
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS HAWAII AND ALL INVOLVED MILITARY SERVICES TO REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF UNITED SERVICES ORGANIZATION'S FACILITIES LOCATED AT HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

1 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States
2 military are part of a long and proud tradition of excellence
3 that exemplifies honor, courage, and self-sacrifice; they defend
4 our nation's borders and protect the citizens of the United
5 States from the atrocities of war, and these men and women truly
6 are heroes; and
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8 WHEREAS, the United Service Organizations (USO) is a
9 nonprofit organization that is operated by volunteers who
10 believe that the United States owes a great debt to the
11 courageous members of our armed forces, and it strives to
12 provide a "special brand of comfort, morale and recreational
13 services to the military" and believes that they should always
14 be treated and held in the highest regards; and
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16 WHEREAS, the USO lounge located in Honolulu International
17 Airport, between baggage claim areas E and F, was created as an
18 expression of the country and the State's appreciation and
19 gratitude to the United States military members; and
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21 WHEREAS, USO's volunteers, knowing that the military men
22 and women who pass through the gates of Honolulu International
23 Airport might be seeing their family for the last time, have
24 allowed the families of departing military members to accompany
25 them to airport departure gates, a benefit not provided to the
26 general public; and
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28 WHEREAS, the two thousand-square-foot USO lounge is barely
29 adequate to host the twenty thousand military members that pass



1 through the lounge, and its infrastructure shows the wear and
2 tear of high usage; and lounge visitors are allowed only twenty
3 minutes on the lounge's three computers, hardly enough time to
4 write letters to loved ones; and

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6 WHEREAS, the dedicated efforts on the part of the
7 volunteers cannot make up for the fact that the United Service
8 Organizations facility needs extensive upgrades; and although
9 the volunteers may assist in the process of upgrading the
10 lounge, for them to accept the entire burden of upgrading the
11 lounge would be overwhelming; and

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13 WHEREAS, improvements to the USO lounge should be provided
14 the State, in the spirit of the Hawaii State Medal of Honor, to
15 recognize and thank our military men and women for their
16 countless sacrifices; now, therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
20 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
21 Transportation and the Department of Defense are requested to
22 work in collaboration with the United Service Organizations and
23 all involved military branches to review and report on the
24 current USO facilities at the Honolulu International Airport and
25 to prioritize for improvements; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments are requested
28 to meet no later than September, 2008 to determine what course
29 of action is needed to make necessary upgrades to the facility;
30 and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
33 Transportation and the Department of Defense are requested to
34 submit a report of findings and recommendations to the
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
36 the Regular Session of 2009; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant
40 General, Director of Transportation, Director of the Office of

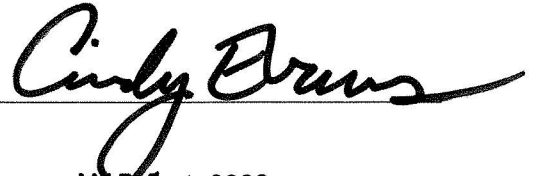


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1 Veterans Services, and the Directors of the national office and
2 Hawaii office of the United Service Organizations, respectively.

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OFFERED BY:



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