
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE
RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations (UN), in most
2 countries, at least one person in ten is disabled by physical,
3 mental, or sensory impairment, and a quarter of the global
4 population is directly affected by disability, as caregivers or
5 family members; and
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7 WHEREAS, as of 2007, 12.8 percent of the nation's adult
8 population between the ages of 21 and 64 reported having a
9 disability; and
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11 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, those reporting having a disability
12 comprise 10.7 percent of that age group; and
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14 WHEREAS, persons with disabilities face many difficulties,
15 and are often among the poorest and most neglected citizens of
16 our society; and
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18 WHEREAS, the community has a responsibility to this
19 targeted segment of the population; and
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21 WHEREAS, recognizing his work to improve the lives of the
22 individuals with disabilities and his inspiration to people "all
23 over the world about what can be achieved despite any physical
24 limitations" as explained by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
25 the UN recently appointed American Grammy Award-winning singer
26 Stevie Wonder a UN "messenger of peace" - a title given to
27 individuals carefully selected from the fields of film, music,
28 literature, and sports who promote UN activities and ideals
29 through public appearances and media contacts -- with a special
30 focus on people with disabilities; and



1 WHEREAS, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with
2 Disabilities (Convention), the first comprehensive human rights
3 treaty of the 21st century, entered into force in 2008 with the
4 purpose to "promote, protect and ensure the full and equal
5 enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all
6 persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their
7 inherent dignity;" and

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9 WHEREAS, the Convention takes to new heights the movement
10 away from viewing persons with disabilities as objects of
11 charity, medical treatment, and social protection, to viewing
12 them as individuals with rights who are capable of claiming
13 those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their
14 free and informed consent as well as being active members of
15 society; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Convention clarifies and qualifies how all
18 categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and
19 identifies areas in which adaptations must be made for them to
20 effectively exercise their rights, areas in which their rights
21 have been violated, and where protection of rights must be
22 reinforced; and

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24 WHEREAS, on its opening day, there were 82 signatories to
25 the Convention, the highest number of signatories in history to
26 a UN Convention on its opening day; and

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28 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has signed the
29 Convention and submitted it to the United States Senate for its
30 advice and consent for ratification; and

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32 WHEREAS, the ratification of the Convention would serve to
33 remind us -- as policymakers, public officials, service
34 providers, friends, or family -- of our social and moral
35 responsibility to persons with disabilities, and also serve as
36 the guiding principles to improve their lives; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the
41 ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of
42 Persons with Disabilities; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
3 Congressional delegation, Governor, Director of Health, and
4 Director of Human Services.

