

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by my colleague Congresswoman COLLEEN HANABUSA that would restore funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program.

The Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant is an authorized program under title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act.

The block grant is used to carry out affordable housing activities for Native Hawaiian families who are eligible to reside on Hawaiian Home Lands, which were established in trust by the United States under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920.

In 1903, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole was elected to serve as Hawaii's delegate to Congress. One of his most notable achievements was the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, which set aside some 200,000 acres of land for Native Hawaiians. The reason for the legislation was the landless status of so many Native Hawaiians, who were displaced by newcomers to the islands and became the most disadvantaged population in their native land. Congress passed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, which is still in force, in recognition of its responsibility toward Native Hawaiians.

As with other indigenous people, Native Hawaiian views on land tenure were different from that of the newcomers, resulting in loss of much of the land that had been traditionally occupied and cultivated by Native Hawaiians to these newcomers.

Despite the good intentions of the Congress and the State of Hawaii, progress in meeting the goal of delivering land to native Hawaiians was slow. Most of the Hawaiian Homelands were located in areas far from jobs and infrastructure like roads and utilities, were non-existent. There are currently 23,000 native Hawaiians on the waiting list for residential, farm or ranch lots. Some families have been on the waiting lists for decades.

I want to share the story of the Lincoln family. Aloysius Lincoln first applied for Hawaiian Home Lands in 1949. In 2006, a wait of 57 years, his daughter, Frances Segundo, claimed a lease for a Department of Hawaiian Home Lands home in Kapolei on the island of Oahu. Frances claimed the lease because her father had unfortunately passed away two years earlier. Frances herself was just a baby when her father signed up for the program.

The \$13 million that the amendment restores to the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program provides the opportunity for Native Hawaiian families to live the dream of homeownership.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is one of the most efficient users of funds provided under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act. The majority of these funds have been used for infrastructure development on Hawaiian Home Lands benefiting low-income residents. DHHL has also been able to use these funds to: Assist families in applying for FHA mortgage insurance and HUD loan guarantees; operate a direct loan program to provide new housing units and improve existing structures; support local housing and housing service providers such as Habitat for Humanity; and initiate highly successful pre- and post-purchase homeownership counseling programs.

I urge my colleagues to support reinstating funding for the successful Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word in strong opposition to the Price Amendment and the underlying bill.

This amendment would make this atrocious CR even worse. Section 1517 of the CR already cuts the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection by 40 percent. And as if that wasn't enough to cripple this new bureau, the Price Amendment would prohibit funding for salaries and expenses—ending the agency as it's just getting started.

Although, I guess we shouldn't be surprised. Mr. PRICE and his colleagues have fought long and hard for their friends on Wall Street to allow them to continue gouging families and small businesses with predatory mortgages and credit cards.

But last year the Democratic majority overcame their corporate lobbyists and special interests to finally bring an end to these Wall Street abuses. We enacted historic credit card reforms and established the new independent Consumer Financial Protection Bureau tasked specifically with protecting consumers—the first of its kind. This new Bureau will finally ensure that mortgage and credit card agreements are safe for the families and small busi-

nesses most vulnerable to predatory practices. The Bureau's Office of Service Member Affairs, led by Holly Petraeus, is specifically tasked with protecting our men and women in uniform who all too often are preyed upon by unscrupulous lenders.

No more hidden fees. No more arbitrary interest rate hikes. No more twisted contracts that lawyers can't even understand. This is the type of protection the American people expect from their government. Reasonable, responsible measures to ensure our troops and consumers aren't taken advantage of.

But, for some reason, Mr. PRICE and those who support this amendment believe our troops and the American people don't deserve these protections. They're unabashedly trying to destroy the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau before it even gets started. They're trying to return to the days when Wall Street ran amok and did as it pleased. They're trying to return to the same failed policies of the past that caused the financial crisis we're still climbing out of.

One would think that such a ridiculous maneuver would at least be disguised as something less destructive. But then again, the Majority has made no secret of its pursuit of political gimmicks over substantive measures to create jobs.

Just look at this CR—hundreds and hundreds of pages that do nothing but undercut our fragile economic recovery and destroy jobs. Nothing but page after page of absurd cuts to proven programs that protect consumers, stimulate growth and create jobs.

Not to mention that we have yet to consider a single bill on the House floor that would actually create jobs. Not one.

Mr. Chair, the American people expect better. They sent us here to create jobs, not destroy them.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the PRICE Amendment and the underlying bill. I yield back.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to call up my amendment at the desk, amendment number 504, which would restore the cuts made to the defense appropriations section of H.R. 1. I am pleased that so many of my Republican colleagues in the House Armed Services Committee supported this amendment and are willing to stand with me

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