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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HAWAII'S ADMISSION INTO THE  
UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AS THE 50<sup>TH</sup> STATE.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii is an island state, the last state of the  
2 current union of 50 states that make up the greatest country in  
3 the world, the United States of America; and  
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5           WHEREAS, while the natural beauty and environmental wonders  
6 of Hawaii are recognized throughout the world, it is Hawaii's  
7 inner and social beauty, and the beauty of its people, that make  
8 it unique among the 50 states of the Union; and  
9

10          WHEREAS, Hawaii has a long and proud history as a kingdom,  
11 republic, territory, and now a state of the Union--a history,  
12 like most great civilizations, filled with periods of  
13 magnificent achievement, peace, and turmoil; and  
14

15          WHEREAS, once an island nation in the middle of the Pacific  
16 Ocean, the destiny of the Kingdom of Hawaii would soon be  
17 altered by world events, leading to the eventual annexation into  
18 the United States of America and full admission into the Union  
19 of the United States as the 50<sup>th</sup> State; and  
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21          WHEREAS, in 1854, King Kamehameha III directed  
22 his Minister of Foreign Relations to ascertain the views of the  
23 United States regarding annexation of the Hawaiian islands and  
24 the terms and conditions under which the annexation could be  
25 obtained; and  
26

27          WHEREAS, in 1897, the Republic of Hawaii ratified a Treaty  
28 of Annexation and offered it to the United States. The offer  
29 was accepted by a joint resolution of Congress and signed by  
30 President William McKinley in 1898; and  
31



1           WHEREAS, in 1900, President William McKinley signed the  
2 Organic Act establishing the government of the Territory of  
3 Hawaii, including a provision that all persons who were citizens  
4 of the Republic of Hawaii on August 12, 1898, were now citizens  
5 of the Territory of Hawaii and of the United States; and  
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7           WHEREAS, Hawaii's first Territorial Delegate to Congress,  
8 Robert Wilcox, a former royalist, was elected on a pledge that  
9 "The first bill I shall introduce will be one to admit Hawaii to  
10 Statehood"; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, in 1903, the elected Territorial Legislature, with  
13 more than 70 percent of its members being native Hawaiian,  
14 unanimously passed a joint resolution asking Congress for an  
15 enabling act to convene a constitutional convention to create a  
16 constitution for a proposed State of Hawaii; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, in 1919, Hawaii's elected Territorial Delegate to  
19 Congress Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, introduced into  
20 Congress the first bill for Hawaii statehood; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, on November 5, 1940, the Hawaii general election  
23 ballot included the question "Do you favor Statehood for  
24 Hawaii?" with the vote being 46,174 "Yes" and 22,438 "No"--or 67  
25 percent in the affirmative; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, in 1949, a special election was held to elect  
28 delegates to a constitutional convention to draft a constitution  
29 for a proposed State of Hawaii. The draft constitution was then  
30 approved by a special session of the Territorial Legislature on  
31 July 15, 1950, and ratified in the general election of November  
32 7, 1950, by a vote of 82,788 "Yes" and 27,109 "No"--or 75  
33 percent in the affirmative; and  
34

35           WHEREAS, United States Senate Report 886 of January 27,  
36 1954, associated with a bill for statehood, indicated that 33  
37 bills for statehood had been introduced by Hawaii's Territorial  
38 Delegates between 1919 and 1954; and  
39

40           WHEREAS, in 1954, a petition seeking statehood was signed  
41 by approximately 120,000 citizens of Hawaii, and was given a  
42 celebratory sendoff, including hula, chants, music, kahili and  
43 torch bearers from the Hawaiian civic clubs, at the front



1 entrance of the Territorial capitol building at the time--  
2 Iolani Palace; and

3

4 WHEREAS, during the 1950s, Republican Territorial Delegates  
5 Joseph Farrington and Elizabeth Farrington, and Democrat  
6 Territorial Delegate John Burns, Republican Governors Samuel  
7 Wilder King and William Quinn, and a large majority of Hawaii's  
8 citizens all strongly supported statehood; and

9

10 WHEREAS, in 1958, Democrat Territorial Delegate John Burns,  
11 working closely with Democrat Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B.  
12 Johnson, Democrat Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, and  
13 Republican Governor William Quinn, successfully negotiated the  
14 two-step political compromise under which Alaska was admitted as  
15 the 49th state in 1958 and Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959;  
16 and

17

18 WHEREAS, on March 11, 1959, the United States Senate passed  
19 a Hawaii statehood bill by a vote of 76-15; the United States  
20 House of Representatives passed the same bill on March 12, 1959,  
21 by a vote of 323-8;; and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed  
22 the bill into law on March 18, 1959, offering statehood to  
23 Hawaii, pending ratification by Hawaii's people; and

24

25 WHEREAS, in the statehood plebiscite on June 27, 1959,  
26 140,744 ballots were cast on Proposition 1, which asked: "Shall  
27 Hawaii immediately be admitted to the Union as a state?" The  
28 vote was 132,773 "Yes" to 7,971 "No," thereby confirming an  
29 overwhelming majority of 94 percent in favor of statehood; and

30

31 WHEREAS, on August 21, 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower  
32 proclaimed that, "the procedural requirements imposed by the  
33 Congress on the state of Hawaii to entitle that state to  
34 admission to the Union have been complied with in all respects  
35 and that the admission of the state of Hawaii into the Union on  
36 an equal footing with other states of the Union is now  
37 accomplished"; and

38

39 WHEREAS, on August 24, 1959, Republican Senator Hiram L.  
40 Fong, Democrat Senator Oren E. Long, and Democrat Representative  
41 Daniel K. Inouye, elected after the plebiscite of June 27, 1959,  
42 took their oaths of office in Washington, D.C., to represent the  
43 State of Hawaii in Congress, while Republican William Quinn  
44 became the State's first elected governor; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Admission Day holiday, now officially  
3 referred to as "Statehood Day", annually celebrates the  
4 political joining of America and Hawaii, giving the world a  
5 model of people celebrating great cultural diversity while  
6 unified in the Aloha Spirit, democracy, and equality under law;  
7 and

8  
9 WHEREAS, 2009 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hawaii's  
10 admission into the Union, a year that will be filled with  
11 celebrations, remembrance, and events to mark this historic  
12 occasion; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, March 18, 2009, will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
15 the enactment of federal law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
16 that officially offered statehood to the people of Hawaii; now,  
17 therefore,

18  
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
21 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that 2009 shall be celebrated as  
22 the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hawaii's admission into the Union of the  
23 United States of America as the 50<sup>th</sup> State; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the two houses of the  
26 Legislature assemble in Joint Session in the Chambers of the  
27 Senate at 12:00 p.m., on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, to mark the  
28 anniversary of the federal law that officially offered statehood  
29 to the people of Hawaii.

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32 OFFERED BY: Calvin M. Ay

