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Legislative Bulletin.....February 23, 2010

Contents:

Amendments to H.R. 2314—Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2010

The bill is expected to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 under a structured rule. The rule (H.Res.1083) provides for one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the majority and minority, waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI, makes in order three amendments under Part and Part B, and allows one motion to recommit.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE – PART A

1. *Abercrombie (D-HI)*. Inserts substitute language to H.R. 2314, primarily affecting the organizational procedures for the native Hawaiian government and the definition of what constitutes a native Hawaiian in the underlying bill. Please see the bill summary in the legislative bulletin for detailed analysis of the amendment. (Up to 30 minutes of debate)

AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE - PART B

- 1. Hastings (R-WA). Requires the approval a voter referendum in the state of Hawaii before the implementation of governing documents by the Secretary of Interior or the installation of a native Hawaiian governing entity. (Up to 10 minutes of debate)
- **2. Flake (R-AZ).** Reaffirms that nothing within H.R. 2314 relieves the native Hawaiian governing authority from complying with the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. (Up to 10 minutes of debate)

According to the Library of Congress, "the 14th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1868, and granted citizenship to 'all persons born or naturalized in the United States," which included former slaves recently freed. In addition, it forbids states from denying any person "life, liberty or property, without due process of law' or to 'deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.' By directly mentioning the role of the states, the 14th Amendment greatly expanded the protection of civil rights to all Americans and is cited in more litigation than any other amendment."

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