

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

HCR 1002

4
5 By: Representative Eubanks
6 By: Senator Hill

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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

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

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19 **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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10 WHEREAS, there are reports that Japanese authorities consistently deny
11 legal counsel to service members during police interrogations and fail to
12 provide adequate translation assistance during interrogations and trials,
13 which would violate Department of Defense policy regarding the legal rights
14 of service members overseas as outlined in Secretary of the Navy Instruction
15 5820.4G and Army Regulation 27-50; and

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

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

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

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

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

1 NOW THEREFORE,
2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:
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5 THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly
6 of the State of Arkansas, the Senate concurring, encourage the United States
7 Congress and the National Security Council to:

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

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

18 (c) Refer Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis's case to the Special Presidential
19 Envoy for Hostage Affairs to be designated as a wrongfully detained case.
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate
22 copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the
23 majority leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
24 House of Representatives, the Chairman of the United States House Committee
25 on Armed Services, the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on
26 Armed Services, the Chairman of the United State Senate Committee on Foreign
27 Relations, the Chairman of the United States House Committee on Foreign
28 Affairs, the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
29 the Chairman of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, the
30 National Security Advisor, and the members of the Arkansas congressional
31 delegation.
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