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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND REQUESTING THE  
UNITED STATES SENATE TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE  
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.

1           WHEREAS, International Women's Day, celebrated throughout  
2 the world on March 8th, is a time to:

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- 4           (1) Reflect on the status of women in the United States  
5           and around the world;
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- 7           (2) Assess the progress made and the challenges for women  
8           remaining; and
- 9
- 10          (3) Recommit to women's human rights and the full  
11          empowerment of the world's women as the basis for  
12          truly sustainable social, economic, and political  
13          development of nations and communities;

14  
15 and

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17          WHEREAS, two hundred twenty-eight million women are in need  
18 of effective contraceptive methods; and

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20          WHEREAS, a woman dies every minute as a result of pregnancy  
21 and childbirth-related causes (approximately five hundred  
22 thousand women a year) and for every woman who dies, thirty  
23 other women are injured or disabled; and

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25          WHEREAS, between seven hundred thousand and four million  
26 people, mainly women and children, are trafficked annually  
27 across international borders for sexual exploitation and forced  
28 labor; and

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30          WHEREAS, fifty thousand to one hundred thousand women and  
31 girls are trafficked annually for sexual exploitation into the  
32 United States; and



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2 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is a women's epidemic worldwide with over  
3 nineteen million women worldwide currently living with HIV/AIDS  
4 and over one million women dying of AIDS in 2002; and  
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6 WHEREAS, for the last several years, HIV/AIDS has been the  
7 fifth leading cause of death for women ages twenty-five to  
8 forty-four years in the United States, and the third leading  
9 cause of death for African American women in this same age  
10 group; and  
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12 WHEREAS, gender-based violence against women, including  
13 prenatal sex selection, female infanticide, sexual abuse, female  
14 genital mutilation, school and workplace sexual harassment,  
15 sexual trafficking and exploitation, prostitution, dowry-  
16 killings, domestic violence, battering, and marital rape, causes  
17 more death and disability among women in the fifteen to forty-  
18 four-year age group than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and  
19 even war; and  
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21 WHEREAS, approximately four million eight hundred thousand  
22 rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated annually against  
23 women in the United States; and  
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25 WHEREAS, women in many countries lack the right to own land  
26 and inherit property, obtain credit, attend and stay in school,  
27 earn income, and be free from job discrimination, they also lack  
28 access to services that meet their sexual and reproductive  
29 health needs; and  
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31 WHEREAS, over two billion women around the globe live on  
32 less than \$2 a day, and women in the United States earn seventy-  
33 three cents on average for every dollar earned by men; and  
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35 WHEREAS, two-thirds of the nine hundred sixty million  
36 illiterate adults in the world are women and two-thirds of the  
37 one hundred thirty million children not enrolled in primary  
38 school are girls; and  
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40 WHEREAS, in 1972, Hawaii became the first state to ratify  
41 the federal Equal Rights Amendment, which would have amended the  
42 United States Constitution by adding a guarantee of equal rights  
43 for women; and  
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1 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Hawaii State House of Representatives  
2 adopted House Resolution No. 59, which: supported International  
3 Women's Day; urged the United States Senate to ratify the  
4 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
5 Against Women; and further urged the United States Congress to  
6 fund high quality, voluntary family planning and reproductive  
7 health services; now, therefore,  
8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the United States Senate is  
12 requested to demonstrate our nation's commitment to human rights  
13 by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
14 Discrimination Against Women, and joining one hundred seventy  
15 other nations in endorsing the most comprehensive treaty  
16 ensuring the fundamental human rights and equality of women; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is  
19 urged to affirm every woman's fundamental right to reproductive  
20 health, including the ability to choose the number of children  
21 they will have and the timing of their births, by funding high  
22 quality, voluntary family planning and reproductive health  
23 services that enable women to exercise this right; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
27 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
28 Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional  
29 delegation.  
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OFFERED BY: Wilene Hoale

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