

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH MAUI COASTAL PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the North Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2007, a bill directing the National Park Service to study the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands along the northern coast of Maui, between Sprecklesville and Paia, as a unit of the National Park System.

The citizens of Maui strongly support preservation of this coast, which provides important open space and public beach areas. Thousands of post cards in support of creating a national park or national seashore along this coast have been sent to me and to my predecessor.

This beautiful coastline is under significant development pressure. Its closeness to major population centers in Maui and its popularity with both visitors and residents makes protecting access a major concern.

Supporters of this park have asked that it be named after Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, a native of Maui who grew up in the Hamakua Piko/Paia area. While this bill, which authorizes a study, does not direct what the prospective national park would be named, I would certainly support naming it after Patsy Mink, whose commitment to the people of the island and state was without question.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING D/FW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S "WELCOME HOME A HERO" PROGRAM

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer some well-deserved thanks to those involved in the "Welcome Home a Hero" program. These patriotic ambassadors of good will volunteer at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport to welcome home the brave service men and women who protect America abroad.

As I travel through my district, constituents ask me what they can do to show appreciation for the service and sacrifices of our military. "Welcome Home a Hero" volunteers at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport are great examples of how to give back to the community and help our soldiers start their 2 weeks of rest and recuperation at home on a high note. Because of the compassion and good cheer of "Welcome Home a Hero" volunteers, our troops know that a grateful nation honors their service and respects their sacrifice. You can't put a price on that.

On June 12, as the Defense Department marks the return of the 500,000th soldier home for R&R, it is fitting that D/FW International Airport has been selected to host this celebration, precisely because of the success of the "Welcome Home a Hero" program and

the outpouring of support that Texans have shown for our men and women in uniform.

I salute our soldiers, their families, and the great Americans who have volunteered to honor them. Thank you for your dedicated service to country.

10,000 TRAINED BY 2010 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1467 the "10,000 Trained by 2010 Act". This legislation would authorize the appropriation of about \$100 million over the 2008–2011 period for the National Science Foundation to award grants to institutions of higher education for research on innovative approaches to enhancing healthcare informatics through hardware and software solutions, as well as to conduct basic research and improve undergraduate and graduate education in the study of information systems. Higher education facilities would also be able to establish multidisciplinary centers for Health and Medical Informatics Research Centers.

These research centers would be designed to train qualified healthcare personnel and professionals, as well as physicians, nurses, information technology specialists, medical administrators and social scientist.

Ciborra (2002) defines the study of information systems as the study that "deals with the deployment of information technology in organizations, institutions, and society at large." Today, information and information technology have become the fifth major resource available to executives for shaping an organization, alongside people, money, material and machines

One of the benefits of H.R. 1467 the "10,000 Trained by 2010 Act" is that we will be able to stay "up to date" with other countries and their technology.

Most businesses have shifted from being product oriented to knowledge oriented. This means that employers are now looking for people who can compete in innovative, and knowledge oriented businesses, rather than product oriented business. By funding this Act, we are giving our youth a better knowledge about the field of information systems so that they can have a greater chance on jobs and other opportunities in our country, rather than the employer having to go to foreign nations to look for help. We are also increasing the amount of resources that we have available here in the United States.

We should make a conscious effort to get as many of our minority students and women into the information systems career field as possible. Although this is a highly populated field, there are not very many minorities holding these positions. It is not because they are incapable or lack the drive and determination to get the job done, but simply because they are not very educated about the options and possibilities that are out there.

MENTORING AMERICA'S CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation strengthening the link between high-quality mentoring and public education in the United States.

The Mentoring America's Children Act of 2007 will improve upon the current efforts to match high-quality and responsible mentors with children in need of a strong role model.

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Education began granting funding directly to community organizations and schools to establish or expand mentoring opportunities. Since then, over \$200 million has been allocated contributing to a 20 percent increase in the number of children benefiting from a mentor.

The Mentoring America's Children Act sets out to expand and build upon this success. By increasing the availability and quality of the grants available through the Department of Education, the mentoring program will reach more children in need while enhancing quality.

The bill will also tie mentoring programs funding more closely with the important role mentors can play in improving a young person's academic standing and the learning environment. The legislation would broaden the reach of mentoring to include a number of specific populations of young people who could benefit from a strong role model.

Finally, the legislation also authorizes the Department of Education to conduct high-quality research into successful school-based mentoring programs. Through this research, plus improved data collection and tracking, we will better understand the impact of mentoring and can continue to refine program practices to best meet the needs of children.

Mentoring is a critical element in a child's social, cognitive and emotional development. When it comes to education, a healthy relationship with a mentor plays a key role in improving the learning environment for a young person. Students with a responsible mentor have better attendance and are more connected to their school, schoolwork, and teachers. They perform better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to higher education.

It is an honor to introduce this legislation with a number of my colleagues on the House Mentoring Caucus and others dedicated to the noble cause of mentoring. It was also an honor to work directly with the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the National Collaboration for Youth to develop this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge consideration of this legislation.

RECOGNIZING NINA TINARI

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Nina Tinari, who was recently