

JAN 28 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO REACH OUT TO HAWAII WOMEN AND ENGAGE THEM IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, women are an important and significant force in
2 Hawaii and it is in the best interest of the State to empower
3 and actively engage them in the political process; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Patsy T. Mink Political Action Committee
6 recently surveyed six hundred seventy-one women in Hawaii
7 eligible to vote, and found that seventy-two per cent of women
8 are more concerned with issues that directly affect their
9 families and everyday life than participating in the political
10 process and engaging in larger social and economic issues; and
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12 WHEREAS, the survey also found that the lack of interest
13 and participation in public affairs by women stems from a
14 variety of causes, including a limited knowledge about or
15 interest in the candidates, apathy, and a general distrust of
16 the system, which is perceived as flawed and corrupt; and
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18 WHEREAS, a majority of the survey respondents have never
19 contacted an elected official to express their concerns and a
20 mere four per cent of those women believe that their concerns
21 would be taken seriously if they were voiced; and
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23 WHEREAS, it is crucial for the State to engage women who
24 feel disenfranchised and to assure them their voices are being
25 heard; and
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27 WHEREAS, women would be more likely to engage in government
28 if elected officials focused on issues most important to them,
29 including the high cost of living, higher quality education,
30 affordable housing, and more job opportunities; now, therefore,
31



S.R. NO. 4

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-Sixth
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
 3 that this body requests the Legislature to encourage women to
 4 take active roles in public life, including business and
 5 government, and to provide the support for women to fully
 6 participate by recognizing the need for educational
 7 opportunities and family care; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature is requested to
 10 involve women more fully in the policymaking process, including
 11 playing an important leadership role in the planning and
 12 execution of legislative priorities; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature is requested to
 15 focus on the issues shown to be important to women, issues that
 16 directly impact the everyday lives of all women, including the
 17 high cost of living, higher quality education, affordable
 18 housing, and more job opportunities; and
 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the
 22 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
 23 Chairperson and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State
 24 Commission on Status of Women, and the Chairperson of the Patsy
 25 T. Mink Political Action Committee.
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 28

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