
HOUSE 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
31 relationship between the United States and the inhabitants of
32 Hawaii; and
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1 WHEREAS, in furtherance of the trust responsibility for the
2 betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians, the United
3 States has established a program for the provision of
4 comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention services
5 to maintain and improve the health status of the Hawaiian
6 people; and
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8 WHEREAS, that program is conducted by the Native Hawaiian
9 Health Care Systems and Papa Ola Lokahi; and
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11 WHEREAS, health initiatives implemented by those and other
12 health institutions and agencies using federal assistance have
13 been responsible for reducing the century-old morbidity and
14 mortality rates of Native Hawaiian people by:
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- 16 (1) Providing comprehensive disease prevention;
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- 18 (2) Providing health promotion activities; and
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- 20 (3) Increasing the number of Native Hawaiians in the
21 health and allied health professions; and
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23 WHEREAS, those accomplishments have been achieved through
24 implementation of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, the historical and unique legal relationship
28 between the United States and Native Hawaiians has been
29 consistently recognized and affirmed by Congress through the
30 enactment of more than one hundred sixty federal laws that
31 extend to the Native Hawaiian people the same rights and
32 privileges accorded to American Indian, Alaska Native, Eskimo,
33 and Aleut communities; and
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35 WHEREAS, the unmet health needs of the Native Hawaiian
36 people remain severe and the health status of the Native
37 Hawaiian people continues to be far below that of the general
38 population of the United States; and
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40 WHEREAS, the cancer mortality rate of Native Hawaiians is
41 fifty per cent higher than the rate for the total population in
42 Hawaii; and
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1 WHEREAS, the prevalence of diabetes for Native Hawaiians is
2 12.7 per cent, which is eighty-seven per cent higher than the
3 total rate for the total population in Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, the current prevalence of asthma in Native
6 Hawaiian adults is 12.8 per cent, which is seventy-one per cent
7 higher than the rate for the total population in Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, the mortality rate for Native Hawaiians as a
10 result of heart disease is eighty-six per cent higher than the
11 rate for the total population in Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians have the lowest life expectancy
14 of all population groups in Hawaii; and
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16 WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity among Native Hawaiians
17 is one hundred nineteen per cent higher than the rate for the
18 total population in Hawaii; and
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20 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian physicians make up only four per
21 cent of the total physician workforce in Hawaii; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2010, that the United States Congress and the President of
26 the United States are urged to support the reauthorization of
27 the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act of 2009; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
31 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
32 the United States House of Representatives, the members of
33 Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Chair of the National
34 Caucus of Native American State Legislators, and the Chair of
35 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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