

adopting progressive energy policies that promote the use of clean energy technologies such as wind, solar, wave, and biomass energy; and

Whereas, Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, placed a binding statewide cap on Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions by requiring Hawaii to reduce its non-aviation greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels before 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, That in recognition of Hawaii's overwhelming vulnerability to global climate change, the President of the United States is urged to use the January 30 and 31, 2008, Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change, which is being hosted in Hawaii, to commit to an economy-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the United States is urged to consent to binding and quantified commitments for the United States under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that would result in the rapid stabilization and decrease in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

POM-290. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the Congress to establish stricter standards for the drug approval process; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134

Whereas, Americans are justifiably concerned about the safety and efficacy of the drugs and medications they take. In recent years, the FDA has received consumer reports of safety concerns and harmful side effects after the use of drugs approved by the FDA. In some cases, the FDA or manufacturer response to these reports has not been timely and consumers continue to risk harm; and

Whereas, The FDA is responsible for protecting public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation. Accountability rests with the FDA to require stringent testing and trials before a drug can be approved for marketing; and

Whereas, Incidents of harmful side effects raised concerns that the FDA post-marketing monitoring needs strengthening. Although American drugs are arguably the safest in the world, allegations of detrimental consequences from FDA-approved drugs show that there is room for improvement. Stricter standards for the FDA's investigation and response to consumer reports of harmful side effects should be established to enhance the safety of drugs approved by the FDA and on the market. The FDA must immediately investigate consumer reports of harmful side effects and act quickly to protect the public. In this way, Michigan's tort law and strict FDA standards will ensure that Michigan residents can have confidence in the drugs and medications they take; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the United States Congress and United States Food and Drug Administration to establish stricter standards for the drug approval process; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 602. A bill to develop the next generation of parental control technology (Rept. No. 110-268).

S. 1578. A bill to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-269).

S. 1889. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve railroad safety by reducing accidents and to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-270).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2683. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify certain authorities relating to educational assistance benefits for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2684. A bill to reform the housing choice voucher program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2685. A bill to prohibit cigarette manufacturers from making claims or representations based on data derived from the cigarette testing method established by the Federal Trade Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2686. A bill to ensure that all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users as well as children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, are able to travel safely and conveniently on streets and highways; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2687. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance beneficiary protections under parts C and D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 468. A resolution designating April 2008 as "National 9-1-1 Education Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1430

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1430, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1459, a bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, study access to and quality of care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for

Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1763

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era.

S. 1818

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1818, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to phase out the use of mercury in the manufacture of chlorine and caustic soda, and for other purposes.

S. 2064

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2064, a bill to fund comprehensive programs to ensure an adequate supply of nurses.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 2170

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2170, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of qualified restaurant property as 15-year property for purposes of the depreciation deduction.

S. 2237

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2237, a bill to fight crime.

S. 2291

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2291, a bill to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style of Government documents issued to the public, and for other purposes.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2344, a bill to create a competitive grant program to provide for age-appropriate Internet education for children.

S. 2368

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2368, a bill to provide immigration reform by securing America's borders, clarifying and enforcing existing laws, and enabling a practical employer verification program.

S. 2390

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2390, a bill to promote fire-safe communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2485

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2485, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2559

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2559, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase the level of earnings under which no individual who is blind is determined to have demonstrated an ability to engage in substantial gainful activity for purposes of determining disability.

S. 2565

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2565, a bill to establish an awards mechanism to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by Federal law enforcement officers.

S. 2586

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2586, a bill to provide States with fiscal relief through a temporary increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage and direct payments to States.

S. 2614

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2614, a bill to facilitate the development, demonstration, and implementation of technology for the use in removing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

S. 2654

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2654, a bill to provide for enhanced reimbursement of servicemembers and veterans for certain travel expenses.

S. 2663

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2663, a bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of non-compliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2666

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2666, a bill to amend

the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage investment in affordable housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2678

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2678, a bill to clarify the law and ensure that children born to United States citizens while serving overseas in the military are eligible to become President.

S. RES. 455

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 455, a resolution calling for peace in Darfur.

S. RES. 465

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 465, a resolution designating March 3, 2008, as "Read Across America Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2683. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify certain authorities relating to educational assistance benefits for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am introducing today the proposed GI Bill Miscellaneous Improvements Act of 2008. This measure would make three minor but important changes in existing law relating to veterans' educational assistance programs.

In 2001, Public Law 107-103 established a program of accelerated payments for individuals enrolled in high-cost programs of educational assistance leading to employment in high technology industry. It is generally agreed that the intent of that legislation was that payments were to be effective with respect to short, non-degree programs of education. For example, Senate Report 107-86 stated:

Microsoft, Cisco, and other technical training for certification is offered through training centers, private contractors to community colleges, or by the companies themselves. These courses often last just a few weeks or months, and can cost many thousands of dollars . . .

During the Committee's June 28th hearing, Dr. Leo Mackay, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, testified that "providing educational benefits for pursuit of these [technology] courses is fully