

By Mr. COATS:

S. 1904. A bill to implement the Project for American Renewal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 1905. A bill to establish an independent commission to recommend reforms in the laws relating to elections for Federal Office; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1906. A bill to include certain territory within the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HEFLIN:

S. 1902. A bill to provide for the establishment of National Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME
ACT OF 1996

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill which will provide for the establishment of a National Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Commission. This concept grew out of an idea by Dr. Ruben Hanan, who chairs the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Commission, and Dr. Earl Potts.

Each year, the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Commission bestows honor upon living Alabamians in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments, services, and contributions to the lives of older American citizens.

The Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame was created by the Alabama State legislature in 1933, and has been very successful in inducting worthy individuals into the organization. I am delighted that Dr. Hanan and Dr. Potts came up with the idea of establishing a National Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The National Hall of Fame will provide a forum to bestow honor and recognition upon deserving citizens for their outstanding accomplishments, services and contributions to the lives of older American citizens.

Mr. President, the population of older Americans is projected to increase to 35 million by the year 2000. This means that older Americans would constitute 13 percent of the total population. As the national population is projected to exceed 300 million by the year 2000, the senior population would drastically increase with the entry of the baby-boomers in the senior population. Therefore, by the year 2030, the senior population will increase to approximately 70 million.

Mr. President, the older population is growing. If we look back over the last few years, we will notice that in 1993, the age group between 75 and 84 was 10,800,000. This was 14 times larger than in 1900. Every day, more than 5,000 individuals in the United States celebrate their 65th birthday. Their mature judgment, keen insight, historical perspective, perceptive vision, and gifted leadership are invaluable to our Nation.

By establishing a Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, we will have in place an organization that will recognize the contributions made by older American citizens to our Nation. I am delighted that the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Commission, which has contributed greatly to the well being of thousands of Alabamians, will serve as a model for this national entity. In addition, the Alabama Hall of Fame Commission has improved the quality of life of those in need, and many have served in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Finally, a National Senior Citizens Hall of Fame will also honor patriotic Americans for their spirit of loyalty and selfless labor in serving the needs of the people of our Nation.

I urge the entire Congress to join me in the adoption of this important legislation.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 1904. A bill to implement that Project for American Renewal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE PROJECT FOR AMERICAN RENEWAL ACT

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, earlier today I joined with my colleagues from the House, the chairman of the Budget Committee, JOHN KASICH, in reintroducing a program that I have been working on for a long time. It is called the Project For American Renewal.

It attempts to address the question of how we can more effectively provide assistance to people in need, people living in poverty, without resorting to more of the same, which is simply funneling money into Washington, establishing a bureaucracy, and handing out welfare checks to, in many cases, perpetuate a lifestyle and a behavior that is not desirable, not giving us the results we wanted.

A lot of well-intentioned programs have been offered to deal with some of the social problems that exist in our country: teen pregnancy, spousal abuse, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, and on and on it goes. Many of those, as I have said, have been well-intentioned but have simply missed the mark. They have not solved the problem. And, in many cases, they have made it worse.

It seems that the alternative to that that has been discussed in the last year or so is what was called devolution, a word that I hate. I do not know for sure exactly what it means, but I think it means washing our hands of the problem, and let somebody else worry about it.

I do not believe either of those alternatives are acceptable alternatives. I do not believe more of the same or none of the above are the alternatives we ought to be examining. I believe there is a place for our encouragement of hopeful solutions to some of the problems that exist in our society as it affects our families and our children and our neighborhoods and our communities.

The Project for American Renewal is my attempt at addressing those questions, to strengthen families, to encourage communities and to utilize mediating institutions of volunteer associations, of charities, particularly of faith-based charities, to address some of these most pressing problems. Utilization of these institutions, other than Government institutions, means that we can bring to bear not just efforts to meet the material needs of individuals, but also the spiritual needs of individuals. We can bring to bear values that are important in addressing some of these more fundamental problems.

The Project for American Renewal consists of 16 separate pieces of legislation designed to strengthen families, to provide mentors where fathers are not present, to strengthen communities, rebuild communities across America, and to provide effective compassion. The centerpiece of this is the charity tax credit, which will allow a joint-filing couple to contribute up to \$1,000 a year as an offset against their taxes.

