

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

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

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

8
9 **WHEREAS**, in one of the resolutory clauses of Senate Resolution No. 100,
10 the Senate urged the President to expand the mandate of the existing Presidential
11 Commission on the visiting Forces Agreement to include within its mandate, the
12 monitoring and coordination of pertinent activities in relation to the Agreement with
13 Australia;

14
15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by
16 the House of Representatives and the Senate in Congress assembled, to expand the
17 mandate of the Legislative Oversight Committee to monitor and oversee the
18 implementation of the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States of America
19 to include other defense and Status of Forces Agreements with other countries
20 concurred with by the Senate, amending for the purpose Joint Resolution No. 02 to
21 read as follows:

22 **"JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 02**
23 **JOINT RESOLUTION [CREATING A] EXPANDING THE**
24 **COVERAGE OF THE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT**
25 **COMMITTEE TO MONITOR AND OVERSEE THE**

1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE [AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
2 GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
3 AND THE GOVERNMENT OF] **VISITING FORCES**
4 **AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
5 **[REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF THE UNITED STATES**
6 **ARMED FORCES VISITING THE PHILIPPINES] TO INCLUDE**
7 **OTHER DEFENSE AND STATUS OF FORCES**
8 **AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONCURRED**
9 **WITH BY THE SENATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE**
10 **JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 02**

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

15 WHEREAS, recognizing that the Visiting Forces Agreement
16 is essentially a framework to promote the common security interests
17 of the two countries and to strengthen the bilateral defense
18 partnership under the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty, [this
19 Chamber] **THE SENATE** concurred in its Ratification on 27 May
20 1999;

21 **WHEREAS, RECOGNIZING THAT THE STATUS OF**
22 **VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT SIGNED ON 31 MARCH 2007**
23 **IS AN INSTRUMENT TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AND**
24 **COMMON SECURITY INTEREST BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE**
25 **GOVERNMENT AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AS**
26 **DECLARED IN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON**
27 **COOPERATIVE DEFENCE ACTIVITIES SIGNED ON 22 AUGUST**
28 **1995 IN CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA;**

29 **WHEREAS, ON 24 JULY 2012, THE SENATE VOTING 17-**
30 **1 RATIFIED THE RP-AUSTRALIA STATUS OF VISITING**
31 **FORCES AGREEMENT;**

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

39 **WHEREAS, FUTURE DEFENSE AND STATUS OF**
40 **FORCES AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES**
41 **CONCURRED WITH BY THE SENATE SHALL LIKEWISE BE**
42 **OVERSEEN AND MONITORED BY THE AFOREMENTIONED**
43 **LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: NOW, THEREFORE,**
44 **BE IT**

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the Philippines in Congress assembled, That [a] THE Legislative*
3 *Oversight Committee [be] created to monitor and oversee the*
4 *implementation of the Visiting Forces Agreement WITH THE*
5 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE**
6 **OTHER DEFENSE AND STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS**
7 **WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONCURRED WITH BY THE**
8 **SENATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE JOINT RESOLUTION**
9 **NO. 02** to be composed of the Chairpersons of the Senate
10 Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Committee on
11 Foreign Affairs as Chairpersons and the Chairpersons of the
12 Senate Committee on National Defense and Security and the
13 House Committee on National Defense as Co-Chairpersons, five
14 (5) members each of the Senate and the House of Representatives
15 who shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker
16 of the House of Representatives, as members: *Provided, That two*
17 *(2) of the five (5) senators and two (2) of the five (5) House*
18 *members shall be nominated by the respective Minority Leaders of*
19 *the Senate and the House of Representatives.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 g) to organize its staff, hire and appoint its employees and
39 personnel and approve the budget for the work of the committee
40 and all disbursements therefrom including compensation of
41 personnel; and

1 h) generally, to exercise such other acts necessary and
2 appropriate to carry out its purposes.

3 *Resolved further*, That in order to carry out the objectives of
4 this Joint Resolution, the initial sum of Seven million pesos (Php
5 7,000,000.00) shall be charged against the current appropriation of
6 the Congress under the Fiscal Year 2000 General Appropriations
7 Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued
8 operation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

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

12 Adopted,"

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

15 Adopted,



ANN K. HOFER
2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay