

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ADDRESSING SERVICE

MEMBERS IN JAPAN

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Tyler Clancy

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution encourages 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.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ encourages the United States Congress and National Security Council to formally review the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan; and
- ▶ encourages the United States Congress and National Security Council 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.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

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

WHEREAS, active-duty Utahns are, and will continue to be, stationed abroad in Japan



28 while serving in the United States Armed Forces;

29 WHEREAS, status of forces agreements are designed to ensure adequate and fair legal
30 treatment of American service members stationed abroad;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
55 Governor concurring therein, encourage the United States Congress and the National Security
56 Council to:

57 (1) conduct a formal review of the Status of Forces Agreement between the United
58 States and Japan to ensure that the agreement is in the best interest of the United States and

59 adequately protects American service members in accordance with constitutional rights and
60 United States Department of Defense policy;

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

65 (3) refer Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis's case to the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage
66 Affairs to be designated as a wrongfully detained case.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate
68 copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the majority leader of
69 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
70 Chairman of the United States House Committee on Armed Services, the Chairman of the
71 United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, the Chairman of the United States Senate
72 Committee on Foreign Relations, the Chairman of the United States House Committee on
73 Foreign Affairs, the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the
74 Chairman of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, the National Security
75 Advisor, and the members of the Utah congressional delegation.