

---

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION ONLY PROTECTS  
RIGHTS OF NATURAL PERSONS.

1           WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to American  
2 democracy and effective self-governance; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, individual persons are recognized as natural  
5 persons who actually vote in elections; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, corporations are artificial entities that  
8 governments create; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, corporations do not vote in elections and should  
11 not be categorized as persons for purposes related to elections  
12 for public office; and

13  
14          WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the United  
15 States Constitution, as adopted, nor have Congress and the  
16 states recognized corporations as legal persons in any  
17 subsequent federal constitutional amendment; and

18  
19          WHEREAS, the rights protected by the United States  
20 Constitution are the rights of natural persons only; and

21  
22          WHEREAS, the privileges of artificial entities should be  
23 determined by the people through federal, state, or local law,  
24 and should not be construed to be inherent or inalienable; and

25  
26          WHEREAS, corporations are not and have never been natural  
27 persons and therefore are subservient to natural persons and the  
28 governments that are their creators; and

29  
30          WHEREAS, the profits and institutional survival of large  
31 corporations often conflict with the essential needs and rights  
32 of natural persons; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
3 of 2012, that this body urges Congress to propose an amendment  
4 to the United States Constitution for the states' consideration,  
5 which provides that corporations are not persons under the laws  
6 of the United States or any of its jurisdictional subdivisions;  
7 and  
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the this body supports the  
10 adoption of federal, state, and local laws that will regulate,  
11 limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a  
12 candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose  
13 of influencing the election of any candidate for public office  
14 or any ballot measure in any way; and  
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the adoption  
17 of federal, state, and local government laws that will require  
18 public disclosure of any permissible contributions and  
19 expenditures; and  
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is urged not to  
22 construe the spending of money to influence elections as  
23 protected speech under the First Amendment; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution  
26 shall be construed as to abridge the freedom of the press; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's  
30 congressional delegation, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of  
31 the State of Hawaii, Chief Election Officer, and Attorney  
32 General.