Today I joined with Congressman KASICH in announcing how we would pay for this charity tax credit, estimated at \$44.8 billion over a 5-year period of time. We propose that we will ask the Ways and Means and the Finance Committee to designate a third of that amount in corporate loophole closings, corporate welfare.

We think if we are addressing some of the most fundamental problems in America, we ought to look for funding sources to offset the revenue loss from subsidies given to special interests over the years that do not serve as high a national purpose.

We also think it is appropriate to shift some resources from some of the existing Federal social policy programs that have not proven effective. While we do not specify directly what those offsets should be in the corporate welfare area, we do specify offsets of some of the Federal programs that we do not think are as effective as they ought to be.

The goal here is to encourage mediating institutions to play a greater role in addressing some of our more fundamental problems. They can bring hope and a vision of hope that, in many cases, Government is constrained to bring or is unable to bring.

I am today reintroducing this legislation, with the hope that it will continue to be a topic of discussion among our colleagues as to where we go next with some of these great social debates. It is my hope that it can be a very important part of our party's platform, a very important part of the discussion that will take place, as this is a Presidential election year and an election year that will elect or reelect 435 Congressmen and 34 Senators.

It is then, finally, my hope that we can seriously address this issue in the next Congress, make it part of our budget discussion, and examine ways in which we can more effectively provide assistance to those in need.

These programs are directed to those in poverty. The credit is available to those programs either currently existing or which will be constituted as a result of this legislation that devote 75 percent or more of their effort to either preventing or alleviating poverty.

It is a solution that goes beyond Government. It acknowledges the failure of Government, in many instances, to address these problems. It does not offer the total solution, but it offers, I believe, a step in the right direction. I hope it will become an important part of the debate ahead.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 1905. A bill to establish an independent commission to recommend reforms in the laws relating to elections for Federal office; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM COMMISSION
ACT OF 1996

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to continue the debate on the issue which we have voted on today—campaign finance reform. Today the Senate voted on S. 1219, the Senate Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1996. While a majority of the Senate voiced its support for this meaningful legislation, sadly, we did not get the required 60 votes to end the filibuster against the bill.

Mr. President, I supported and cosponsored S. 1219 because I felt it was the best legislation moving through the Congress to reform our campaign finance system. My Wisconsin colleague, Senator FEINGOLD and Senator JOHN MCCAIN deserve our gratitude and praise for keeping this issue alive. It's been nearly 20 years since Congress enacted meaningful campaign finance reform, and they have come closer than anyone at passing a bipartisan plan.

We are, however, at a crossroads in this debate. America's campaign finance laws have not been significantly altered since the 1970's. Since that time we have seen an explosion in the costs of running campaigns and a growing public perception that special interests are far too influential in the electoral process. Despite these widely agreed-upon problems, Congress and the President seem incapable of enacting a campaign finance reform bill.

We have seen initiatives by Democratic and Republican Presidents, Democratic and Republican Congresses, even widely-hailed bipartisan approaches all fail. One can only conclude that this issue is so mired in partisan politics, trapped in a quagmire of self-interest and special interest, that Congress will not be able craft a comprehensive reform bill. S. 1219 was the best legislation to be proposed in two decades, and yet we can not get 60 Senators to support it, and the House of Representatives will not even guarantee the House counterpart legislation will get an up-or-down vote.

Mr. President, after two decades it is time to try a new approach—time for us to embrace a new method for addressing this vital issue.

Therefore, I am introducing today the Campaign Finance Reform Commission Act of 1996. Let me be clear from the outset: I would prefer to pass a bill such as S. 1219. But after today's vote, we must be honest with ourselves and the American public—that is not going to happen.

The Campaign Finance Reform Commission is modeled on the successful Base Realignment and Closure Commissions. The legislation would establish a balanced, bipartisan commission, appointed by Senate leaders, House leaders and the President to propose comprehensive campaign finance reform. Like the BRAC Commissions, the proposals of the Campaign Finance Reform Commission would be subject to congressional approval or disapproval, but no amendments would be permitted. The Commission would have a limited duration—1 year after its creation. And Congress would have a limited time to consider the Commission's proposals.

