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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PROPOSE AND  
SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS OFFERING AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED  
STATES CONSTITUTION TO CLARIFY THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT  
HUMAN BEINGS WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND THAT  
GOVERNMENTS MAY LIMIT CORPORATE POLITICAL EXPENDITURES.

1           WHEREAS, the corporate power that can be exerted with  
2 unlimited corporate political spending is a vital concern to the  
3 people of Hawaii; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the introduction of unlimited corporate money into  
6 candidate elections would irrevocably change the dynamic of  
7 contests for Hawaii political office; and  
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9           WHEREAS, with the infusion of unlimited corporate money in  
10 support of or opposition to a targeted candidate, the average  
11 citizen candidate in Hawaii would be unable to compete against  
12 the corporate-sponsored candidate, and Hawaii citizens would be  
13 effectively shut out of the process; and  
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15           WHEREAS, unlimited corporate donations have a dominating  
16 impact on the Hawaii political process and inevitably minimize  
17 the impact of individual Hawaii citizens; and  
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19           WHEREAS, Hawaii traditions support the policy that each  
20 elected and appointed officer, whether acting on a state or  
21 federal level, should advance the philosophy that corporations  
22 are not human beings with constitutional rights; and  
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24           WHEREAS, each elected and appointed officer should act to  
25 prohibit, whenever possible, corporations from making  
26 contributions to or expenditures for the campaigns of candidates  
27 or ballot issues; and  
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1           WHEREAS, when carrying out their respective duties, all  
2 elected and appointed officers should remember that the people  
3 of Hawaii:

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- 5           (1) Regard money as property, not speech;
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- 7           (2) Regard the rights under the United States Constitution  
8 as rights of human beings, not rights of corporations;
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- 10           (3) Regard the immense aggregation of wealth that is  
11 accumulated by corporations using advantages provided  
12 by the government to be corrosive and distorting when  
13 used to advance the political interests of  
14 corporations;
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- 16           (4) Intend that there should be a level playing field in  
17 campaign financing that allows all individuals,  
18 regardless of wealth, to express their views to one  
19 another and their government; and
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- 21           (5) Intend that a level playing field in campaign  
22 financing includes limits on overall campaign  
23 expenditures and limits on large contributions to, and  
24 expenditures for, the benefit of any campaign by any  
25 source, including corporations, individuals, or  
26 political committees; now, therefore,

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28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's congressional  
31 delegation is urged to propose a joint resolution offering an  
32 amendment to the United States Constitution that accomplishes  
33 the following:

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- 35           (1) Supersedes the United States Supreme Court's ruling in  
36 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*;
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- 38           (2) Establishes that corporations are not human beings  
39 with constitutional rights;
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- 41           (3) Establishes that campaign contributions or  
42 expenditures by corporations, whether to candidates or



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1 ballot issues, may be prohibited by a political body  
2 at any level of government; and


3  
4 (4) Achieves a level playing field in election spending;  
5 and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional  
8 delegation is requested to work diligently to bring such a joint  
9 resolution to a vote and passage, including use of discharge  
10 petitions, cloture, and every other procedural method to secure  
11 a vote and passage; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional  
14 delegation is requested to vote in favor of ratifying any  
15 amendment to the United States Constitution that is consistent  
16 with the principles and values aforementioned; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's  
20 congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
Mark Hala

