
HOUSE 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 rest of us have a responsibility to this small
19 but not insignificant segment of the population; and

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21 WHEREAS, recognizing his work to improve the lives of the
22 less fortunate and his inspiration to people "all over the world
23 about what can be achieved despite any physical limitations" as
24 explained by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the UN recently
25 appointed American Grammy Award-winning singer Stevie Wonder a
26 UN "messenger of peace" - a title given to individuals carefully
27 selected from the fields of film, music, literature, and sports
28 who promote UN activities and ideals through public appearances
29 and media contacts -- with a special focus on people with
30 disabilities; and

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32 WHEREAS, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with
33 Disabilities (Convention), the first comprehensive human rights
34 treaty of the 21st century, entered into force in 2008 with the
35 purpose to "promote, protect and ensure the full and equal



1 enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all
2 persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their
3 inherent dignity"; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Convention takes to new heights the movement
6 away from viewing persons with disabilities as objects of
7 charity, medical treatment, and social protection, to viewing
8 them as subjects with rights who are capable of claiming those
9 rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free
10 and informed consent as well as being active members of society;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, the Convention clarifies and qualifies how all
14 categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and
15 identifies areas in which adaptations must be made for them to
16 effectively exercise their rights, areas in which their rights
17 have been violated, and where protection of rights must be
18 reinforced; and
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20 WHEREAS, on its opening day, there were 82 signatories to
21 the Convention, the highest number of signatories in history to
22 a UN Convention on its opening day; and
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24 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has signed the
25 Convention and submitted it to the United States Senate for its
26 advice and consent for ratification; and
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28 WHEREAS, the ratification of the Convention would serve to
29 remind us -- as policymakers, public officials, service
30 providers, friends, or family -- of our social and moral
31 obligation to persons with disabilities, and also serve as the
32 overarching motivation behind our work to better their lives;
33 now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2010, that this body urges the ratification of the United
38 Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
39 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
3 Congressional delegation, Governor, Director of Health, and
4 Director of Human Services.

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OFFERED BY:

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