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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GRANT FULL VOTING RIGHTS  
FOR RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provided for the  
2 establishment of a federal district, known as Washington,  
3 District of Columbia, and the residents of the federal district  
4 were allowed to vote for members of the United States House of  
5 Representatives from the time of incorporation in 1791 until  
6 1801; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the  
9 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United  
10 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for  
11 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the  
12 United States; and  
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14           WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted  
15 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through  
16 passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the United States  
17 Constitution in 1961, which Hawaii was the first state to  
18 ratify; and  
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20           WHEREAS, Congress has allowed the District of Columbia to  
21 send a nonvoting delegate to the United States House of  
22 Representatives since 1971; and  
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24           WHEREAS, Congress passed a constitutional amendment in 1978  
25 to grant full voting rights to District of Columbia residents  
26 and, although it was ratified by Hawaii and fifteen other  
27 states, the proposed amendment was ultimately unsuccessful, thus  
28 keeping the right to vote for congressional representation out  
29 of reach for District of Columbia residents; and  
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31           WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has 601,723 residents,  
32 which according to the 2010 census is comparable to the  
33 populations of Wyoming (563,626), Vermont (625,741), North  
34 Dakota (672,591), and Alaska (710,231); and  
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1 WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents share all the  
2 responsibilities of citizenship, including paying federal taxes,  
3 serving on federal juries, and defending the United States as  
4 members of the United States Armed Services in every war since  
5 the War for Independence, yet they are denied full  
6 representation in Congress; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia's economy is larger than  
9 the economies of more than fifteen states; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the lack of federal representation severely limits  
12 the ability of residents of the District of Columbia to  
13 influence legislation on matters directly affecting them,  
14 including health, gun control, budgeting, taxes, and governance;  
15 and  
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17 WHEREAS, the United States is a signatory to international  
18 treaties calling for countries to grant full voting rights to  
19 its adult citizens, including the International Covenant on  
20 Civil and Political Rights, the Organization of American States'  
21 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the  
22 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination;  
23 and  
24

25 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Inter-American Commission on Human  
26 Rights of the Organization of American States found the United  
27 States to be in violation of international human rights law for  
28 its disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents; and  
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30 WHEREAS, Benjamin Cayetano, as Governor of the State of  
31 Hawaii, recognized the fundamental right to representation of  
32 District of Columbia residents and proclaimed August 2002  
33 "District of Columbia Voting Rights Month"; and  
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35 WHEREAS, the White House has affixed the District of  
36 Columbia's "Taxation Without Representation" license plates on  
37 the presidential limousine and other vehicles, stating that  
38 President Obama "has seen first-hand how patently unfair it is  
39 for working families in D.C. to work hard, raise children and  
40 pay taxes, without having a vote in Congress. Attaching these  
41 plates to the presidential vehicles demonstrates the President's  
42 commitment to the principle of full representation for the  
43 people of the District of Columbia and his willingness to fight



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1 for voting rights, home rule, and budget autonomy for the  
2 district"; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in 2013, several measures have been introduced in  
5 the United States Congress that provide for greater  
6 representation and autonomy for the residents of the District of  
7 Columbia; now, therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
11 Session of 2013, that members of the 113th United States  
12 Congress are urged to enact federal legislation or propose a  
13 constitutional amendment granting full voting rights to  
14 residents of the District of Columbia; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
18 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
19 the United States House of Representatives, the District of  
20 Columbia's congressional delegate, and members of Hawaii's  
21 congressional delegation.  
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23  
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OFFERED BY:

Kal Nook

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