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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO  
ADDRESS PUBLIC INTERESTS AND COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR LOCAL  
MEDIA, INCLUDING NEWS, ACCESS, AND OWNERSHIP.

1           WHEREAS, the United States must enforce the rights  
2 contained in the First Amendment of the United States  
3 Constitution, which guarantees that American citizens have the  
4 right to freedom of speech and press and to assemble peacefully;  
5 and

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7           WHEREAS, the existence of independent and local media  
8 ensures that diverse programming, voices, and ideas that are  
9 relevant and meaningful to the local community are given ample  
10 opportunity to be aired; and

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12           WHEREAS, federal, state, and local policymakers must do  
13 their part to ensure a place for local and diverse media that  
14 serves the public's interests; and

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16           WHEREAS, state and local governments in communities across  
17 America must have meaningful and well-defined roles to  
18 adequately protect media consumers and to effectively advocate  
19 for local needs and interests; and

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21           WHEREAS, presently, major technological changes are  
22 blurring the lines between broadcast radio and television,  
23 cable, telephone, satellite services, and broadband Internet as  
24 these technologies converge; and

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26           WHEREAS, as technology advances, old regulatory regimes  
27 need to be replaced with new regulatory schemes to ensure a  
28 level telecommunications playing field so that everyone can be  
29 heard and can gain access to information; and

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31           WHEREAS, currently, the State regulates cable television,  
32 but not cable modem services on which high speed broadband  
33 internet programming can be viewed; thus, it is possible that a  
34 new regulatory scheme can preempt state and local governments  
35 from overseeing cable services; and



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 2 WHEREAS, moreover, media mergers are affecting Hawaii's  
 3 local programming and news coverage, which results in a  
 4 reduction of local news staff, news competition, and the quality  
 5 and thoroughness of the news; and

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 7 WHEREAS, Hawaii's needs regarding telecommunications are in  
 8 part determined by its geographical location, relative  
 9 isolation, mixture of high density urban and under-served rural  
 10 populations, and unique ethnic and cultural diversity; and

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 12 WHEREAS, Congress and the FCC need to address Hawaii's  
 13 unique telecommunications needs, and to ensure that all  
 14 residents will have equal access to new media technology; now,  
 15 therefore,

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 17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
 18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,  
 19 that Congress and the FCC are urged to ensure media localism for  
 20 Hawaii's broadband digital future; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FCC is requested to  
 23 convene, in 2006, a public meeting in Hawaii to consider the  
 24 role of local, state, and federal jurisdictions that ensure  
 25 media localism for broadcast, cable, print, and satellite media,  
 26 including future local news and information applications via  
 27 broadband telecommunications; and

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 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 30 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's  
 31 Congressional delegation, Chairperson of the Federal  
 32 Communications Commission, the Governor, Mayors of Hawaii's  
 33 counties, and their respective City Council members.