
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the State recognizes the inherent dignity, worth,
2 equality, and inalienable rights of all peoples regardless of
3 ability; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of
6 Persons with Disabilities promotes, protects, and ensures the
7 full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental
8 freedoms by all persons with disabilities; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Convention was negotiated from 2002 to 2006
11 and was adopted on December 13, 2006, by one hundred seventeen
12 countries and the European Union; and
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14 WHEREAS, President Obama signed the Convention in 2009, but
15 the United States Senate failed to reach the necessary two-
16 thirds margin required to approve the Convention in a vote on
17 December 4, 2012; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed
20 into law on July 26, 1990, establishing the United States as a
21 world leader in the protection of the rights of disabled
22 individuals; and
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24 WHEREAS, ratification of the Convention on the Rights of
25 Persons with Disabilities by the United States Senate will renew
26 and strengthen America's global leadership role regarding the
27 rights of persons with disabilities; and
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29 WHEREAS, joining the Convention will provide the United
30 States with another venue to provide leadership in positively
31 impacting the lives of the fifty-four million Americans with
32 disabilities and the one billion individuals with disabilities
33 worldwide; and



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2 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i recognizes the importance of
3 promoting and protecting human rights for all individuals; now,
4 therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
9 Senate is urged to ratify the United Nations Convention on the
10 Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United Nations
14 Secretary General, United Nations High Commissioner for Human
15 Rights, President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of
16 the United States Senate, United States Secretary of State, and
17 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

