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# HOUSE 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, that it disapproves of the Lord's Resistance Army  
37 leadership's inconsistent commitment to resolving the conflict  
38 in northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
39 peacefully; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of  
 2 the State of Hawaii urges the Governments of Uganda and  
 3 Democratic Republic of the Congo to abolish child soldiering in  
 4 their armed forces in conjunction with the United States' Child  
 5 Soldiers Accountability Act signed into law by President Bush on  
 6 October 3, 2008; and

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

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 17 Resolution be transmitted to that certified copies of this  
 18 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation,  
 19 the President of the United States, the United States Ambassador  
 20 to the United Nations, the Ugandan Ambassador to the United  
 21 States and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ambassador to  
 22 the United States.

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 25  OFFERED BY: 