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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING ALL PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ELIMINATE THE "N"  
WORD FROM THEIR VOCABULARY.

1           WHEREAS, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary notes that the "N"  
2 word "now ranks as perhaps the most offensive and inflammatory  
3 racial slur in English"; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the first documented written use of the word was  
6 in 1786, when the "N" word was a term slave masters used to  
7 refer to their African slaves; and  
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9           WHEREAS, while the use of the "N" word by and among African  
10 Americans is not always intended or taken as offensive, it is  
11 often a word expressive of racial hatred and bigotry; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the use of the "N" word by anyone disrespects the  
14 efforts of people of African descent who faced severe bigotry  
15 and bravely fought to break down barriers that attempted to hold  
16 them back, improved their standing in life by marching in  
17 protest and resolved to be respected as equals, and set  
18 inspirational examples in pride and purpose; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the recent proliferation of the use of the "N"  
21 word in the entertainment business through music, film, and  
22 print is undercutting the hard-won progress made by men and  
23 women who risked so much to ensure a better life for the  
24 generations of African Americans who followed them; and  
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26           WHEREAS, numerous high-profile incidents involving the use  
27 of the "N" word by notable celebrities have elicited  
28 condemnation from the larger society; and  
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30           WHEREAS, there have been public movements against the use  
31 of the "N" word such as a New York City Council Resolution,



1 which calls for a symbolic halt on the use of the "N" word in  
2 New York City; and

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4 WHEREAS, every effort to remove the "N" word from our  
5 vocabulary, especially from that of our youth, must be taken  
6 seriously, as the use of this word signals deeper problems in  
7 our society, including a complete disrespect for our fellow  
8 human beings; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that all people of the State of  
13 Hawaii are urged to eliminate the "N" word from their  
14 vocabulary; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that educational activities in our  
17 schools be initiated by the department of education in our  
18 public schools to teach our children what the original people  
19 labeled with the "N" word went through and their struggle to  
20 overcome bigotry; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's children be taught the  
23 responsibility they carry to uphold high standards of conduct  
24 and respect for every person in our society; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a general boycott from the  
27 purchasing of any product which uses the "N" word in any form be  
28 heavily promoted and practiced by wholesalers, retailers, and  
29 consumers throughout the state; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
33 Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of  
34 Education, President of the National Association for the  
35 Advancement of Colored People - Hawaii Chapter, Executive  
36 Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, and  
37 President of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

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