

and sections 8014 and 8021 of the Act grant contracting-related exceptions or preferences to Native Hawaiian organizations. The executive branch shall implement the provisos and sections 8014 and 8021 in a manner consistent with the requirement to afford equal protection of the laws under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

The executive branch shall construe section 8101 of the Act, which purports to prohibit alteration of command responsibility or permanent assignment of forces until 270 days after submission of a plan for such alteration to the congressional defense committees, as advisory, as any other construction would be inconsistent with the constitutional grant to the President of the authority of Commander in Chief. Also, the executive branch shall construe section 8124, relating to integration of foreign intelligence information, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority as Commander in Chief, including for the conduct of intelligence operations, and to supervise the unitary executive branch. Finally, the Executive Branch shall construe section 12001, which purports to assign the Secretary of Defense the duty to negotiate with a foreign country, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, which includes the authority to determine who shall negotiate for the United States under the President's direction with a foreign country.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 5, 2004.

NOTE: H.R. 4613, approved August 5, was assigned Public Law 108-287.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Designation of Emergency Funds in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005

August 5, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby concur with the Congress in the designation of \$25.856 billion provided as

part of the Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2005 (H.R. 4613), as an emergency requirement.

These funds are necessary to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the Department of State's Mission in Iraq, State and local law enforcement assistance for security and related costs associated with the 2004 Presidential Candidate Nominating Conventions, the Judiciary, and to respond to the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Additional information on this action is set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: H.R. 4613, approved August 5, was assigned Public Law 108-287.

Remarks in a Discussion in Columbus, Ohio

August 5, 2004

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you all. That's what I'm here asking for, for 4 more years. Yes, I'm traveling our country—coming to Ohio a lot, by the way. I think you have to ask for the vote, and that's what I'm here doing. I want your vote and want your help.

I want to thank those of you who are involved with grassroots politics, the people who are helping to register the voters and the people who are going to be asking the voters to do their duty in democracy and go to the polls. I appreciate your work. And by the way, when you get them headed to the polls, kind of nudge them our way.

There's more to do for this country. That's what I want to talk about. We've got an unusual way of talking about the agenda for the future today. I want to share some thoughts with you. We've got some citizens from the Columbus area who are going to talk about some of the ideas that we're going to use to make America a compassionate place, a better place. And then I'll be glad to answer some of your questions.

First, let me tell you I'm sorry Laura is not here. She's got a valid excuse. Governor