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## HOUSE 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:

3  
4 (1) Reflect on the status of women in the United States  
5 and around the world;

6  
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

16  
17 WHEREAS, two hundred twenty-eight million women are in need  
18 of effective contraceptive methods; and

19  
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

24  
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

29  
30 WHEREAS, fifty thousand to one hundred thousand women and  
31 girls are trafficked annually for sexual exploitation into the  
32 United States; and

33



1 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is a women's epidemic worldwide with over  
2 nineteen million women worldwide currently living with HIV/AIDS  
3 and over one million women dying of AIDS in 2002; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, for the last several years, HIV/AIDS has been the  
6 fifth leading cause of death for women ages twenty-five to  
7 forty-four years in the United States, and the third leading  
8 cause of death for African American women in this same age  
9 group; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, gender-based violence against women, including  
12 prenatal sex selection, female infanticide, sexual abuse, female  
13 genital mutilation, school and workplace sexual harassment,  
14 sexual trafficking and exploitation, prostitution, dowry-  
15 killings, domestic violence, battering, and marital rape, causes  
16 more death and disability among women in the fifteen to forty-  
17 four-year age group than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and  
18 even war; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, approximately four million eight hundred thousand  
21 rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated annually against  
22 women in the United States; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, women in many countries lack the right to own land  
25 and inherit property, obtain credit, attend and stay in school,  
26 earn income, and be free from job discrimination, they also lack  
27 access to services that meet their sexual and reproductive  
28 health needs; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, over two billion women around the globe live on  
31 less than \$2 a day, and women in the United States earn seventy-  
32 three cents on average for every dollar earned by men; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, two-thirds of the nine hundred sixty million  
35 illiterate adults in the world are women and two-thirds of the  
36 one hundred thirty million children not enrolled in primary  
37 school are girls; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, in 1972, Hawaii became the first state to ratify  
40 the federal Equal Rights Amendment, which would have amended the  
41 United States Constitution by adding a guarantee of equal rights  
42 for women; and  
43



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, that the United States Senate is requested to  
12 demonstrate our nation's commitment to human rights by ratifying  
13 the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
14 Against Women, and joining one hundred seventy other nations in  
15 endorsing the most comprehensive treaty ensuring the fundamental  
16 human rights and equality of women; and  
17

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  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States  
27 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:

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MAR 08 2006

