
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITED STATES TO PERMIT CONGRESS AND THE STATES TO
REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS BY CORPORATIONS ENGAGING
IN POLITICAL SPEECH.

1 WHEREAS, free speech is a right exclusive to natural
2 persons, recognized and protected by the First Amendment of the
3 Constitution of the United States (U.S.); and
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5 WHEREAS, corporations are not natural persons, but rather
6 legal entities granted conditional rights by society through the
7 legislative deliberations of Congress and the States; and
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9 WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Hawaii has grave
10 concerns regarding the implications of the Supreme Court of the
11 U.S.' decision in its five to four ruling in *Citizens United v.*
12 *Federal Elections Commission*; and
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14 WHEREAS, this decision threatens to invalidate the
15 legislative deliberations of Congress and the States to restrict
16 the influence of corporate power on the political system; and
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18 WHEREAS, the opinion of the four dissenting justices noted
19 that corporations have certain privileges not enjoyed by natural
20 persons, such as limited liability, perpetual life, and
21 favorable treatment of their accumulation and distribution of
22 assets, which financially enables them to overwhelm individual,
23 natural persons in the political process; and
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25 WHEREAS, a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court cannot be
26 overturned by legislation; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, the Senate
30 concurring, that the Legislature respectfully requests that the
31 U.S. Congress propose and send to the states for ratification a



1 constitutional amendment to clarify the distinction between the
2 rights of natural persons and the rights of corporations,
3 thereby preserving the power of Congress and the States to place
4 limits on the ability of corporations to influence the outcome
5 of elections through political expenditures; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certifies copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice
9 President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United
10 States House of Representatives, and to Hawaii's Congressional
11 Delegation.

