

By: Representative Eubanks

By: Senator Hill

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO FORMALLY REVIEW THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN; AND TO OFFICIALLY INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF NAVY LIEUTENANT RIDGE ALKONIS TO ENSURE THAT AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS ARE BEING PROPERLY TREATED AND ADEQUATELY PROTECTED WHILE SERVING IN JAPAN.

### **Subtitle**

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN; AND TO REVIEW THE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF NAVY LIEUTENANT RIDGE ALKONIS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

WHEREAS, there are over one hundred thousand (100,000) American service members and dependents stationed in Japan, more than any other place in the world other than the United States; and

WHEREAS, active-duty Arkansans are, and will continue to be, stationed abroad in Japan while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and



WHEREAS, Status of Forces Agreements are designed to ensure adequate and fair legal treatment of American service members stationed abroad; and

WHEREAS, in practice, the United States-Japan Status of Forces Agreement does not appear to provide adequate legal protection for American service members as there are reports that Japan regularly violates the Status of Forces Agreement by detaining American service members without adequate cause or necessity prior to charges; and

WHEREAS, there are reports that Japanese authorities consistently deny legal counsel to service members during police interrogations and fail to provide adequate translation assistance during interrogations and trials, which would violate Department of Defense policy regarding the legal rights of service members overseas as outlined in Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5820.4G and Army Regulation 27-50; and

WHEREAS, the case of Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis embodies the reported issues surrounding the United States-Japan Status of Forces Agreement as Lieutenant Alkonis experienced prejudicial treatment during Japanese police detainment and trial; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous reports of Lieutenant Alkonis receiving extremely suspect legal advice and inadequate support from United States Navy personnel during legal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence of the United States Navy knowingly misleading members of the United States Congress regarding Lieutenant Alkonis's case; and

WHEREAS, there is sufficient evidence to reasonably suspect that Lieutenant Alkonis is wrongfully detained; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress through the United States House Committee on Armed Services is responsible for conducting oversight of the United States Navy and ensuring that international agreements are in the best interest of the American people and abided by the parties entered therein,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, the Senate concurring, encourage the United States Congress and the National Security Council to:

(a) Conduct a formal review of the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan to ensure that the agreement is in the best interest of the United States and adequately protects American service members in accordance with constitutional rights and United States Department of Defense policy; and

(b) Conduct an official investigation into the circumstances and dealings surrounding the investigation, trial, and conviction of Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis to ensure that Lieutenant Alkonis was treated fairly by Japan and that the United States Navy provided fair and adequate support; and

(c) Refer Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis's case to the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs to be designated as a wrongfully detained case.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the majority leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Chairman of the United States House Committee on Armed Services, the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, the Chairman of the United State Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the Chairman of the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the Chairman of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, the National Security Advisor, and the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.