

and professional opportunities. Reno-Tahoe also offers a wonderful quality of life and some of the finest recreational opportunities in the Nation.

Despite the overall growth and undeniable lures to the region, it has not succeeded as well in attracting and retaining young professionals, a demographic critical to its continued and future economic growth. To address this issue, the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, EDawn—through the leadership of Chuck Alvey, Michael Thomas, and consultant Stacey Crowley—wisely recognized the need to provide young local professionals with an opportunity to meaningfully engage with regional business and community leaders and participate in directing the region's future.

Toward that end, EDawn launched the RTYPN, an organization designed to teach valuable skills, provide networking and leadership opportunities and participate in the regional discussion about how to capitalize on the region's assets to grow a better community and economy for the future. With the partnership of organizations such as EDawn and the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, the creation of RTYPN shows the vision and resourcefulness of the Reno-Tahoe community and I am eager to learn of RTYPN's future successes.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, on January 17, 2007, Senator INOUE and I introduced S. 310, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 to extend the Federal policy of self-governance and self-determination to Hawaii's indigenous people. This measure is of critical importance to the people of Hawaii. It would, at long last, clarify the existing legal and political relationship of Native Hawaiians with the United States, allowing for the formation of a government-to-government relationship.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am very well aware of the support of the Senator from Hawaii for this measure and his determination to see it enacted. As a result of the hard work by Senator AKAKA as well as his colleague, Senator INOUE, on behalf of this legislation, every Member of this body should know how important this bill is to the people of Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. I thank the Senator for his recognition of our continuing perseverance and unwavering resolve to move this measure forward. At its core, S. 310 is about equity. It is about establishing parity in the Federal policies towards Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Our U.S. Constitution is clear in the means by which it addresses the status of the indigenous, native people of this land. It is a status based not on consideration of race or ethnicity, but rather on the political relationship that existed between the United States and the native

people who occupied and exercised sovereignty over lands that later became part of the United States.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, the senior Senator from Hawaii is absolutely correct, and I appreciate both his comments and that of our majority leader about my efforts to date. I first introduced this bill, together with the members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, in 1999. And, I have introduced a similar bill every Congress. In each Congress, the bill has been favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and its companion measure has been favorably reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources.

During the 109th Congress, Senator INOUE and I were successful in filing a cloture motion to proceed to the bill. This procedural action required 60 votes to bring the bill, S. 147, to the Senate floor for a full debate and vote. Falling four votes short of the required 60 votes, cloture was not invoked. As a result, the Senate has not yet voted on the substance and merits of this bill. In fact, the cloture vote demonstrated that if the measure was considered on an up-or-down vote, the votes are here to pass it by a simple majority.

Senator INOUE and I are currently working to have S. 310 considered by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee in the near future, and brought to the Senate floor shortly thereafter. In the U.S. House of Representatives, the companion measure, H.R. 505, was scheduled for markup by the House Natural Resources Committee, but Hawaii Congressman ABERCROMBIE was not able to be present. At Congressman ABERCROMBIE's request, H.R. 505 is being rescheduled for committee consideration shortly.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through his position on the Indian Affairs Committee, the senior Senator from Hawaii has demonstrated leadership on and knowledge of Indian issues. He has been second to no Member in this body with his empathetic advocacy for fair and equitable treatment of Native Americans. I can clearly understand what drives both Hawaii Senators to secure some measure of fairness and self-determination for the indigenous people of their beautiful home State. Senator AKAKA's description of events here in the Senate culminating with a failed cloture vote was accurate.

However, I want to be very clear to every Member of this body: As a Senator from Nevada, I strongly support S. 310. As majority leader, I am committed to ensuring Senate consideration of S. 310 and will work with the Senators from Hawaii to gain the support of members from both sides of the aisle. This is my commitment to the gentlemen from Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. We thank you, the leader. Native Hawaiian programs and institutions continue to be under attack in the courts. Hence, there is an urgency to act and to clarify that the status of Native Hawaiians is a polit-

ical question best left to the political arena, namely the Congress, to resolve.

Mr. AKAKA. I deeply appreciate the leader's commitment and support. Hawaii is the only homeland of the Native Hawaiian people, and I remain committed to empowering the people of Hawaii and our Nation to preserve a Hawaii that respects Native Hawaiians and the contributions made by those who have made Hawaii their home.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I voted against the budget resolution for the 2008 fiscal year because it contained record-breaking tax increases on hard-working American families in a time when we should be putting more money back into the pockets of taxpayers, not taking it out. This year's budget resolution is historical because it proposes the largest tax increase ever—\$916 billion in tax increases on the backs of the American people. This is almost four times the amount of the second largest tax hike in history, \$240 billion proposed in 1993. By letting progrowth tax policies expire, this resolution reaches deep into the pockets of hard-working families and seeks to reduce the take-home pay of a family of four earning \$50,000 by as much as 6 percent.

Additionally, this budget ignores the concerns of future generations. Proposed tax hikes would slow the economy, and stifle investment and job creation. Since 2003, over 7 million new jobs have been created. The U.S. economy is experiencing 5 uninterrupted years of growth, and since the tax cuts of 2003, the rate of economic growth has more than doubled. Tax increases move us in the wrong direction and that is why I am opposing this budget resolution—because it is wrong for the economy, wrong for hard-working families, and wrong for America.

Despite the inclusion of funding for several essential programs in this budget resolution, it is imperative that we realize the effect of this proposal as a whole. When we examine closely the entire package, it is clear that the tax increases on Americans included in this budget will serve to stunt our continued economic growth. Therefore, I opposed this budget resolution. We simply cannot afford to appease short-term priorities at the expense of long-term stability and prosperity. The success of our economy depends on and demands from us fair tax policies which enable hard-working Americans to prosper, leading us as a country to fiscal stability.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT WAYNE R. CORNELL

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Army SGT Wayne R. Cornell of Holstein, NE.

Sergeant Cornell will be remembered as a dedicated husband and father.