

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Congress and the National Security Council to conduct a formal review of the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan.

WHEREAS, in 1960, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan was signed and established mutuality between the two nations; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security has had the effect of establishing a military alliance between the United States and Japan; and

WHEREAS, under Article VI of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, the government of Japan agrees to take necessary action to ensure the adequate security and protection of the United States Armed Forces while stationed in Japan; and

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

WHEREAS, active-duty American service members 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, the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan does not appear to provide adequate legal protection for American service members due to 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 the Department of Defense policy regarding the legal rights of service members overseas; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress through the United States House and Senate Committees on Armed Services are responsible for conducting oversight of the United States military and ensuring that international agreements are in the best interest of the American people and abided by the parties entering such agreements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Congress and the National Security Council to 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 the United States Department of Defense policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE