



**Legislative Bulletin.....May 14, 2013**

**Contents:**

**S.Con.Res. 10** — Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an Event to Celebrate the Birthday of King Kamehameha

**H.R. 180** — National Blue Alert Act of 2013, as amended

**H.R. 1580** — To affirm the policy of the United States regarding Internet governance.

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**S.Con.Res. 10 — Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an Event to Celebrate the Birthday of King Kamehameha (Hirono, D-HI)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is [scheduled](#) to be considered on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** [S.Con.Res. 10](#) authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center on June 9, 2013, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

**Additional Background:** This legislation is routinely passed each year. Last year, this legislation passed the House by a [vote](#) of 376-0. King Kamehameha, also known as Kamehameha the Great, was Hawaii’s first monarch. King Kamehameha established the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1810 and died in 1819.

**Committee Action:** Senator Hirono (D-HI) introduced S.Con.Res. 10 on January 15, 2013. The Concurrent Resolution passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent and was then referred to the Committee on House Administration where no further action has taken place.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate has been released for this resolution.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

**Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** This resolution contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

**Constitutional Authority:** Senate Concurrent Resolutions are not required to include a Constitutional Authority Statement.

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## **H.R. 180 – National Blue Alert Act of 2013, as amended (Grimm, R-NY)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 14, 2012, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, requiring a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** H.R. 180 directs the Attorney General to create a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice (DOJ) and appoint an existing DOJ officer to act as national coordinator (Coordinator) of the Blue Alert communications network. The Blue Alert communications network will issue “Blue Alerts” throughout the nation relating to the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty while an alleged suspect(s) has not yet been apprehended. According to the bill sponsor, “the Blue Alert system would work in a similar fashion to the “Amber Alert” system currently used to locate abducted children and would be implemented by law enforcement agencies, and state and local governments to speed up the apprehension of criminals who seriously injure or kill local, state, or federal law enforcement officers.” Its purpose is to quickly apprehend violent criminals responsible for the death or serious injury of a law enforcement officer.

The bill also establishes voluntary guidelines and protocols for states to consider adopting, develops protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects, and establishes an advisory group to assist states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other entities in initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans.

Within a year after enactment of H.R. 180 (and then annually), the bill requires the Coordinator to submit a report to Congress on the effectiveness and status of the Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed.

A bill with the same legislative text (H.R. 365) passed the House last year on May 15, 2012 by a vote of [394-1](#).

**Additional Information:** According to last year's Judiciary Committee Report on H.R. 365 ([112-478](#)), hundreds of law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured each year. It also states that 14 states have blue alert systems already in place. Also, this week commemorates [National Police Week](#).

**Committee Action:** Representative Michael Grimm (R-NY) introduced H.R. 180 on January 4, 2013. The bill was then referred to the House Committees on Judiciary which favorably reported out the amended bill on May 7, 2013 by voice vote

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Outside Group Support:** The following groups support H.R. 180: Sergeant's Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department, the National Sheriff's Association, the National Association of Police Officers, the National Fraternal Order of Police, and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a [cost estimate](#) on the bill on May 9, 2013, stating that enacting H.R. 180 would cost about \$1 million annually, subject to appropriations.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes. The bill creates a new communications network within the DOJ and appoints a current DOJ officer to act as the communications network's national coordinator.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Constitutional Authority Statement accompanying the bill states:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

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## **H.R. 1580 - To affirm the policy of the United States regarding Internet governance (Walden, R-OR)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on May 14, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** The legislation states that it is the policy of the United States to “preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet.”

The legislation contains several findings, including:

- “Given the importance of the Internet to the global economy, it is essential that the Internet remain stable, secure, and free from government control;
- “Proposals have been, and will likely continue to be, put forward at international regulatory bodies that would fundamentally alter the governance and operation of the Internet;
- “The proposals would diminish the freedom of expression on the Internet in favor of government control over content; and
- “This Administration and past Administrations have made a strong commitment to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and the promotion of the global benefits of the Internet.”

The below talking points were prepared by the RSC Tech & Telecom Working Group:

- **We need to be aggressive in opposing international regulation of the Internet.** Several hostile countries are pursuing the expansion of a 1988 International Telecommunication Regulation (ITR) Treaty under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), an agency within the United Nations. A push is being made to negotiate international control of the Internet in Dubai this December at the WCIT conference.
- **Any proposal to regulate the Internet through an international governing body puts our national sovereignty at risk.** H.R. 1580 sends a strong message opposing international regulation of the Internet. Specifically, it calls for the U.S. government to promote a global Internet that is free from government control and that advances the U.S. position within the multistakeholder governance model that’s working today.
- **Some countries want greater control over the Internet for political and/or economic control.** For example, Russia's Vladimir Putin has openly stated his intention to seek, “international control over the Internet using the monitoring and supervisory capabilities of the [ITU].” We must continue to promote a decentralized and flexible governance model for the Internet.

- For more background information please see [this Wall Street Journal op-ed](#) written by Federal Communications Commissioner Robert McDowell.

**Additional Information:** Similar legislation, H.Con.Res. 127, passed the House of Representatives on August 2, 2012, by a [roll call vote of 414-0](#). The text of H.R. 1580 is very similar to that of H.Con.Res. 127 from the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. The RSC Legislative Bulletin for H.Con.Res. 127 can be [viewed here](#).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1580 was introduced on April 16, 2013, and was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. The full committee held a [markup on April 17, 2013](#), and approved the legislation, without amendment, by voice vote.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that implementing the bill would not have an effect on spending subject to appropriation. CBO's full report can be [viewed here](#).

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** According to CBO, H.R. 1580 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

**Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

**Constitutional Authority:** According to the sponsor, "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution." Rep. Walden's statement in the Congressional Record can be [viewed here](#).

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