

Requires attorneys, public and private agencies to provide detailed information to American Indian and Alaska Native parents of their rights under ICWA.

Limits parents' rights to withdraw consent to an adoption to 6 months after relinquishment of the child or 30 days after the filing of an adoption petition, whichever is later.

Clarifies tribal jurisdiction in Alaska.

Facilitates the ability of tribes without reservations, including tribes in Alaska and Oklahoma or with disestablished reservations, to assume jurisdiction over child custody proceedings.

Narrows the grounds upon which state courts can refuse to transfer cases to tribal courts.

Clarifies tribal court authority over children transferred to tribal court jurisdiction.

Defines the circumstances under which state ICWA violations may be reviewed by federal courts and provides for federal review of state ICWA compliance.

Provides for criminal sanctions for anyone who assists a person to lie about their American Indian and Alaska Native ancestry for the purpose of avoiding application of the ICWA.

Allows state courts to enter enforceable orders providing for visitation or contact between tribes, natural parents, extended family and an adopted child.

Extends ICWA (in some cases) to cover children of state recognized and Canadian Indian tribes, and children who reside or are domiciled on a reservation and are the child of a member, but who are not eligible for tribal membership.

Makes it easier to American Indian and Alaska Native adoptees to gain access to their birth records.

Establishes that foster and adoptive homes licensed or approved by American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in compliance with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act shall satisfy the requirements for foster and adoptive home licensing under any other federal law.

Clarifies that the terms of tribal-state agreements regarding the care and custody of and jurisdiction over American Indian and Alaska Native children shall be controlling even when another federal law may have different requirements.

On this 25th anniversary of the ICWA, I urge my colleagues to take another historic step and enact H.R. 2750. Enactment would assure that on ICWA's 50th anniversary, American Indian and Alaska Native families are strong, their children are healthy and their communities are thriving. For the betterment of our Nation and all of its people, our legacy should be no less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 602 and 603, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING ROHAN SINGH AS STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special young man from my district, Mr. Rohan Singh.

It is my pleasure to announce that Rohan has been named Junior Achievement's 2003 Student Entrepreneur of the Year.

Last year, Rohan used just \$60 to establish FuzzelFish.com, which sells software products over the internet. Today, Rohan has a thriving small business and I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate him and wish him luck with his business and his studies.

I recently had the chance to meet Rohan in my Washington, DC office. Let me tell you, he is an intelligent and upstanding young man who, I'm sure, will have a very bright and productive future.

I also rise today to say that I am encouraged to see that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well among teens in the United States. According to a recent poll by Junior Achievement and Harris Interactive, more teens believe that "owning your own business" provides greater job security than "working for a company." This, Mr. Speaker, is good news for the future of this great nation.

In closing, I want to say again how proud I am of Rohan Singh and believe that his story should be an example to all young people that everyone can and should play a part in the American Dream.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE YVONNE SCARLETT-GOLDEN ON HER ELECTION AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege and pleasure to rise today to congratulate The Honorable Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, a dear personal and family friend, a mentor, and the newly elected Mayor of the City of Daytona Beach.

Yesterday, November 4, 2003, Commissioner Scarlett-Golden became Daytona Beach's first black mayor and only the second woman in history to hold that position.

Her elevation to the office of Mayor is a natural next step for a native of Daytona Beach who has devoted her entire life to public service. Commissioner Scarlett-Golden wants to build on Daytona Beach's existing assets: sun and fun and families. She is just the person to do it, for her energy and hard work are legendary.

Yvonne Scarlett-Golden is an educator and a community servant. She received her bachelor's degree and an Honorary Doctor of Law from Bethune-Cookman College, and earned her master's degree from Boston University. Before running for Mayor, she was a school administrator for twenty-five years and served

as a city commissioner from the west side of Daytona Beach for seven years.

Experienced, fair, knowledgeable and firmly committed to public service, Yvonne Scarlett-Golden's priority is to unite the City and improve the quality of life for every citizen, return fiscal responsibility to government, focus on economic development and establish strong public and private partnerships for City programs.

Commissioner Scarlett-Golden has been honored as a role model to African Americans and women all over the nation. I know that all my colleagues join with me in congratulating her today and wishing her every success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BROWN TREE SNAKE CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, roughly a half-century ago my home island of Guam was invaded by an unwelcome alien pest. Believed to have arrived on Guam as a passive stow-away in a military cargo ship shortly after World War II, the brown tree snake has kept our island's native wild life under siege ever since and has emerged to become the single greatest threat to Guam's natural environment.

Today, I am introducing legislation along with my colleagues from Hawaii, Mr. CASE and Mr. ABERCROMBIE, to combat the brown tree snake by increasing authorized funding levels for research, control and prevention of the spread of this species with the ultimate goal of eradication in Guam. In doing so, the legislation aims to improve the coordination among Federal agencies and other institutions in dealing with the problems brought about by the brown tree snake.

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, which established a Federal program to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species, included an authorization for programmatic efforts to combat the brown tree snake as well. Since then the Federal Government has gradually increased efforts to prevent the brown tree snake from departing Guam and to reduce the population of the brown tree snake in certain targeted areas in Guam. Our legislation would enhance these efforts by improving the coordination and consistency of actions undertaken by Federal agencies and by providing an adequate authorized funding schedule to achieve the goal of eradication. Our legislation clarifies the responsibility for funding brown tree snake programs and places that responsibility in the appropriate Federal agencies. In the past the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has had to contribute funds meant for territorial technical assistance to the brown tree snake program in order to make up for shortfalls in other Federal agencies' budgets. While we appreciate the Office of Insular Affairs' efforts in the past, it is preferable to secure funding from those with direct responsibility and expertise for these issues.

