

imports imposed by the Block Burmese JADE Act of 2007. Accordingly, certain provisions of H.R. 3890 fall under the Committee's jurisdiction.

There have been some productive conversations between the staffs of our committees, during which we have proposed some changes to H.R. 3890 that I believe help clarify the intent and scope of the measure. My understanding is that there is an agreement with regard to these changes.

The following provisions of H.R. 3890 were among those changed, added, or removed because they fell within the Committee's jurisdiction:

Section 3(a) ("Annual Renewal of Resolutions No Longer Required"): This subsection was removed;

Section 3(b) (Import Restrictions on Gemstones): This subsection was removed and a new Section 3A ("Prohibition on Importation of Certain Jadeite and Rubies and Articles of Jewelry Containing Jadeite or Rubies") was added;

New Section 3A(a) ("Definitions") contains definitions for the terms "Appropriate Congressional Committees," "Burmese Covered Article," "Non-Burmese Covered Article," "Jadeite; Rubies; Articles of Jewelry Containing Jadeite or Rubies," and "United States";

New Section 3A(b) ("Prohibitions on Importation of Burmese Covered Articles"): Provides that the President shall prohibit the importation into the United States of any Burmese covered article and use provided regulatory authority as necessary; and the President shall take actions to seek a draft waiver decision by the Council on Trade in Goods of the World Trade Organization and adoption of a United Nations General Assembly resolution;

New Section 3A(c) ("Requirements for Importation of Non-Burmese Covered Articles"): Provides that the President, beginning 60 days after the date of enactment, shall require certain actions by the exporting country, exporter and importer as a condition of importing non-Burmese covered articles into the United States to ensure that the imported articles do not contain Burmese jadeite or rubies;

New Section 3A(d) ("Inapplicability"): Exempts certain imports from the requirements of the Act;

New Section 3A(e) ("Enforcement"): Provides that Burmese covered articles and non-Burmese covered articles imported into the United States in violation of the Act are subject to all applicable laws of the United States;

New Section 3A(f) ("Sense of Congress"): Provides that the President should take the necessary steps to negotiate an international agreement similar to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for conflict diamonds; and

New Section 7 ("Waiver of Competitive Need Limitation Under Generalized System of Preferences For Certain Articles of India and Thailand"): Provides for the reinstatement of Generalized System of Preferences (duty-free treatment) for specified Thai and Indian jewelry.

To expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill and will not oppose its consideration on the suspension calendar. This is done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this, or similar legislation, in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming our understanding with respect to H.R. 3890, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the record.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2007.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3890, the Block Burmese JADE (Junta's Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2007.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and the mutually agreed upon text that is being presented to the House, including the amendments to H.R. 3890 reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as described in your letter. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. I agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record.

Cordially,

TOM LANTOS,
Chairman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of this important resolution strengthening the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Chairman LANTOS, for his continued leadership on this issue. It's an issue that concerns Members on both sides of the aisle and anyone who cares about freedom and human rights.

The despicable actions of Burma's brutal regime in recent months are only the latest chapter in a long history of repression by that country's dictators. After their shocking murder and incarceration 2 months ago of peaceful demonstrators, including Buddhist monks—the very symbols of the Burmese people's desire for peace—the Government thugs hope that our attention will turn elsewhere. They hope that the international outcry over the violence and humiliation of this fall will die down. But we are all too aware of the history of this regime to let that happen.

If we turn our attention elsewhere, the regime will intensify the abuse and repeat these crimes again and again. Since the 1988 slaughter of several thousand peaceful demonstrators, the story of Burma has been a constant saga of harassment, violence, and torture. The inhumane treatment of Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is only the most glaring example of the regime's efforts to stifle democracy—unfortunately there are many others that don't get as many headlines.

Members may recall that I have mentioned in the past how the military regime in Burma locked up a 19-year-old student from my district, Michelle Keegan, who had traveled to Burma in 1998 to mark in a peaceful way the 10th anniversary of those 1988 massacres. She and others were sentenced to 5 years in jail for distributing small leaflets calling for democracy in Burma.

I, and others, were outraged, and agitated for the release of these young people. They wouldn't let us into the country, but they couldn't keep us quiet. If not for the attention of the U.S. Congress and the American people—and for the international pressure that resulted—who knows what would have happened to these students in the prisons of Burma? Thankfully, we gained their release.

