

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 364

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2004

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security, and for other purposes.

Whereas on November 20, 2003, Congress, recognizing our Nation's historical responsibilities over the Former Trust Territory of the Marshall Islands and its successful transition from Trust Territory status to full independence in free association with the United States beginning in 1986, approved the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act, which was signed into law by President Bush on December 17, 2003, becoming Public Law Number 108–188;

Whereas the Compact of Free Association, as amended by Public Law 108–188, embodies and extends the close political, economic, and social partnership, as well as the strategic mutual security alliance, between the Republic

of the Marshall Islands and the United States under the terms of the bilateral association between our nations;

Whereas this partnership for peace and alliance for the security of our nations and the world began in 1944, when the heroic armed forces of the United States and its allies, with the courageous assistance of the people of the Marshall Islands at the risk of their own safety, liberated the Marshall Islands from Japanese military occupation;

Whereas the friendship and cooperation between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands that began during World War II continued during the next 4 decades, during which the United States exercised powers of government in the Marshall Islands under a Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations;

Whereas during the Marshall Islands trusteeship era the aim of the United States was to promote international peace and security through its nuclear weapons testing program which was viewed as a critical element to the success of United States global leadership during the Cold War;

Whereas the United States testing program conducted in the Marshall Islands and the strategy of nuclear deterrence sustained by the United States and its allies, was carried out in the hope that understanding its destructive power would be the strategy for which we could arm the world with reasons for peace among nations;

Whereas from 1946 to 1958 the United States detonated 67 atmospheric nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands, representing nearly 80 percent of all the atmospheric tests ever conducted by the United States, and enabling atmospheric tests in the continental United States to be

terminated and relocated at the greatest possible distance from large cities and densely populated areas;

Whereas on March 1, 1954, the hydrogen weapons test code-named Bravo yielded explosive power approximately 1,000 times greater than the weapon used in the 1945 wartime nuclear attack on Hiroshima, Japan;

Whereas the Bravo test created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter, and produced a crater 6,000 feet in diameter, vaporizing 6 islands at the Bikini Atoll;

Whereas the Bravo test and the 12 year nuclear testing program has been the defining experience of the modern era for the people of the Marshall Islands, and these momentous events created a common bond between the people of the Marshall Islands and the United States military and civilian personnel who shared hardships and suffering with the people of the Marshall Islands during the testing program, as well as the United States citizens in areas affected by the mainland testing programs and weapons production industry;

Whereas the people of the Marshall Islands, having learned first hand the dangers of nuclear weapons, freely chose in United Nations observed acts of self-determination in 1982 to enter into the Compact of Free Association in order to become a sovereign nation allied more closely with the United States than any other nation under any other alliance;

Whereas from the time of choosing self-determination, the Marshall Islands worked closely with Congress and the executive branch to bring about a strong understanding of the unique relationship between their islands and the other United States insular areas;

Whereas the United States nuclear testing program put the people of these remote islands on the front line in the Cold War struggle to preserve international peace, promote nuclear disarmament, support nuclear nonproliferation, and provide facilities critical to the development by the United States of a deployable missile defense system to reduce the risks of nuclear missile attacks; and

Whereas as a member state in the United Nations, the world body that once had oversight of United States stewardship of the trusteeship for the people of the Marshall Islands and their island homelands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has an unmatched record of working in conjunction with the leadership of the United States in the pursuit of international peace and security, the rights and well-being of the peoples of the world, and in the War on Terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress recognizes as an historic
 3 achievement of friendship more than 5 decades of strategic
 4 partnership between the United States and the people of
 5 the Marshall Islands in pursuit of international peace and
 6 security, and recognizes with solemn regard for the cost
 7 of preserving peace, the importance of the nuclear weapon
 8 test code-named Bravo at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Is-
 9 lands on March 1, 1954.

Passed the House of Representatives March 18,
 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.