
HOUSE 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,
32 which calls for a symbolic halt on the use of the "N" word in
33 New York City; and
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1 WHEREAS, every effort to remove the "N" word from our
2 vocabulary, especially from that of our youth, must be taken
3 seriously, as the use of this word signals deeper problems in
4 our society, including a complete disrespect for our fellow
5 human beings; now, therefore,
6

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2011, that all people of the State of Hawaii are urged to
10 eliminate the "N" word from their vocabulary; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that educational activities in our
13 schools be initiated by the department of education in our
14 public schools to teach our children what the original people
15 labeled with the "N" word went through and their struggle to
16 overcome bigotry; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's children be taught the
19 responsibility they carry to uphold high standards of conduct
20 and respect for every person in our society; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a general boycott from the
23 purchasing of any product which uses the "N" word in any form be
24 heavily promoted and practiced by wholesalers, retailers, and
25 consumers throughout the state; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of
29 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, President of
30 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People -
31 Hawaii Chapter, Executive Director of the American Civil
32 Liberties Union of Hawaii, and President of the Chamber of
33 Commerce of Hawaii.
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