

MAR 03 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, THE JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY, AND THE NATIONAL DIET OF JAPAN TO TAKE ACTION TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED MILITARY FACILITIES EXPANSION IN HENOKO, OKINAWA AND WORK TO REDUCE THE DISPROPORTIONATE CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY IN OKINAWA.

1 WHEREAS, this body understands the need for a strong United
2 States military presence in the Asia-Pacific region due to the
3 uncertainty of the North Korean regime and the interests and
4 influence of China; and

5
6 WHEREAS, this body has been supportive of the Okinawan
7 community, both locally and abroad; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Okinawans began immigrating to Hawaii as
10 industrial agricultural labor in 1900, resulting in one of the
11 largest communities of Okinawans outside of Okinawa, and forming
12 a community that has become an integral part of the social
13 fabric of Hawaii, with many contributions to the larger
14 community of the State of Hawaii; and

15
16 WHEREAS, war between Japan and the United States resulted
17 in the Battle of Okinawa in which almost one-third of the
18 Okinawan people were killed, as well as a multitude of Japanese
19 and American soldiers; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Okinawans in Hawaii assisted Okinawans in United
22 States military intelligence units and rallied to send aid such
23 as livestock and clothing to war-torn Okinawa, in a spirit of
24 international support which Okinawa seeks again today; and

25
26 WHEREAS, seventy-four percent of United States military
27 forces in Japan continues to be concentrated in Okinawa, which
28 is only 0.6 percent of Japan's landmass; and
29



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1 WHEREAS, Okinawa Island, the largest island of the Ryukyu
2 archipelago, is smaller than Kauai at only four hundred sixty
3 square miles, yet has nearly double the population density of
4 the island of Oahu; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the people and the government of Okinawa have
7 consistently repeated appeals for land, air, and sea space to
8 improve Okinawa's struggling economy and the well-being and
9 safety of its people; and

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11 WHEREAS, military lands returned for civilian development
12 have shown significant economic improvement up to ten to two
13 hundred times, such as the Naha Shintoshin and Chatan Hamby
14 areas; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the United States Congress is implementing a
17 policy of sequestration that has resulted in the necessity for
18 the Pentagon to make difficult cuts; and

19
20 WHEREAS, communities across the United States with
21 stateside military facilities have rallied to maintain troop
22 strength domestically where painful cuts have been proposed; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the United States military has over eight hundred
25 overseas bases; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the United States military is already in a process
28 of realignment in the Asia-Pacific region to meet the
29 sophistication of security in the twenty-first century, which
30 requires more mobility, and with the United States Marine Corps
31 already evolving from its previous garrison-type presence in
32 Okinawa to a more expeditionary orientation, with the deploying
33 of units on rotations, such as to Darwin, Australia; and

34
35 WHEREAS, recent revision of the United States-Japan defense
36 cooperation guidelines will increase collaboration by Japanese
37 forces operations rendering large concentrations of United
38 States Marines as less essential; and

39
40 WHEREAS, polls consistently show the majority of Okinawans
41 favor some degree of demilitarization, such as polls conducted
42 by the Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper and Okinawa Television



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1 Broadcasting showing that 80.2 percent of Okinawans disapprove
2 of any expansion in Henoko and support the unconditional closure
3 and removal of Futenma Marine Corps Air Station; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
7 that the President of the United States, the United States
8 Department of Defense, and the United States Congress, in
9 concert with the Prime Minister of Japan, the Japan Defense
10 Agency, and the National Diet of Japan, are requested to
11 recommit their efforts to negotiate and expedite an agreeable
12 solution in lieu of relocation of military facilities within
13 Okinawa prefecture and adjustment, realignment, and overall
14 reduction of the current presence of the United States military
15 forces in Okinawa and other Japanese land areas, with the intent
16 to return land and facilities cleared of any toxic
17 contaminations and other public health and safety hazards, not
18 requisite for direct military purposes back to Okinawa
19 Prefecture, as recommended by the final report of the Special
20 Action Committee on Okinawa and the Treaty of Obligations; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States, Japan, and
23 all of its allies are requested to work in unison and cooperate
24 to promote the overall safety and security of the Asia-Pacific
25 region to maintain peace and economic prosperity; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
29 the Prime Minister of Japan, the United States Secretary of
30 Defense, the Minister of State for Defense of Japan, the
31 Commander of the United States Pacific Command, the chairpersons
32 and ranking members of the United States Senate and United
33 States House of Representatives Committees on Appropriations
34 Sub-committee on Defense, the chairpersons and ranking members
35 of the congressional delegation from Hawaii, the President of
36 the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan, the
37 Consul-General of Japan in Honolulu, the Governor of the State
38 of Hawaii, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, the Chairperson
39 of the All-Okinawa Council, the Chairperson of the Save Life
40 Society organization in Henoko, the Chairperson of the Veterans
41 for Peace-Ryukyu Working Group, and the Hawaii United Okinawa

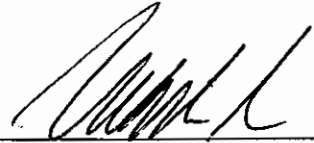


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1 Association, who in turn, is requested to transmit it to its
2 member organizations.

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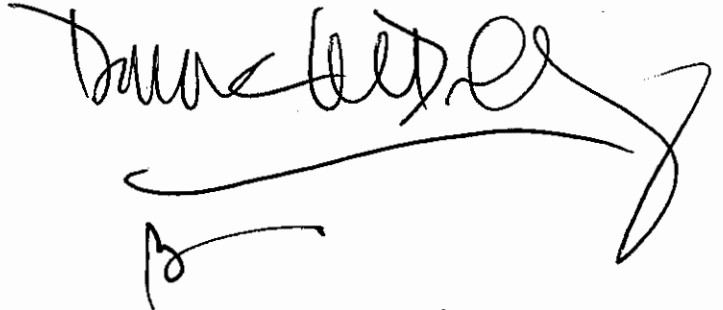
OFFERED BY:



Clarence K. Michikawa

Will Egero

Prasanna Chinn Chandan



to
Jarvis R. Brown

