## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A WAIVER OR RELAXATION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.

WHEREAS, the family is an institution of utmost importance to the human society, and so are relatives and close friends; and

WHEREAS, permitting family members, relatives, and close friends to be together in times of exigent circumstances is a sign of human decency and necessity; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a free and open society that welcomes citizens from around the world; and

WHEREAS, changes in visa procedures following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, reflect the country's concern for ensuring the safety of United States citizens and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, it has become a complex and time-consuming process to enter the United States and certain exigent circumstances should provide visitors with the opportunity to enter the United States for humanitarian reasons; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the President of the United States and the United States Congress are respectfully urged to establish visa waivers or to relax visa requirements for humanitarian reasons, such as serious illness, family emergencies, imminent death, or a funeral for family members, relatives, or close friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the

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United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and to the Governor.

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