

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE  
GLOBAL DEMOCRACY PROMOTION ACT, WHICH WOULD REPEAL THE  
"GLOBAL GAG RULE" AND RELEASE MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, healthcare that includes family planning services  
2 available to women in developing countries around the world has  
3 been reduced by the "global gag rule", a harmful policy imposed  
4 since 2001 by President George Bush on his first day as  
5 President; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the global gag rule bans foreign family planning  
8 programs that receive financial aid from the United States from  
9 using *their own moneys* to provide counseling on abortion  
10 services, family planning advocacy, referrals and other services  
11 to women; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, freedom of speech, a fundamental American value,  
14 is essential to a thriving democracy;

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16 WHEREAS, the promotion of democracy is a principal goal of  
17 United States foreign policy and critical to encouraging  
18 democratic institutions in developing countries; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the global gag rule is an unjustified intrusion  
21 into the private physician-patient relationship that prevents  
22 women from receiving certain necessary healthcare services; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, it is clear that the global gag rule undermines a  
25 key goal of United States foreign policy to improve healthcare  
26 in developing nations, and is causing the deaths of some of the  
27 poorest women in the world; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization reports that over  
2 80,000 women and girls die from unsafe abortions every year and  
3 expects that number to reach as many as 200,000 persons; and  
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5 WHEREAS, on January 22, 2007, thirty-eight members of the  
6 United States Congress introduced the Global Democracy Promotion  
7 Act, H.R. 4465, which would prohibit discriminatory policies and  
8 restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental  
9 organizations with respect to their family planning programs;  
10 and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the Global Democracy Promotion Act makes clear  
13 that United States funds may not be denied to overseas  
14 nongovernmental organizations based on the medical services they  
15 provide, and that funds may not be used to impose restrictions  
16 on free speech and available medical services that would be  
17 illegal if applied in the United States; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that Congress is requested  
22 to enact H.R. 4465, the Global Democracy Promotion Act, to  
23 repeal the restrictions of the global gag rule and release much-  
24 needed funds to be used by foreign nongovernmental organizations  
25 for their family planning programs; and  
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
29 United States, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate,  
30 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of  
31 Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:

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