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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE GENOCIDE AND VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND  
URGING CONGRESS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO ENGAGE  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE  
CHILDREN OF UGANDA.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii is committed to supporting the dignity and  
2 worth of each human being; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, for more than twenty years, the Government of  
5 Uganda has been engaged in an armed conflict with the Lord's  
6 Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony, resulting in ten thousand  
7 people murdered, at least twice that number of children  
8 abducted, and over 1,600,000 people displaced; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, the government forces, or the Uganda People's  
11 Defense Forces, have also committed abuses against civilians  
12 such as rape and murder, especially with the internally  
13 displaced persons camps under their protection; and

14  
15          WHEREAS, the former United Nations Undersecretary-General  
16 for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator called  
17 the civil war in northern Uganda "the biggest forgotten,  
18 neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today"; and

19  
20          WHEREAS, the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has  
21 labeled the Lord's Resistance Army "vicious and cult-like" and  
22 designates it as a terrorist organization under the Immigration  
23 and Nationality Act; and

24  
25          WHEREAS, on April 26, 2006, the State Department's Deputy  
26 Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and  
27 Labor testified before Congress that those who suffer most from  
28 the Lord's Resistance Army tactics are the children, who face  
29 enslavement, sexual exploitation, and forced soldiering; and  
30



1 WHEREAS, many of the children serving in armed forces or  
2 paramilitaries were forcibly conscripted through kidnapping or  
3 coercion, a form of human trafficking, while others joined due  
4 to economic necessity, to avenge the loss of a family member, or  
5 for their own personal safety; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, some military and militia commanders force child  
8 soldiers to commit gruesome acts of ritual killings or torture,  
9 including acts of violence against other children; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, child soldiers are exposed to hazardous conditions  
12 and are at risk of physical injury and disability, psychological  
13 trauma, sexually transmitted diseases, and often death; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, due to the threat of abduction, at one time as  
16 many as thirty-five thousand child "night commuters" traveled  
17 nightly from conflict areas or camps to spend the night in  
18 shelters, schools, churches or balconies in urban centers with  
19 greater capacity to protect them; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the continuing violence and instability obstruct  
22 the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of  
23 northern Uganda and impede national and regional trade,  
24 development and democratization efforts, and counter-terrorism  
25 efforts; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, although the Government of Uganda and the Lord's  
28 Resistance Army signed a cessation of hostilities agreement in  
29 August 2006, it was never fully implemented, and they have not  
30 yet arrived at a sustainable negotiated settlement and observers  
31 remain concerned that hostilities between rebel and government  
32 forces could resume; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, Hawaii and its citizens cannot be bystanders, as  
35 genocide and human trafficking are moral and ethical issues that  
36 implicate us all; now, therefore,

37  
38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
40 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature  
41 disapproves of the Lord's Resistance Army leadership's  
42 inconsistent commitment to resolving the conflict in northern  
43 Uganda peacefully; and



# H.C.R. NO. 39

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii congressional  
 2 delegation is urged to support legislation allocating sufficient  
 3 funds for continued humanitarian aid the people of Uganda as  
 4 well as legislation urging the Lord's Resistance Army to engage  
 5 in good faith negotiations to pursue a political solution to  
 6 this conflict; and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that leaders on both sides of the  
 9 conflict in Uganda are urged to renounce any intentions and halt  
 10 any preparations to resume violence and to ensure that this  
 11 message is clearly conveyed to armed elements under their  
 12 control; and

13  
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Secretary of  
 15 State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for  
 16 International Development, and the heads of other similar  
 17 government agencies and nongovernmental agencies and  
 18 nongovernmental organizations within the international community  
 19 are urged to continue augmenting efforts to alleviate the  
 20 humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda and to support a peaceful  
 21 resolution to this crisis by publicly and forcefully reiterating  
 22 the proceeding demands; and

23  
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional  
 26 delegation, the President of the United States, and the United  
 27 States Ambassador to the United Nations.

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OFFERED BY:

*John M. Higgins*  
*Josh Green*  
*Cynthia Proctor*  
*Della A. Belatti*  
*Tom Brown*  
*Maury Bee*  
*Michael J. Mayday*