Since 1993, Congress has attempted to address the brown tree snake problem, but I

would contend, by indirect and inconsistent means. Currently, Federal funding to fight the brown tree snake has remained stagnant over the past decade and has been realized, in addition to the contributions from the Office of Insular Affairs, through the efforts of a Senate Appropriations \$1 million annual earmark in the Department of Defense Operations and Maintenance account for the Defense Health Services. These funds have been the basis for the progress made to date, but these appropriations funds are not specifically authorized, which has caused difficulty in securing the appropriation each year. In addition, as an earmark, these efforts have been misinterpreted by interest groups opposed to such earmarks and has at times been characterized as "pork" spending.

If we do not adequately address these funding shortfalls, significant brown tree snake containment efforts may fail resulting in the spread of a very aggressive invasive species to other areas of the United States. The brown tree snake has caused severe environmental damage on Guam, and our experience has been that once introduced, this species is extremely difficult to eradicate. The environmental cost in protecting other species in other areas that may become endangered by this alien predator is enormous, thus making the prevention of the spread of the brown tree snake an economic issue. This is a clear example of a situation where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

This bill is also notable for its emphasis on control and eradication. Guam has had the unfortunate experience of having the brown tree snake threaten the extinction of our own indigenous species of birds.

I look forward to moving this bill through the legislative process. I thank my colleagues from Hawaii, Mr. CASE and Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for their diligent work in crafting this legislation with me. I also wish to commend stakeholders in Guam and Hawaii, including the Government of Guam's Department of Agriculture, for their valuable input. I urge my colleagues to support the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act.

CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACT
OF 2003

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with my colleague from Guam, Congresswoman MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, and Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE from Hawaii, to introduce the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2003.

This legislation proposes a long-overdue comprehensive approach, through the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, to eradicate the brown tree snake in Guam and to prevent its introduction to affected jurisdictions in the Pacific, including my home state of Hawaii.

The devastating ecological, economic, and human health impacts of the brown tree snake have been long known among the affected jurisdictions in the Pacific and the federal, state, and territorial agencies charged with implementing brown tree snake preventative control programs.

However, it is clear that unless we address this challenge with a long-term, coordinated, and comprehensive approach, Guam will continue to struggle with the adverse impacts of the brown tree snake, and we in Hawaii will increasingly risk the introduction of the snake into our fragile environment. A total of eight brown tree snakes have been found live or dead in Hawaii since the mid-1980s. All have been associated with the movement of civilian and military vehicles or cargo from Guam.

As background, the brown tree snake was accidentally introduced into Guam in the late 1940s and 1950s, likely via U.S. military cargo, from an area in the Pacific where the snakes are native. Unfortunately, because Guam had no natural predator but abundant prey, the brown tree snake population spread throughout the island.

Because the brown tree snake's preferred prey is birds, it is directly responsible for the extinction of 9 of 13 native forest birds and 3 of 12 native lizards on Guam. Economically, the snakes have caused more than 1600 power outages over a 20-year period in Guam, costing the island \$4.5 million per year without considering their impact on transformers, and damages inside electrical substations. The disruptions affect all aspects of everyday life in homes and work, as well as for the government and the business community.

In Hawaii, the brown tree snake represents one of the greatest terrestrial ecological threats due to its potential impact on our endangered bird species, which are found nowhere else on earth. As a result of Hawaii's geographical isolation and lush environment, there were more than 140 endemic bird species in the islands prior to human contact. Today, among the remaining 71 endemic forms, 30 are federally listed as endangered, and fifteen of these are on the brink of extinction. Any negative impact on our native bird species in Hawaii will inevitably impact our native flora as well. Hawaii has the highest known number of endemic terrestrial plants of any major island group.

Economically, a University of Hawaii study estimates that the introduction of the brown tree snake to Hawaii will cause between \$28 million and \$450 million annually in electrical power outages. This does not include the potential devastation to our agriculture industry. In Guam, the brown tree snake has contributed to the decline in production of the island's agriculture industry, particularly the commercial poultry industry, because the snakes eat eggs and chicks. The snake has also impacted the growing of fruits and vegetables because insects that are no longer naturally controlled by birds and lizards inflict increased damage on crops.

To address the brown tree snake problem, a Brown Tree Snake Control Committee was established subsequent to provisions in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. A multi-agency Memorandum of Agreement on Brown Tree Snake Control was also signed in 1992 and renewed in 1999. However, it expires in March 2004.

The Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2003 will statutorily authorize the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Committee to ensure the ongoing activities of federal agencies, enhance the effectiveness of the present Committee, provide the necessary

resources from agencies actually conducting the work, and strengthen the coordination between federal and regional stakeholders in Hawaii and the Pacific in a more systemic fashion.

Among the authorized activities is the expansion of science-based eradication and control programs in Guam; the expansion of inter-agency and intergovernmental rapid response teams in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawaii; the expansion of science-based efforts to protect and restore native wildlife in Guam or elsewhere damaged by the brown tree snake; continuation and expansion of sustained research funding from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, and National Wildlife Research Center; and the expansion of long-term research into chemical and biological control techniques that could lead to large-scale reduction of brown tree snake populations in Guam.

This legislation is a product of collaboration between my office, the offices of Congresswoman BORDALLO and Congressman ABERCROMBIE, the Nature Conservancy in Hawaii, and other key federal, state, and territorial stakeholders in the region.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this vital issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, and 591. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 569 and 570. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 571, 572, 573, and 591.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict, I was unable to be in Washington during rollcall votes 616–619. Had I been here I would have voted "no" for rollcall vote 616, "aye" for rollcall vote 617 and "no" for rollcall votes 618–619.

TRIBUTE TO SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY ON THE OC-
CASION OF ITS FORTIETH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the mission and accomplishments of Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw County, Michigan as it celebrates forty years of educating students for a modern world.