

that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 17, 2005.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2745. An act to reform the United Nations, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker of the House of Representatives has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 483. An act to designate a United States courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Reynaldo G. Garza and Filemon B. Vela United States Courthouse".

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2745. An act to reform the United Nations, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on June 17, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S 643. An act to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-111. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to Social Security reform; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

Whereas, Social Security is our country's most important and successful income protection program and provides economic security to workers, retirees, persons with disabilities, and the surviving spouses and keiki of deceased workers; and

Whereas, Social Security provides essential benefits to over 195,000 people in Hawaii, including 139,300 retired workers, 16,090 widows and widowers, 16,790 disabled workers and 13,630 children; and

Whereas, Social Security has reduced the poverty rate of our kupuna from over thirty per cent down to 10.2 per cent in the last forty years, and without Social Security, thirty-four per cent of elderly women in Hawaii would be poor; and

Whereas, six out of ten of today's beneficiaries derive more than half of their income from Social Security, and in most low-income households of retirement age, Social Security represents eighty per cent or more of their retirement income; and

Whereas, the Social Security Trust Fund is large enough to pay one hundred per cent of promised benefits until 2042, and after that, seventy-three per cent of benefits could still be paid; and

Whereas, proposals are being considered in Washington, D.C. that would privatize Social Security and threaten the retirement security of millions of Americans and their families; and

Whereas, diverting more than one-third of the 6.2 per cent of wages that workers currently contribute to Social Security into private accounts drains money from Social Security and will cut guaranteed benefits; and

Whereas, diverting money from Social Security will increase the national debt by almost \$2 trillion over the next ten years—a debt that will be passed on to future generations; and

Whereas, privatization is particularly harmful to women and minorities who rely most on Social Security by replacing a portion of a secure benefit with investment risk—a risk that they cannot afford; and

Whereas, widows would experience enormous cuts under privatization—reducing their Social Security from \$829 to \$456 per month, which is only sixty-three per cent of the poverty level, even when proceeds from private accounts are included in the total; and

Whereas, private accounts do not provide the lifetime, inflation-adjusted benefit that Social Security does, and they can be depleted by long life and market fluctuation; and

Whereas, Social Security needs to be strengthened now for our children and grandchildren, but the solution should not be worse than the problem; and

Whereas, the Social Security System also needs to be changed sensibly in order to honor obligations to future generations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, by the Senate of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2005, the House of Representatives concurring, That the Hawaii State Legislature opposes the privatization of Social Security and urges Hawaii's congressional delegation to reject such proposed changes to the Social Security System; and be it further

*Resolved*, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

POM-112. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature

of the State of Hawaii relative to the privatization of Social Security; to the Committee on Finance.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 100

Whereas, people throughout human history have faced uncertainties, especially those uncertainties brought on by death, disability, and old age; and

Whereas, prior to the turn of the twentieth century, the majority of individuals living in the United States lived and worked on farms, relying in part on immediate and extended family, friends, and neighbors to provide them with economic and social security; and

Whereas, as the United States moved through the Industrial Revolution and became an industrial power, increasing numbers of individuals began moving to the cities and suburbs where employment opportunities abounded; and

Whereas, this migration from the farmlands to the industrial centers of the United States reduced the degree to which a person's immediate and extended family and neighbors could augment the economic security of those living in the cities and suburbs; and

Whereas, with the stock market crash in 1929 and the beginning of the Great Depression, the United States found its economy in crisis and individuals in this country, especially elder Americans, were faced with economic hardships never before seen; and

Whereas, in an address to Congress on June 8, 1934, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stating that he intended to provide a program for the social security of Americans, subsequently created, by Executive Order, the Committee on Economic Security (Committee), with instructions to study the problem of economic insecurity and make recommendations for legislative consideration; and

Whereas, in 1935, six months after its establishment, the Committee made its report to the President and Congress, who after deliberations and compromise, enacted the Social Security Act of 1935, which created a social insurance program designed to pay retirees age 65 or older a continuing income after retirement, and to keep these retirees out of poverty; and

Whereas, Social Security taxes were collected for the first time in 1937, with initial lump-sum payments being made that first month and regular monthly benefit payments being made beginning in January, 1940; and

Whereas, today, Social Security provides a guaranteed income for more than 147 million retirees, family members of workers who have died, and persons with disabilities; and

Whereas, Social Security beneficiaries earn their benefits by paying into the system throughout their years of employment, and currently serves as the main source of income for a majority of retirees, with over two-thirds of retirees currently dependent on Social Security for financial survival; and

Whereas, for the past 70 years Social Security has remained solvent and has been able to pay benefits to millions of Americans with few adjustments; and

Whereas, although the Social Security trustees state that in its present form, Social Security has enough funds in its reserve to be able to meet 100 percent of its obligations until 2042 and, there is concern over the solvency of the current Social Security system and whether it will be able to pay benefits for the millions of Americans scheduled to retire over the next decade; and

Whereas, individuals who support efforts to reform Social Security are currently reviewing a three-prong approach including raising of the retirement age, increasing the maximum annual earnings subject to Social Security tax, and allowing the establishment of voluntary private investment accounts; and