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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST  
CHILDREN IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND URGING CONGRESS TO LEAD THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN  
OF UGANDA.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is committed to supporting the dignity and  
2 worth of each human being; and  
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4 WHEREAS, for more than 20 years, the Lord's Resistance Army  
5 (LRA) led by Joseph Kony, has engaged in an armed conflict with  
6 the Government of Uganda, resulting in 10,000 people murdered,  
7 at least twice that number of children abducted, and over  
8 1,600,000 people displaced; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the United States (U.S.) Department of State has  
11 found that, while having "demonstrated a marked improvement in  
12 respect to human rights," the Ugandan government's human rights  
13 record remains poor, and abuse, violence, and violations of  
14 civil rights continue to occur; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the former United Nations Undersecretary-General  
17 for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator called  
18 the civil war in Northern Uganda "the biggest forgotten,  
19 neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today"; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the LRA has been placed on the Terrorist Exclusion  
22 List by the U.S. Department of State under the Patriot Act,  
23 which among other qualifications, means its members cannot  
24 immigrate to the U.S.; and  
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26 WHEREAS, on April 26, 2006, the U.S. Department of State's  
27 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Democracy, Human  
28 Rights, and Labor testified before Congress that those who  
29 suffer most from the LRA's tactics are the children, who face  
30 enslavement, sexual exploitation, and forced soldiering; and



1 WHEREAS, more than 85 percent of the LRA's captives are  
2 made up of children, mostly between the ages of 11 and 16, who  
3 are abducted and forced to fight as rebels; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the LRA has abducted approximately 12,000 children  
6 since 2002 and continues to abduct children, forcing these  
7 children into virtual slavery as laborers, soldiers, guards, and  
8 sex slaves, and beating, raping, and pressing these children to  
9 march until exhausted, while forcing them to participate in the  
10 killing of other children who attempt to escape; and  
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12 WHEREAS, child soldiers are exposed to hazardous conditions  
13 and are at risk of physical injury and disability, psychological  
14 trauma, sexually transmitted diseases, and often death; and  
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16 WHEREAS, due to the threat of abduction, at one time as  
17 many as 35,000 child "night commuters" traveled nightly from  
18 conflict areas or camps to spend the night in shelters, schools,  
19 churches, or balconies in urban centers with greater capacity to  
20 protect them; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the continuing violence and instability obstruct  
23 the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of  
24 northern Uganda and impede national and regional trade,  
25 development and democratization efforts, and counter-terrorism  
26 efforts; and  
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28 WHEREAS, over 5,000 children are also believed to be  
29 serving in the Ugandan People's Defense Forces, joining due to  
30 economic necessity, to avenge the loss of a family member, or  
31 for their own personal safety; and  
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33 WHEREAS, although the Government of Uganda and the LRA  
34 signed a cessation of hostilities agreement in August 2006, it  
35 was never fully implemented, and they have not yet arrived at a  
36 sustainable negotiated settlement, while observers remain  
37 concerned that hostilities between rebel and government forces  
38 could resume; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, Hawaii and its citizens cannot be bystanders, as  
41 the children of Uganda are subject to enslavement, exploitation,  
42 soldiering, and human trafficking, which are moral and ethical  
43 issues that implicate us all; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2008, that this body condemns the human rights  
4 atrocities and violence against children in Northern Uganda and  
5 urges Congress to lead the international community in efforts to  
6 protect the children of Uganda; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body disapproves of the  
9 LRA leadership's inconsistent commitment to resolving the  
10 conflict in northern Uganda peacefully; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body also urges the  
13 Government of Uganda to abolish child soldiering in its armed  
14 forces; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's Congressional  
17 delegation is urged to support legislation allocating sufficient  
18 funds for continued humanitarian aid for the people of Uganda,  
19 as well as legislation urging the LRA to engage in good faith  
20 negotiations in pursuing a political solution to this conflict;  
21 and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Secretary of State,  
24 the Administrator of the United States Agency for International  
25 Development, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and  
26 the heads of other similar government agencies and  
27 nongovernmental agencies and organizations within the  
28 international community are urged to continue augmenting efforts  
29 to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda and to  
30 support a peaceful resolution to this crisis by publicly and  
31 forcefully reiterating the preceding demands; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
35 each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the United  
36 States Ambassador to the United Nations, the Secretary General  
37 and the Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and  
38 Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations, the  
39 Secretary of State and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau  
40 of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the United States  
41 Department of State, and the Administrator of the United States  
42 Agency for International Development.

