



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO EVALUATE THE CURRENT PRESENCE OF UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES IN OKINAWA AND CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MILITARY BASE IN HENOKO, OKINAWA.

WHEREAS, the Battle of Okinawa during World War II resulted in the deaths of 12,281 Americans, up to 100,000 Japanese soldiers, and more than 150,000 local civilians, or one quarter of the civilian population, as well as the widespread destruction of homes, businesses, and historical structures; and

WHEREAS, many Okinawans remember the Battle of Okinawa as a dark episode in a long history of Okinawa being sacrificed for the greater good of Japan; and

WHEREAS, following the end of World War II in 1945, the United States maintained a military presence on the island of Okinawa, and after the U.S. military occupation of Japan ended in 1952, the United States administered Okinawa and established numerous military bases in the Ryukyu Islands, of which Okinawa is the largest island; and

WHEREAS, due to the legacy of the U.S. occupation and the island's strategic location, Okinawa hosts a disproportionate share of the U.S. military presence in Japan; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Research Service reports that about 25 percent of all facilities used by U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) and about half of the USFJ military personnel are located in Okinawa prefecture, which comprises less than one percent of Japan's total land area; and

WHEREAS, the United States maintains Air Force, Marine, Navy and Army military installations on Okinawa that occupy approximately 18 to 20 percent of the main island's land mass; and

WHEREAS, as part of a planned realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma will be relocated from its current location in the Okinawan city of Ginowan to Camp Schwab and its adjacent waters in Henoko; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the U.S. District Court ruled that the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) approved the plans for construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility without taking into account the effect of the military facility on the Okinawa



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dugong, a marine mammal of cultural and historical significance to the Japanese people, and ordered the U.S. DOD to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 402; and

WHEREAS, according to a poll conducted by the Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Television Broadcasting, 80 percent of Okinawans favor cessation of the relocation of the U.S. base to Henoko and support unconditional closure and removal of the Futenma base; and

WHEREAS, Congressional Research Service Report RL 33436 finds that the attitudes of native Okinawans toward U.S. military bases are generally characterized as negative and that most Okinawans oppose the construction of a new U.S. base for a mix of political, environmental, and quality of life reasons; and

WHEREAS, "Democracy for Okinawa!" has been the widespread rallying cry for anti-U.S. bases candidates, resulting in recent election victories at four levels: Governor of Okinawa; Mayors of Naha and Nago (Henoko); Prefectural Assembly members from Naha, Nago (Henoko), and Okinawa City; and the Naha City Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii have a long history of seeking peace and cooperation with Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, Okinawans first immigrated to Hawaii in 1900, initially as plantation contract laborers, and it is estimated that there are currently 40,000 to 50,000 persons of Okinawan descent in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, following Okinawa's devastation during World War II, Hawaii residents organized and collected for Okinawa hundreds of thousands of dollars in funds and goods, including food, clothing, medical supplies, books, bicycles, eye glasses, and, notably, 550 Nebraskan pigs to provide Okinawans with a means of livelihood and food; and

WHEREAS, Okinawan cultural activities emphasizing peace and cooperation have continued into the present, including activities undertaken by Okinawan business associations, performing arts groups, and associations related to Okinawan heritage and identity; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii is the only university in the U.S. to establish a Center for Okinawan Studies, which maintains ties with the University of the Ryukyus and other institutions in Okinawa; and



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WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu and Naha City in Okinawa have been sister cities since 1960, and the State of Hawaii and Okinawa prefecture have been sister states since 1985; and

WHEREAS, as a sister city to Naha City, the City and County of Honolulu seeks to promote better relations and understanding between the United States and Okinawa and is sympathetic to the wishes of the people of Okinawa; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the President of the United States and the Department of Defense are requested to evaluate the current presence of United States military forces in Okinawa and consider alternatives to the construction of a new military base in Henoko, Okinawa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council joins Okinawan citizens in urging the President of the United States, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Congress, to ensure that the following steps are taken in accordance with U.S. laws and procedures:

1. The Department of Defense undertakes an appropriate and sufficient "take into account" process as ordered by the U.S. District Court in 2008 in its Memorandum and Order in Okinawa Dugong, et al. v. Robert Gates, et al., No. C 03-4350 MHP (N.D. Cal. January 23, 2008);
2. The U.S. Marine Mammal Commission reviews and comments on the DOD analysis;
3. Congressional hearings are held to review environmental issues in the Henoko plan; and
4. Congressional hearings address the lack of democratic process over the siting of this base in Okinawa;

and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Command, the Governor of Hawaii, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, the Consul-General of Japan in Hawaii, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

INTRODUCED BY:

Carol Johnson

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

DEC 2 2015
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers