain punishments for those convicted of specific sex  
42 crimes; and require the retention of sexual assault reports and  
43 the collection of better data; and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 62

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges Congress to  
 2 move swiftly to enact these bills to ensure the well-being of  
 3 military service members by protecting them against sexual  
 4 harassment and assault and in so doing, maintain the readiness  
 5 of our military; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority and  
 9 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, Speaker and  
 10 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and Hawaii's  
 11 congressional delegation.  
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