Mr. President, there are many who will object to this plan and argue that, through the creation of a commission, the Congress is conceding that it cannot solve this problem on its own. To the contrary, the creation of a Campaign Finance Reform Commission would be a concrete sign to the American public that Congress is serious about reforming our election laws. We have seen the success of the BRAC Commissions in removing political influences from the decision-making process. This same formula could be used for our campaign finance reform laws.

When Congress enacted the first BRAC Commission law, it was argued that a non-partisan commission was required because the closure of military bases was so politically sensitive, Congress could not be expected to make the tough choices of closing bases. Well, Mr. President, if closing military bases is considered tough, altering the campaign laws that literally determine whether Members could retain their jobs must be just as politically sensitive, if not more so.

Again, I wish to praise the efforts of Senators FEINGOLD, MCCAIN, and the broad coalition of grassroots organizations which have kept the campaign finance issue in front of the American public and the Congress. We have come so close to enacting real campaign finance reform. The creation of a pure bipartisan commission, modeled on the Base Closure Commission, is final act to achieve the reform we all desire.

Mr. President, like all common sense ideas, this one did not spring from a text book but came from a simpler setting. A year ago President Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich held an historic conversation at a New Hampshire meeting. The first question came from a retiree, Mr. Frank McConnell Jr. Mr. McConnell had a simple, common sense idea—form a commission like the one that closed the military bases to reform our election system,

so, in Mr. McConnell's words, "it would be out of the political scene." The time for Mr. McConnell's idea has come.

I am pleased to put Mr. McConnell's idea into legislative form and urge my colleagues to join me in this effort. This commission could give us the reform we all demand. And, it would give the American public a restored faith that their democratic institutions have responded to their cry for change in our electoral system.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1905

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Campaign Finance Reform Commission Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the "Federal Election Law Reform Commission" (referred to in this Act as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Commission shall be comprised of 8 qualified members, who shall be appointed not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act as follows:

(A) APPOINTMENTS BY MAJORITY LEADER AND SPEAKER.—The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly appoint to the Commission—

(i) 1 member who is a retired Federal judge as of the date on which the appointment is made;

(ii) 1 member who is a former Member of Congress as of the date on which the appointment is made; and

(iii) 1 member who is from the academic community.

(B) APPOINTMENTS BY MINORITY LEADERS.—The Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall jointly appoint to the Commission—

(i) 1 member who is a retired Federal judge as of the date on which the appointment is made; and

(ii) 1 member who is a former Member of Congress as of the date on which the appointment is made.

(C) APPOINTMENT BY PRESIDENT.—The President shall appoint to the Commission 1 member who is from the academic community.

(D) APPOINTMENTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS.—The members appointed under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) shall jointly appoint 2 members to the Commission, neither of whom shall have held any elected or appointed public or political party office, including any position with an election campaign for Federal office, during the 15 years preceding the date on which the appointment is made.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person shall not be qualified for an appointment under this subsection if that person, during the 10-year period preceding the date on which the appointment is made—

(i) held a position under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations;

(ii) was an employee of the legislative branch of the Federal Government, not including any service as a Member of Congress; or

(iii) was required to register under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or derived a significant income from influencing, or attempting to influence, members or employees of the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government.

(B) PARTY AFFILIATIONS.—Not more than 3 members of the Commission shall be members of, or associated with, the same political party (as that term is defined in section 301(16) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431(16))).

(3) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the Commission shall designate a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the membership of the Commission. The chairperson shall be from a political party other than the political party of the vice chairperson.

(4) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 60 days after appointment to the Commission, each member of the Commission shall file with the Secretary of the Senate, the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Federal Election Commission a report containing the information contained in section 102 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(6) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall terminate 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) POWERS.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(D) PAY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(1) MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission, other than the Chairperson, shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Commission.

(2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson shall be paid for each day referred to in paragraph (1) at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay payable for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

(E) STAFF.—

(1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director of the Commission, who shall be paid at the rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) OTHER PERSONNEL.—(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the executive director may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and fix the pay of such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties.