The Block Burmese JADE Act will tighten the noose on this murderous regime, expanding what this body has already done to isolate these criminals. Burma's junta continues to enrich itself from the country's vast natural resources while most of its people are mired in poverty. The generals and their families milk state-owned enterprises for all they're worth, getting their hands on much of the nearly \$3 billion in annual revenues from oil and gas, timber and gems.

By blocking further assets, imposing more severe import restrictions on Burmese gemstones, and expanding the visa ban on the regime's cronies, we will further limit its comfort zone. The regime will be less able to avoid U.S. sanctions—and U.S. companies will no longer be able to take tax deductions for investment in Burma.

These measures alone won't bring about wholesale change in Burma. We need more help from our allies and from Burma's neighbors if we dare to hope for true freedom in that country. We need China to take a serious stand on the right side of this issue instead of remaining—as usual—lined up against human rights and human dignity.

But this strengthening of our law—this strengthening of our resolve—will take another concrete step in the right direction. It will also make an important statement to Burma's brutal dictators—and to the beleaguered pro-democracy activists in that country struggling under the yoke of military repression.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3890, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to impose import sanctions on Burmese gemstones, expand the number of individuals against whom the visa ban is applicable, expand the blocking of assets and other prohibited activities, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS "TOMMY" MAKEM

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 768) honoring the life of Thomas "Tommy" Makem.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 768

Whereas Thomas "Tommy" Makem was born on November 4, 1932 in Keady, County Armagh, in Northern Ireland;

Whereas Thomas Makem emigrated from Ireland to Dover, New Hampshire in 1955, after having won the All-Ireland Championship in acting, to pursue a career in acting

and carrying with him only a makeshift suitcase, a pair of bagpipes, and proof of his health;

Whereas in 1956 Thomas Makem joined the Clancy Brothers, all of whom had immigrated to the United States from Ireland, and began performing musically together as “The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem” and were signed by Columbia Records;

Whereas in 1961 Thomas Makem performed at the Newport Folk Festival and, along with Joan Baez, was named as the most promising newcomer;

Whereas in 1963 the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem performed at the White House at the request of President John F. Kennedy;

Whereas the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem continued to perform and record music together, performing in venues such as Carnegie Hall and on programs including The Ed Sullivan Show and The Tonight Show until 1969 when Thomas Makem left the band amicably to pursue a solo career;

Whereas in 1975 Thomas Makem again joined with Liam Clancy and the duo performed together until 1988, including a Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem reunion at the Lincoln Center in New York City, New York;

Whereas in 1997 Thomas Makem wrote a book, Tommy Makem’s Secret Ireland, and in 1999 premiered his own one-man theatre show, Invasions and Legacies, in New York, and established the Tommy Makem International Festival of Song in South Armagh, Ireland in 2000;

Whereas throughout his performing career Thomas Makem was highly regarded as an exceptional musician by both his colleagues and the public and received many awards and honors including the World Folk Music Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999 and honorary doctorates from the University of New Hampshire in 1998, the University of Limerick in 2001, and the University of Ulster in 2007; and

Whereas Thomas Makem died on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 in Dover, New Hampshire and will now be remembered as a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather and as one of the greatest Irish-Americans of the 20th Century; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life of Thomas “Tommy” Makem, and his accomplishments as a musician, composer and performer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Tommy Makem was one of the greatest Irish-American performers to ever grace the stage. Not only have his works inspired genera-

tions of artists, but his determination and success broke down barriers that had long been raised to Irish Americans. Tommy and the Clancy Brothers, with whom he played for many years, were instrumental in breaking down these cultural divides.

Tommy lived a truly remarkable life. He arrived in America in 1955 to pursue a career in acting, having just won the All-Ireland Championship in acting. Like so many immigrants before and after, Tommy arrived with very little, carrying with him only a makeshift suitcase, a pair of bagpipes and proof of his health. However, it did not take Tommy long to find a life in America.

In 1956, he joined with the Clancy Brothers—Patrick, Tom, Bobby and Liam—and they began performing together. In 1961, Tommy performed at the Newport Folk Festival and, along with Joan Baez, he was heralded as “the most promising newcomer.” In 1963, Tommy and the Clancy Brothers performed at the White House at the request of President Kennedy. They continued to perform together for years and played venues from Carnegie Hall to the Ed Sullivan Show, until Tommy embarked on a solo career in 1969. For decades, he continued to compose and perform. He would later reunite with the Clancy Brothers in 1988 for a reunion concert. In 1999, Tommy was awarded the World Folk Music Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tommy was not just a musician, he was so much more. Tommy was an author, a philanthropist, a businessman, an inspiration and, most importantly, he was a loving father, grandfather and husband.

