
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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4 WHEREAS, after twenty-three years of civil war, the Lord's
5 Resistance Army, led by Joseph Kony, has engaged in an armed
6 conflict with the Government of Uganda, resulting in thousands
7 of murders, at least twice that number of children abducted, and
8 nearly two-million people displaced; and

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10 WHEREAS, on October 6, 2005, it was announced by the
11 International Criminal Court (ICC) that arrest warrants had been
12 issued for five members of the Lord's Resistance Army, including
13 Joseph Kony, for crimes against humanity following a sealed
14 indictment; and

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16 WHEREAS, since September of 2008, the scope of the LRA
17 attacks has escalated across Sudan, causing United Nations
18 Security Council President Jean-Maurice Ripert to issue a
19 statement on January 16, 2009 on behalf of fifteen countries,
20 including the United States, strongly condemning the recent
21 attacks; and

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23 WHEREAS, the Lord's Resistance Army has been placed on the
24 Terrorist Exclusion List by the United States State Department
25 under the Patriot Act, which among other qualifications, means
26 it's members cannot immigrate to the U.S.; and

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28 WHEREAS, on April 26, 2006, the State Department's Deputy
29 Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and



1 Labor testified before Congress that those who suffer most from
2 the Lord's Resistance Army tactics are the children, who face
3 enslavement, sexual exploitation, and forced soldiering; and
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5 WHEREAS, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,
6 Navanethem Pillay, issued a statement on January 27, 2009
7 speaking out against the "grotesque" human rights abuses by the
8 Lord's Resistance Army, stating that the parties responsible for
9 these abuses will be held accountable for their actions, and
10 urging the governments of South Sudan, Uganda and the Democratic
11 Republic of the Congo to properly plan and execute their joint-
12 operations against the Lord's Resistance Army as the previous
13 efforts have been largely ineffective; and
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15 WHEREAS, over 5,000 children are also believed to be
16 serving in the Ugandan People's Defense Forces, joining due to
17 economic necessity, to avenge the loss of a family member, or
18 for their own personal safety exposing them to hazardous
19 conditions which risk physical injury and disability,
20 psychological trauma, sexually transmitted diseases, and often
21 death; and
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23 WHEREAS, the continuing violence and instability obstruct
24 the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of
25 northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and
26 impede national and regional trade, development and
27 democratization efforts, and counter-terrorism efforts; and
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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii and its citizens cannot be bystanders, as
30 child enslavement, exploitation, soldiering, and human
31 trafficking are moral and ethical issues that implicate us all;
32 now, therefore
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature disapproves
37 of the Lord's Resistance Army leadership's inconsistent
38 commitment to resolving the conflict in northern Uganda and the
39 Democratic Republic of the Congo peacefully; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the
42 Governments of Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo to
43 abolish child soldiering in their armed forces in conjunction



1 with the United States' Child Soldiers Accountability Act signed
2 into law by President Bush on October 3, 2008; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Congressional
5 Delegation is urged to support legislation allocating sufficient
6 funds for continued humanitarian aid to the people of Uganda and
7 the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as
8 legislation urging the Lord's Resistance Army to engage in good
9 faith negotiations to pursue a political solution to this
10 conflict; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to that certified copies of
14 this Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
15 delegation, the President of the United States, the United
16 States Ambassador to the United Nations, the Ugandan Ambassador
17 to the United States and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's
18 Ambassador to the United States.

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OFFERED BY:



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