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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL DRAFT TO INCLUDE WOMEN.

1           WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence (1776) states that  
2 "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their  
3 creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are  
4 Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness;" and  
5

6           WHEREAS, gender equality was further codified in the United  
7 Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
8 Discrimination Against Women (1979), in which was noted that  
9 "States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights  
10 have the obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women  
11 to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political  
12 rights;" and  
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14           WHEREAS, some women find military training and service  
15 fulfilling: female cadets in the United States Reserve Officers'  
16 Training Corps (ROTC) see military training as an "opportunity  
17 to be strong, assertive and skillful" and such training "as an  
18 escape from some of the negative aspects of traditional  
19 femininity" (2008 study, Jennifer M. Silva); and  
20

21           WHEREAS, front-line infantry, armor, artillery and special  
22 operations jobs are currently open to female volunteers who can  
23 meet the physical requirements; last year alone, nearly 15  
24 percent of the nation's 1.5 million active duty military  
25 personnel were women; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, the purpose of a draft is to create a pool of  
28 potential combat troops should a national emergency demand a  
29 rapid increase in the size of the military but the draft has  
30 excluded women; and



1           WHEREAS, the United States came close to drafting women  
2 during World War II (1939-1942) when there was a shortage of  
3 military nurses, though a few women also cross-dressed as men in  
4 order to fight; and

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6           WHEREAS, expanding the universe of draft registrants  
7 increases the share of the national population with a stake in  
8 the activities of the armed forces; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, women should become equally obligated to defend  
11 the United States if the need for a draft arises and the women  
12 are physically capable of enduring the strenuous activities the  
13 United States military requires; and

14  
15          WHEREAS, excluding women from a draft reinforces a  
16 stereotype that they are less capable than men and need to be  
17 protected; and

18  
19          WHEREAS, *Rostker v. Goldberg*, 453 U.S. 57 (1981) alleged  
20 that the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment was violated  
21 because only men are required to register with the Selective  
22 Service System; however, it was subsequently over-ruled because  
23 women were excluded from combat service by statute or military  
24 policy; and

25  
26          WHEREAS, that same year, the National Organization for  
27 Women, in agreement, filed an action alleging that the male-only  
28 draft was unconstitutional and testified before the House Armed  
29 Services Committee prior to the enactment of the Military  
30 Selective Service Act, that, "because men exclude women here,  
31 they justify excluding women from the decision-making of our  
32 nation;" and

33  
34          WHEREAS, the announcement made by the Department of Defense  
35 that women between the ages of 18 to 25 can serve with ground  
36 military forces in combat has opened the possibility that women  
37 could be required to register for Selective Service, mirroring  
38 the law applicable to all U.S. men in that age group; now,  
39 therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 3 Session of 2013, that this body strongly supports including  
 4 women in the national draft; and  
 5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
 8 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority  
 9 Leader of the United States Senate, and members of Hawaii's  
 10 Congressional Delegation.  
 11

12 Calvin K. Aoy  
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