Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11  

Introduced by Representative ANN K. HOFER  

JOINT RESOLUTION  
EXPANDING THE MANDATE OF THE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO MONITOR AND OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO INCLUDE OTHER DEFENSE AND STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONCURRED WITH BY THE SENATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 02

WHEREAS, the existing Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement (LOVFA) covers the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States of America;

WHEREAS, there is a need to expand the jurisdiction and coverage of the LOVFA to include the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with Australia (SOVFA) and other defense and Status of Forces Agreements with other countries concurred with by the Senate;

WHEREAS, in one of the resolutory clauses of Senate Resolution No. 100, the Senate urged the President to expand the mandate of the existing Presidential Commission on the visiting Forces Agreement to include within its mandate, the monitoring and coordination of pertinent activities in relation to the Agreement with Australia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the House of Representatives and the Senate in Congress assembled, to expand the mandate of the Legislative Oversight Committee to monitor and oversee the implementation of the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States of America to include other defense and Status of Forces Agreements with other countries concurred with by the Senate, amending for the purpose Joint Resolution No. 02 to read as follows:

"JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 02  
JOINT RESOLUTION [CREATING A] EXPANDING THE  
COVERAGE OF THE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE TO MONITOR AND OVERSEE THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE [AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF] VISITING FORCES
AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
[REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
ARMED FORCES VISITING THE PHILIPPINES] TO INCLUDE
OTHER DEFENSE AND STATUS OF FORCES
AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONCLUDED
WITH BY THE SENATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 02

WHEREAS, the Constitution states that the maintenance of
peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the
promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by
all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, recognizing that the Visiting Forces Agreement
is essentially a framework to promote the common security interests
of the two countries and to strengthen the bilateral defense
partnership under the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty, [this
Chamber] THE SENATE concurred in its Ratification on 27 May
1999;

WHEREAS, RECOGNIZING THAT THE STATUS OF
VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT SIGNED ON 31 MARCH 2007
IS AN INSTRUMENT TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AND
COMMON SECURITY INTEREST BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE
GOVERNMENT AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AS
DECLARED IN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
COOPERATIVE DEFENCE ACTIVITIES SIGNED ON 22 AUGUST
1995 IN CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA;

WHEREAS, ON 24 JULY 2012, THE SENATE VOTING 17-1
RATIFIED THE RP-AUSTRALIA STATUS OF VISITING
FORCES AGREEMENT;

WHEREAS, after a thorough deliberation and review of the
issues and concerns regarding the Agreement, specifically, national
security and defense issues, among others, the Senate, in one of its
resolutory clauses in its Resolution of Concurrence seeks to
oversee and monitor the activities to be undertaken under the
Agreement through the creation of a Legislative Oversight
Committee; [: Now, therefore, be it]

WHEREAS, FUTURE DEFENSE AND STATUS OF
FORCES AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
CONCLUDED WITH BY THE SENATE SHALL LIKewise BE
OVERSEEN AND MONITORED BY THE AFOREMENTIONED
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled, That [a] THE Legislative Oversight Committee [be] created to monitor and oversee the implementation of the Visiting Forces Agreement WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OTHER DEFENSE AND STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONCURRED WITH BY THE SENATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 02 to be composed of the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as Chairpersons and the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security and the House Committee on National Defense as Co-Chairpersons, five (5) members each of the Senate and the House of Representatives who shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as members: Provided, That two (2) of the five (5) senators and two (2) of the five (5) House members shall be nominated by the respective Minority Leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Resolved further, That to attain its objectives, the Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

a) to closely monitor and review all activities undertaken pursuant to the Agreements;

b) to prescribe and adopt guidelines that will govern its work;

c) to conduct hearings, investigations, receive testimonies and reports relevant to its mandate;

d) to summon by subpoeana any witness to testify before it, or require by subpoeana duces tecum to produce documents, books, records and other papers as may be necessary in the performance of its functions;

e) to secure from any department, bureau, office or instrumentality of Government any assistance as may be needed including technical information, preparation and production of reports and submission of recommendations and plans as it may require;

f) to recommend the adoption of legislation and other legislative measures pursuant to its findings;

g) to organize its staff, hire and appoint its employees and personnel and approve the budget for the work of the committee and all disbursements therefrom including compensation of personnel; and
h) generally, to exercise such other acts necessary and appropriate to carry out its purposes.

Resolved further, That in order to carry out the objectives of this Joint Resolution, the initial sum of Seven million pesos (Php 7,000,000.00) shall be charged against the current appropriation of the Congress under the Fiscal Year 2000 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Resolved finally, That this Resolution shall take effect following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,

Resolved further, That this Resolution shall take effect following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,

ANN K. HOFER
2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay