

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Encourages the United States Congress and the National Security Council to formally review the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan to ensure that our service members are being properly treated and adequately protected while serving in Japan

1                                   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

15            WHEREAS, active-duty American service members are, and will continue to be,  
16    stationed abroad in Japan while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

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

19            WHEREAS, the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan  
20    does not appear to provide adequate legal protection for American service members due to

1 reports that Japan regularly violates the Status of Forces Agreement by detaining American  
2 service members without adequate cause or necessity prior to charges; and

3 WHEREAS, there are reports that Japanese authorities consistently deny legal  
4 counsel to service members during police interrogations and fail to provide adequate  
5 translation assistance during interrogations and trials, which would violate the Department  
6 of Defense policy regarding the legal rights of service members overseas; and

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

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
12 urge and request the United States Congress and the National Security Council to conduct  
13 a formal review of the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan to  
14 ensure that the agreement is in the best interest of the United States and adequately protects  
15 American service members in accordance with constitutional rights and the United States  
16 Department of Defense policy.

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

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 52 Engrossed

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