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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 15 other states, the  
27 proposed amendment was ultimately unsuccessful, thus keeping the  
28 right to vote for congressional representation out of reach for  
29 District of Columbia residents; and  
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31           WHEREAS, the District of Columbia had 601,723 residents, as  
32 of the 2010 census, which was comparable to the populations of  
33 Wyoming (563,626), Vermont (625,741), North Dakota (672,591),  
34 and Alaska (710,231); and



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 15 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, with a  
38 representative of the President stating that President Obama  
39 "has seen first-hand how patently unfair it is for working  
40 families in the District of Columbia to work hard, raise  
41 children and pay taxes, without having a vote in Congress.



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

