



RESOLUTION

URGING ALL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO BALANCE THE NEED FOR MILITARY PRESENCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL, RESIDENTIAL, AND CULTURAL CONCERNS AND CONSIDER LESSONS LEARNED THROUGHOUT HISTORY, INCLUDING LESSONS LEARNED IN HONOLULU, WHEN EVALUATING THE FACILITY EXPANSION IN HENOKO, OKINAWA AND THE CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY FORCES IN ANY COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Honolulu ("Council") understands the need for a strong United States military presence in the Asia-Pacific region due to the uncertainty of the North Korean regime and the interests and influence of China; and

WHEREAS, the United States military is in a process of realignment in the Asia-Pacific region to meet the sophistication of security in the twenty-first century, which requires more mobility; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, seventy-four percent of United States military forces in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, Okinawa Island, the largest island of the Ryukyu archipelago, is only four hundred sixty square miles; and

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

WHEREAS, military lands returned for civilian development have shown significant economic improvement, such as the Naha Shintoshin and Chatan Hamby areas; and



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WHEREAS, recent revision of the United States-Japan defense cooperation guidelines will increase collaboration by Japanese forces' operations, rendering large concentrations of United States Marines in Okinawa less essential; and

WHEREAS, polls consistently show the majority of Okinawans favor some degree of demilitarization; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established a sister city relationship in 1960 with Naha City, Okinawa via the Council's adoption of Resolution 69 (1960); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that all government entities involved are urged to balance the need for military presence with environmental, residential, and cultural concerns and consider Hawaii's peaceful and cooperative relationship with Okinawa for purposes of evaluating:

1. The facility expansion in Henoko, Okinawa; and
2. The demilitarization and return of land and facilities to the Okinawan people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States, Japan, and all of its allies are urged to work in unison and cooperate to promote the overall safety and security of the Asia-Pacific region to maintain peace and economic prosperity; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Prime Minister of Japan, the chairpersons and ranking members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives Committees on Appropriations Sub-committee on Defense, the chairpersons and ranking members of the congressional delegation from Hawaii, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, the Mayor of the City of Naha, Okinawa, the Mayor of the City of Nago, Okinawa, the Chairperson of the All-Okinawa Council, the Chairperson of the Save Life Society organization in Henoko, the Chairperson of the Veterans for Peace-Ryukyu Working Group, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, which in turn, is requested to transmit it to its member organizations, and the Hawaii Hui for Democracy in Okinawa.

INTRODUCED BY:

Carol Fukunaga

Ernest Martin

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 2, 2015
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers