
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAI`I INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONVENE A
WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
UNITED NATIONS' HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS FOR ADOPTION BY
THE STATE OF HAWAI`I.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations, in its Universal Declaration
2 of Human Rights and International Covenants on Human Rights, has
3 affirmed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and
4 freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind,
5 such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other
6 opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other
7 status; and

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9 WHEREAS, there are seven core international human rights
10 treaties, including the International Convention on the
11 Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the
12 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
13 against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, in addition, there are many other universal
17 instruments relating to human rights, including declarations,
18 principles, guidelines, standard rules and recommendations that
19 have no binding legal effect, but do have an undeniable moral
20 force and provide practical guidance; and

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22 WHEREAS, other universal instruments relating to human
23 rights include covenants, statutes, protocols and conventions
24 that are legally-binding for those that ratify or accede to
25 them; and

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27 WHEREAS, while the United States was instrumental in
28 composing the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it has
29 failed to ratify several principal international agreements that
30 are designed to enhance civil and human rights worldwide; and
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1 WHEREAS, for instance, the United States is the only
2 industrialized country that has not ratified the Convention on
3 the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,
4 placing it in the company of countries like Iran, Sudan, and
5 Somalia; and

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7 WHEREAS, the United States may soon be the only country in
8 the world that has not ratified one of the most widely received
9 conventions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

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11 WHEREAS, the preamble to the State of Hawai`i Constitution
12 proclaims that the State of Hawai`i is dedicated to the
13 fulfillment of the state motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka `āina i ka
14 pono," meaning, "The life of the land is perpetuated in
15 righteousness"; and

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17 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai`i has set an example as a
18 forerunner amongst this nation's states for its dedication to
19 human rights by previously adopting the Draft United Nations
20 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

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22 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai`i should not sit idly by while
23 the nation fails to ratify what this state believes to be
24 righteous; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai`i, Regular
28 Session of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature
29 requests the Hawai`i Institute for Human Rights to convene a
30 working group to examine, and make recommendations regarding,
31 United Nations' human rights instruments for adoption by the
32 State of Hawai`i; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group seek input
35 from the public and include in its membership the Hawai`i Human
36 Rights Center and representatives from the Senate Committee on
37 Energy, Environment and International Affairs, and the House
38 International Affairs Committee; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
41 to submit a report, including any recommendations for
42 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
43 to the convening of the regular session of 2007, detailing the



1 United Nations' human rights instruments that the working group
2 proposes for adoption by the State of Hawai`i; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of the Hawai`i
6 Institute for Human Rights, the Director of the Hawai`i Human
7 Rights Center, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy,
8 Environment and International Affairs, the Chair of the House
9 International Affairs Committee, and the United Nations Human
10 Rights Council.

