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3 Lawmakers Seek Inquiry Into the B.C.S.

WASHINGTON — Three members of Congress want the Justice Department to investigate whether the Bowl Championship Series is an illegal enterprise.

Representatives Neil Abercrombie, Democrat of Hawaii; Lynn Westmoreland, Republican of Georgia; and Mike Simpson, Republican of Idaho, introduced a resolution saying the B.C.S. restricts trade because only the largest universities compete in its games. The resolution would require the Justice Department's antitrust division to investigate if the B.C.S. violates federal law.

The measure, if it passes, would put Congress on record as supporting a postseason playoff.

The three lawmakers represent home-state universities with recent complaints against the B.C.S.

"Who elected these N.C.A.A. people?" Abercrombie said at a news conference Thursday on Capitol Hill while gripping a souvenir University of Hawaii football. "Who are they to decide who competes for the championship?"

Hawaii and Boise State each had undefeated seasons in recent years, but were denied a chance at the B.C.S. championship. Westmoreland said he was still upset about Georgia being passed over for the championship game last January.

Georgia was instead matched against undefeated Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl, winning by 41-10.

John Swofford, the B.C.S. administrator and the Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner, said the B.C.S. allowed all qualified teams to participate and was beneficial to student-athletes, universities and fans.

“This issue has been looked at before,” Swofford said in a statement. “We’re confident that it complies with the law.”