(B) The pay of any individual appointed under this paragraph shall be not more than the maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(f) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(1) identify the appropriate goals and values for Federal campaign finance laws;

(2) evaluate the extent to which the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) has promoted or hindered the attainment of the goals identified under paragraph (1); and

(3) make recommendations to the Congress for the achievement of those goals, taking into consideration the impact of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making recommendations under subsection (a)(3), the Commission shall consider with respect to Federal election campaigns—

(1) whether campaign spending levels should be limited, and, if so, to what extent;

(2) the role of interest groups and whether that role should be limited or regulated;

(3) the role of other funding sources, including political parties, candidates, individuals from inside and outside the State in which the contribution is made;

(4) public financing and benefits; and

(5) problems in existing campaign finance law, such as soft money, bundling, and independent expenditures.

(c) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Congress—

(1) a report on the activities of the Commission; and

(2) a draft of legislation (including technical and conforming provisions) recommended by the Commission to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) and any other law relating to elections for Federal office.

SEC. 4. FAST-TRACK PROCEDURES.

(a) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This section is enacted by the Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such it shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which it specifically applies, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term "Federal election bill" means only a bill of either House of the Congress which is introduced as provided in subsection (c) to carry out the recommendations of the Commission as set forth in the draft legislation referred to in section 5.

(c) INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL.—Not later than 3 days after the Commission submits its draft legislation under section 5, a Federal election bill shall be introduced (by request) in the House of Representatives by the Majority Leader of the House and shall be introduced (by request) in the Senate by the Majority Leader of the Senate. Such bills shall be referred to the appropriate committees.

(d) AMENDMENTS PROHIBITED.—No amendment to a Federal election bill shall be in order in either the House of Representatives or the Senate; and no motion to suspend the application of this subsection shall be in order in either House; nor shall it be in order in either House to entertain a request to suspend the application of this subsection by unanimous consent.

(e) PERIOD FOR COMMITTEE AND FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—(1) If the committee of either House to which a Federal election bill has been referred has not reported it at the close of the 30th day after its introduction, such committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the bill and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. If prior to the passage by one House of a Federal election bill of that House, that House receives the same Federal election bill from the other House, then—

(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no Federal election bill had been received from the other House; but

(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the Federal election bill of the other House.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in computing a number of days in either House, there shall be excluded the days on which that House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain or an adjournment of the Congress sine die.

(f) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE.—(1) A motion in the House of Representatives to proceed to the consideration of a Federal election bill shall be highly privileged except that a motion to proceed to consider may only be made on the second legislative day after the calendar day on which the Member making the motion announces to the House his intention to do so. The motion to proceed to consider is not debatable. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to.

(2) Consideration of a Federal election bill in the House of Representatives shall be in the House with debate limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the bill. The previous question on the Federal election bill shall be considered as ordered to final passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which a Federal election bill is agreed to or disagreed to.

(3) All appeals from the decisions of the Chairperson relating to the application of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the procedure relating to a Federal election bill shall be decided without debate.

(g) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(1) A motion in the Senate to proceed to the consideration of a Federal election bill shall be privileged and not debatable. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to.

(2) Debate in the Senate on a Federal election bill, and all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours. The time shall be equally divided between, and controlled by, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees.

(3) Debate in the Senate on any debatable motion or appeal in connection with a Federal election bill shall be limited to not more than 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the mover and the manager of the bill, except that in the event the manager of the bill is in favor of any such motion or appeal, the time in opposition thereto, shall be controlled by the Minority Leader or a designee of the Minority Leader. Such leaders, or either of them, may, from time under their control on the passage of a Federal election bill, allot additional time to any Senator during the consideration of any debatable motion or appeal.

(4) A motion in the Senate to further limit debate is not debatable. A motion to recommend a Federal election bill is not in order.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as are necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1906. A bill to include certain territory with the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE INSULAR AREAS CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, with Senator INOUE as a cosponsor, I am introducing legislation to give the State of Hawaii a greater say over proposals to develop seven U.S. possessions in the Pacific which are currently not affiliated with any U.S. State or territory. These islands are Baker Island, Jarvis Island, Howland Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Island, and Palmyra Atoll. My legislation would transfer jurisdiction, but not title, of these areas to the State of Hawaii.