Tommy passed away earlier this year on August 1 in Dover, New Hampshire, where he lived for many years. He left behind a daughter, Katie Makem-Boucher, and two grandchildren, Molly Dickerman and Robert Boucher, and three sons, Shane, Conor and Rory, whom with his nephew, Tom Sweeney, continue the family folk music tradition. They will remember Tommy for the living man he was and for the impact he had on their lives.

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Upon his passing, condolences streamed in from all over the country, as well as the world. The Makem family has said that while many talked about his music, most noted what a generous and kind man he was.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and honor the life of a truly remarkable man, an immigrant who touched the lives of so many.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 768, honoring the life of Thomas “Tommy” Makem. Makem was an internationally celebrated Irish folk musician, artist, poet and storyteller, best known as a mem-

ber of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. He played the long-necked five string banjo, guitar, tin whistle, border pipes, and sang in a very distinctive baritone. He was sometimes known as the Godfather of Irish music.

The son of a successful Irish folk singer, Sarah Makem, Tommy Makem mesmerized audiences for more than four decades. He expanded and reshaped the boundaries of Irish culture and infused a pride and a quest for knowledge of Irish culture in countless others.

In 1955, Makem’s ambition to become an actor took him to New York where, after a brief but rewarding career in live television and off-Broadway plays, he teamed up with the Clancy Brothers. They appeared on the “Ed Sullivan Show,” the “Tonight Show” and every major television network show in the United States. The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem played to audiences from New York’s Carnegie Hall and London’s Royal Albert Hall to every major concert venue in the English-speaking world.

In 1969, Tommy left the Clancy Brothers to pursue a solo career and immediately sold out Madison Square Garden in New York. His popularity soared, and he went on to three sold out concert tours in Australia, including Sydney’s opera house.

By 1975, Makem had rejoined Liam Clancy of the Clancy Brothers. The duo worked together until 1988. Their collaboration garnered the pair an Emmy nomination, as well as several platinum and gold records.

Tommy Makem’s music will live on forever. “The Rambles of Spring,” Farewell to Carlingford,” “Gentle Annie,” “The Winds Are Singing Freedom” and, of course, “Four Green Fields” are all standards in the repertoire of folk singers around the world in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

I am very happy to join my good friend and colleague, Representative SHEA-PORTER, in honoring the life of Thomas “Tommy” Makem, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Does the gentleman from Louisiana have any further speakers?

Mr. BOUSTANY. I have no other Members requesting time, and I’ll be happy to yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 768.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR ITS 100 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 264) honoring the University of Hawaii for its 100 years of commitment to public higher education.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 264

Whereas while the natural beauty of Hawaii is recognized throughout the world, the real beauty of the island state lies in its people, who, through their personal relationships with their families, friends, and neighbors, and through their dedicated efforts to serve the needs of the people of Hawaii, have created prosperity and high standards of living;

Whereas the institution which would eventually become the University of Hawaii at Manoa finds its humble beginnings in 1907 in a small house on Young Street as the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts;

Whereas with the establishment of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences in 1920, the university became a full-fledged university, known today as the University of Hawaii at Manoa;

Whereas in 1941, the Hawaii Vocational School was founded near downtown Hilo, becoming a University branch campus in 1951 and the University of Hawaii at Hilo in 1970;

Whereas in 1964, the University of Hawaii community colleges system was established with the creation of four community college campuses: Honolulu; Kapiolani; Kauai; and Maui, with Leeward joining the community college system in 1969, Windward in 1972, and Hawaii in 1990, as the seventh community college;

Whereas West Oahu College was founded in 1976, gaining university status in 1989 as the University of Hawaii—West Oahu, the youngest of the university's baccalaureate degree-granting campuses;

Whereas the 10 campuses of the University of Hawaii combined offer more than 620 certificate and degree-granting programs in a variety of nationally and internationally-recognized areas of excellence, including culinary arts, health sciences, construction, automotive mechanics, digital media, justice administration, forensic anthropology, indigenous languages, tropical agriculture, natural sciences, ocean sciences, earth sciences, astronomy, international business, languages and culture, legal studies, and medicine, to over 50,000 students across the State every year;

