



H.CON.RES. 2 – EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES BY INCLUDING SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE TEACHING OF UNITED STATES HISTORY

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 2 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Donna Christensen (D-VI) on January 4, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 2 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 2 resolves that it is the sense of the Congress that schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands by including such contributions in the teaching of United States history.

BACKGROUND

After the Spanish-American War, Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the U.S. in 1898 and Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship in 1917. Guam was also ceded to the U.S. by Spain in 1898. Japan temporarily captured Guam in 1941, but the U.S. retook it in 1944.

Additionally, American Samoa became a U.S. territory through an 1899 treaty with Germany. The busy international port of Pago Pago is located in American Samoa. The U.S. Virgin Islands were purchased from Denmark and became a U.S. territory in 1917.

The U.S. Virgin Islands consist of Saint Croix, Saint John, and Saint Thomas Islands. In 1975, a covenant was approved that established the Northern Mariana Islands as a commonwealth of the U.S. after negotiations seeking territorial status began in 1972.

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