Proposals to consolidate these Pacific islands into the State of Hawaii's jurisdiction have surfaced before. Last year, Congressman ELTON GALLEGLY introduced a nearly identical bill in the House and a hearing was held on the measure by the Subcommittee on Native American and Insular Affairs on January 31, 1995. The Clinton Administration supported the proposal, as did Hawaii's State Senate. At the time of its introduction, however, there were many people in the State of Hawaii who wanted to know more about the potential benefits and liabilities that would accrue to the State should jurisdiction be transferred under the Gallegly bill. As a consequence, Hawaii's Gov. Benjamin Cayetano convened a task force headed by the Office of State Planning and the Pacific Basin Development Council to review the implications of the proposal.

My reason for reviving this legislation is that recent proposals to develop these islands have greatly alarmed the people of Hawaii and the Pacific. In blatant disregard for the welfare of

people residing in the mid-Pacific region, a group of developers and financiers have announced a proposal to store high-level nuclear fuel on Palmyra Atoll, a privately owned U.S. possession located 1,000 miles from Hawaii. This action occurred after the group failed to secure Midway Island for their joint venture. On June 13, I introduced legislation to prohibit an interim or permanent nuclear storage facility on any U.S. possession outside of the 50 States, including Palmyra. However, I believe that the developers of Palmyra have forced us to consider a much broader issue; that is, how can we give the people of Hawaii a greater say in what goes on in our own backyard? While the cold war has ended, the threat of storing nuclear waste in isolated Pacific islands is just as alarming to the people of Hawaii. Instead of the tropical Pacific, nuclear entrepreneurs in search of a Pacific island for storing high-level waste would turn our region into the toxic Pacific.

The legislation I introduce today will give the people of Hawaii the opportunity to respond, at the local level, to efforts to store nuclear waste on Palmyra or any of these U.S. possessions. At the moment, Hawaii residents are effectively precluded from decisions on issues confronting these islands, despite the fact that some of these islands are geographically part of the Hawaiian islands and have historical, political, or cultural links to Hawaii. Through the transfer of jurisdiction to the State of Hawaii, the Governor of Hawaii, the State legislature, and the residents of Hawaii can have a real voice in determining the future of these islands.

Five of the islands under my bill—Baker Island, Jarvis Island, Howland Island, Kingman Reef, and Palmyra Atoll—are uninhabited U.S. possessions, though Palmyra is privately owned. The other two islands—Johnston Atoll and Midway Island—fall under Department of Defense jurisdiction. Five of the islands, excluding Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef, are national wildlife refuges.

Midway Island has been managed as an overlay national wildlife refuge since 1988 when the U.S. Navy signed a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Most recently, on May 22, 1996, the Navy transferred custody of and accountability for Midway to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Johnston Atoll is currently being used by the U.S. Army for the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System. There are about 960 civilian and 250 military personnel working on the island. Most recently, the Army testified that it expects to complete the destruction of chemical weapons by the year 2000. This is welcome news to all of us in the Pacific.

Mr. President, to ensure that U.S. national security interests are not jeopardized, my bill would allow the United States to maintain its current defense operations and needs.

In summary, Mr. President, the State of Hawaii has more at stake in what happens in the Pacific than any other State in the Union. The legislation I introduce today preserves U.S. interests in the Pacific while ensuring that the State of Hawaii has a clear voice over decisions that affect the region.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 704

At the request of Mr. SIMON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to establish the Gambling Impact Study Commission.

S. 794

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 794, a bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to facilitate the minor use of a pesticide, and for other purposes.

S. 949

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington.

S. 1199

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit tax-exempt financing of certain transportation facilities.

S. 1400

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue guidance as to the application of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to insurance company general accounts.

S. 1734

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1734, a bill to prohibit false statements to Congress, to clarify congressional authority to obtain truthful testimony, and for other purposes.

S. 1743

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1743, a bill to provide temporary emergency livestock feed assistance for certain producers, and for other purposes.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to permit duty free treatment for certain structures, parts, and components used in the Gemini Telescope Project.