Whereas the University of Hawaii has embraced and employed technological advances to reach and serve students via distance learning technologies on the Internet, two-way video, and cable television;

Whereas the nearly 15,000 Hawaii residents who are employed full-time by the University of Hawaii as faculty, staff, researchers, and in other capacities, serve the University and the State of Hawaii by educating its citizens, contributing to the economy, supporting workforce development, and engaging the community to address societal issues and underserved populations;

Whereas the impacts of the University of Hawaii are not confined to those students in its classrooms, but residents and visitors

alike who benefit from its outreach, cultural, and entertainment programs; more than 75,000 people register in its non-credit courses; more than 33,000 people participate in university-sponsored conferences, workshops, and training sessions; nearly 130,000 people attend theater, music, and dance events at the University's performing arts centers at the Manoa, Hilo, Kauai, Leeward, and Windward campuses; and nearly 700,000 people cheer on the Manoa and Hilo athletic teams;

Whereas the vitality of today's University of Hawaii touches someone in virtually every family in these islands;

Whereas more than 250,000 alumni now residing in all 50 States and in more than 80 countries around the world are proud to call the University of Hawaii their alma mater, as the educational programs at the University have shaped these individuals into global citizens who contribute to the well-being of a world-wide society with a commitment to integrity, diversity, and service wherever they may be;

Whereas the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii proudly boasts 38 alumni of the University of Hawaii system, and the Senate 15, for a total of 53 proud alumni in the Hawaii State Legislature;

Whereas 2007 marks the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the University of Hawaii, a momentous occasion by nearly every measure;

Whereas the centennial observance offers the people of Hawaii the opportunity to reflect on 100 years of higher education in Hawaii, celebrate the rich heritage of the University of Hawaii, honor the people who took part in building this outstanding educational enterprise, and envision an even more remarkable future of excellence, sustainability, and innovation that the University of Hawaii has introduced to our islands;

Whereas over the past 100 years, the University of Hawaii has developed into a prominent, world-renowned educational institution famed for its gracious spirit of aloha; academic excellence, intellectual vigor, and opportunity; institutional integrity and service; diversity, cultural identity, social responsibility, and fairness; collaboration and respect; and accountability and fiscal integrity;

Whereas "Maluna a'e o na lahui a pau ke ola ke kanaka: Above All Nations is Humanity," the philosophy of the University of Hawaii is befitting for an institution that has transformed the lives of many around the world through their experiences at the University; and

Whereas all four members of Hawaii's congressional delegation are proud graduates of the University of Hawaii: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress congratulates the University of Hawaii on the momentous occasion of its 100th Anniversary, and expresses its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert material relevant to House Concurrent Resolution 264 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 264, honoring the University of Hawaii for its 100 years of dedication to public higher education.

The 10 campuses of the University of Hawaii offer more than 620 nationally and internationally recognized academic programs, everything from culinary arts to tropical agriculture. It is the only place in the Nation where students can earn a master's degree in indigenous language studies and has the top 25 programs for environmental law, eastern philosophy, international business, and second-language studies.

The 50,000 students who attend the university include many of Hawaii's best and brightest. The sizable Native Hawaiian, Caucasian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Pacific Islander populations on our campuses reflect the great diversity of our State. Their years at the University of Hawaii will prepare them to be the business, community, and political leaders of tomorrow.

I am proud to be among the 250,000 University of Hawaii alumni who now reside in every State in the Union and in at least 80 countries around the world. This extended community brings the aloha spirit to the world at large.

Just last week I was here on the floor of the House with my two green and white footballs in honor of the university Warriors' perfect 2007 football season. The Warriors are the only college team in the country to go undefeated, but they are just one of the UH sports teams we cheer on across the islands. From volleyball to basketball, our athletes draw nearly 700,000 fans to games every year.

This is a special year for higher education in Hawaii. Not only is it University of Hawaii's centennial, but it is also the 35th anniversary of the passage of title IX, now known as the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. Patsy was a friend and continues to be an inspiration to me. This year the University of Hawaii joined me and Congress in honoring Patsy and her trailblazing work to open the doors of higher education to women across the country.

I want to take a moment to thank the people who make the University of Hawaii what it is today. David McClain, the current president of the university, and the 17 presidents who have come before him have all been leaders, dedicated to excellence in public higher education. The phenomenal team of faculty and staff has truly made a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of students, past and present. Those students, in