
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE
HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii was once the Kingdom of
2 Hawaii, with a monarchy that was afforded full diplomatic
3 recognition by the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893, the government of the Kingdom
6 of Hawaii was overthrown by a group of American citizens, who
7 acted with the support of United States Minister John Stephens
8 and a contingent of United States Marines from the U.S.S.
9 Boston; and
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11 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are a distinct indigenous
12 population with their own culture, identity, and assets set
13 aside for their benefit; and
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15 WHEREAS, the long-range economic and social changes in
16 Hawaii over the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have
17 been devastating to the health and well-being of Native
18 Hawaiians; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian people are determined to
21 preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations, in
22 accordance with their own spiritual and traditional beliefs,
23 their customs, practices, language, social institutions,
24 ancestral territory, and cultural identity; and
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26 WHEREAS, the United States exempted the land from then-
27 existing public land laws of the United States by mandating that
28 the revenue and proceeds from that land be used solely for the
29 benefit of the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands for education
30 and other public purposes, thereby establishing a special trust



1 relationship between the United States and the inhabitants of
2 Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, in furtherance of the trust responsibility for the
5 betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians, the United
6 States has established a program for the provision of
7 comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention services
8 to maintain and improve the health status of the Hawaiian
9 people; and
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11 WHEREAS, that program is conducted by the Native Hawaiian
12 Health Care Systems and Papa Ola Lokahi; and
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14 WHEREAS, health initiatives implemented by those and other
15 health institutions and agencies using federal assistance have
16 been responsible for reducing the century-old morbidity and
17 mortality rates of Native Hawaiian people by:
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19 (1) Providing comprehensive disease prevention;
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21 (2) Providing health promotion activities; and
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23 (3) Increasing the number of Native Hawaiians in the
24 health and allied health professions; and
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26 WHEREAS, those accomplishments have been achieved through
27 implementation of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, the historical and unique legal relationship
31 between the United States and Native Hawaiians has been
32 consistently recognized and affirmed by Congress through the
33 enactment of more than one hundred sixty federal laws that
34 extend to the Native Hawaiian people the same rights and
35 privileges accorded to American Indian, Alaska Native, Eskimo,
36 and Aleut communities; and
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38 WHEREAS, the unmet health needs of the Native Hawaiian
39 people remain severe and the health status of the Native
40 Hawaiian people continues to be far below that of the general
41 population of the United States; and
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1 WHEREAS, the cancer mortality rate of Native Hawaiians is
2 fifty per cent higher than the rate for the total population in
3 Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, the prevalence of diabetes for Native Hawaiians is
6 12.7 per cent, which is eighty-seven per cent higher than the
7 total rate for the total population in Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, the current prevalence of asthma in Native
10 Hawaiian adults is 12.8 per cent, which is seventy-one per cent
11 higher than the rate for the total population in Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, the mortality rate for Native Hawaiians as a
14 result of heart disease is eighty-six per cent higher than the
15 rate for the total population in Hawaii; and
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17 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians have the lowest life expectancy
18 of all population groups in Hawaii; and
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20 WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity among Native Hawaiians
21 is one hundred nineteen per cent higher than the rate for the
22 total population in Hawaii; and
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24 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian physicians make up only four per
25 cent of the total physician workforce in Hawaii; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress
30 and the President of the United States are urged to support the
31 reauthorization of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement
32 Act of 2009; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
36 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
37 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
38 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Chair of the
39 National Caucus of Native American State Legislators, and the
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H.C.R. NO. 116

1 Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
2 Affairs.

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OFFERED BY:

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