May 23, 2016

The Honorable President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We in Hawaii have watched North Korea make significant advances in warhead miniaturization and rocket technology, belligerently tested long-range missiles in the face of international protests, and flexed its military muscle at every opportunity. It would only take 20 minutes for a missile launched from North Korea to reach the islands.

It is not unimaginable that North Korea could hit Hawaii, Alaska or the U.S. mainland with an intercontinental ballistic missile, or to assume it has the ability to miniaturize a nuclear weapon and put it on an ICBM. If there is any lesson to be learned from the events at Pearl Harbor that prompted our nation’s entry into the Second World War, it is that we should not and cannot be complacent when it comes to global aggression and our own national defense.

In the face of these facts, we understand that the Pentagon is studying the possibility of switching an “Aegis Ashore” missile system and launcher on Kauai from testing to operational mode and adding radar to track incoming missiles. Converting the Aegis Ashore on Kauai from a test facility to an operational one for the ballistic missile defense of Hawaii offers us the best chance to protect these islands from a missile attack from North Korea.

We have an opportunity to strengthen the defense of this nation’s westernmost state and its military headquarters in the Pacific, and, more importantly, create a deterrent for such aggression in the first place. We have an existing site for the Aegis Ashore at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. Its operational conversion not only makes good sense, it may very well be key to the survival of this state and its people.
We urge you to do whatever you can to facilitate and accelerate the process of converting the Aegis Ashore at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. We know you share our concern and thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Speaker Joseph M. Souki
Representative Henry C. Aquino
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami
Representative Scott K. Saiki
Representative Romy M. Cachola
Representative Bertrand K. Kawasahi
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura
Representative Isaac W. Choy
Representative Samuel S. Kong
Representative Calvin K.Y. Say
Representative Richard P. Clagian
Representative Nicole E. Lowen
Representative Gregg Takayama
Representative Lynn DeCoite
Representative Bob McDermott
Representative Cynthia Thelen
Representative Cindy Evans
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey
Representative Roy M. Takumi
Representative Beth Fukumoto Chang
Representative John M. Mashno
Representative Calvin K.Y. Say
Representative Mark J. Hashem
Representative Dee Morikawa
Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Representative Linda Ichigama
Representative Takashi Okinawa
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Representative Ken Ito
Representative Mark M. Nakashima
Representative Ryan T. Yama
Representative Dee Morikawa
Representative Takashi Okinawa
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Representative Ken Ito
Representative Mark M. Nakashima
Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Representative Gene Ward
Representative Justin Woodson
Representative Feli Pouha
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita
May 23, 2016

The Honorable Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr.
U.S. Pacific Command
Box 64028
Camp Smith, HI 96861 4028

Dear Admiral Harris:

We in Hawaii have watched North Korea make significant advances in warhead miniaturization and rocket technology, belligerently tested long-range missiles in the face of international protests, and flexed its military muscle at every opportunity. It would only take 20 minutes for a missile launched from North Korea to reach the islands.

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TO: Admiral Harris
Date: May 23, 2016
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Representative Cindy Evans

Representative Beth Fukumoto Chiar

Representative Sharon E. Har

Representative Mark J. Hashem

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Representative Ken Ito

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson

Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami

Representative Bertrand Kukuchi

Representative Sam Satoru Kong

Representative Matthew S. LoPresti

Representative Nicole E. Lowen

Representative Bob McDermott

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey

Representative John M. Marno

Representative Dee Morikawa

Representative Takashi Ohno

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro

Representative Feki Pouha

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita
May 23, 2016

The Honorable Senator Brian E. Schatz  
722 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

We in Hawaii have watched North Korea make significant advances in warhead miniaturization and rocket technology, belligerently tested long-range missiles in the face of international protests, and flexed its military muscle at every opportunity. It would only take 20 minutes for a missile launched from North Korea to reach the islands.

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TO: Senator Schatz  
Date: May 23, 2016  
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Representative Mark J. Hashem  
Representative Gene Ward  
Representative Justin Woodson  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita  

Representative Feki Pouha
May 23, 2016

The Honorable Senator Mazie K. Hirono
330 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

We in Hawaii have watched North Korea make significant advances in warhead miniaturization and rocket technology, belligerently tested long-range missiles in the face of international protests, and flexed its military muscle at every opportunity. It would only take 20 minutes for a missile launched from North Korea to reach the islands.

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TO: Senator Hirono  
Date: May 23, 2016  
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Sincerely,

[Signatures of various representatives]
May 23, 2016

The Honorable Congressman Mark Takai
422 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515 2109

Dear Congressman Takai:

We in Hawaii have watched North Korea make significant advances in warhead miniaturization and rocket technology, belligerently tested long-range missiles in the face of international protests, and flexed its military muscle at every opportunity. It would only take 20 minutes for a missile launched from North Korea to reach the islands.

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TO: Congressman Takai  
Date: May 23, 2016  
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[Signatures]
May 23, 2016

The Honorable Congressman Tulsi Gabbard
1609 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Gabbard:

We in Hawaii have watched North Korea make significant advances in warhead miniaturization and rocket technology, belligerently tested long-range missiles in the face of international protests, and flexed its military muscle at every opportunity. It would only take 20 minutes for a missile launched from North Korea to reach the islands.

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TO: Congresswoman Gabbard  
Date: May 23, 2016  
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