

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 989

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S)
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE NUMEROUS DATA BREACHES INVOLVING
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT PROCESS AND STORE
PERSONAL DATA FROM THE TRANSACTING PUBLIC

1 **WHEREAS**, in the second week of January 2019, Foreign Affairs
2 Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. informed the public through Twitter that the
3 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) lost the personal data information of
4 millions of Filipino passport holders because its outsourced personal
5 information processor allegedly “took all” applicants’ data following the
6 termination of the processor’s contract with the DFA;
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8 **WHEREAS**, while it is unclear at this time what type of data was
9 taken, it is common knowledge that personal information as well as
10 sensitive personal information are disclosed by the applicant during the
11 passport application process;
12

13 **WHEREAS**, this data breach leaves the data subjects vulnerable to
14 identity theft and may allow cybercriminals to use the stolen data to
15 victimize other people or to engage in fraudulent transactions;
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the enactment of Republic Act No. 10173 or the “Data
18 Privacy Act of 2012” brought to fore the importance of balancing the
19 State’s need for information and communications technology to spur
20 nation-building and the State’s obligation to ensure that personal
21 information in information and communication systems are secured and
22 protected;
23

1 **WHEREAS**, this is not the first instance of a data breach in a
2 government agency that processes and stores personal data from the
3 transacting public;
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5 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) suffered data
6 breaches twice – the first at the height of the 2016 National and Local
7 Elections with the hacking of its Comelec Voter Information System and
8 the second in February 2017 with a physical breach of data inside the
9 Comelec office;
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11 **WHEREAS**, it was reported that the Social Security System (SSS)
12 also suffered a breach in its data record system;
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14 **WHEREAS**, considering that several other government agencies are
15 involved in the processing and storage of personal information, such as,
16 but not limited to the Philippine Statistics Authority, Government Service
17 Insurance System, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Philippine Health
18 Insurance Corporation, Pag-IBIG, Land Transportation Office, there is a
19 need for Congress to exercise its oversight functions to audit compliance
20 with the law;
21

22 **WHEREAS**, protecting personal information is a matter of national
23 security and Congress has a duty to protect the country and its people;
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25 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved,
26 that the Senate of the Philippines direct its appropriate committee(s) to
27 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the numerous data breaches
28 involving government agencies that process and store personal data from
29 the transacting public, specifically to:
30

- 31 a) Require the government agencies that process and store personal data
32 from the transacting public to submit their respective contracts with
33 their personal information processors;
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35 b) Audit compliance of these agencies with the Data Privacy Act of
36 2012; and
37
38 c) Propose amendments to the Data Privacy Act of 2012, if needed.
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Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III