

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ADDRESSING SERVICE**

2                                   **MEMBERS IN JAPAN**

3   2023 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Tyler Clancy**

6                                   Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

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8                   **LONG TITLE**

9                   **General Description:**

10                   This resolution encourages the United States Congress and National Security Council to  
11 review the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan and to  
12 review the investigation and trial of Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis.

13                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

14                   This resolution:

- 15                   ▶ encourages the United States Congress and National Security Council to formally  
16 review the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan; and
- 17                   ▶ encourages the United States Congress and National Security Council to officially  
18 investigate the circumstances surrounding the investigation and trial of Navy  
19 Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis to ensure that American service members are being  
20 properly treated and adequately protected while serving in Japan.

21                   **Special Clauses:**

22                   None

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

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

27                   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, encourages 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.