
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING HAWAII TO BE A HO'OKIPA (WELCOMING) STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the State motto "[u]a mau ke ea 'o ka 'āina i ka
2 pono," which means, "[t]he life of the land is perpetuated in
3 righteousness," reminds us that our deepest community values
4 compel us to welcome the visitor and care for the wanderer in
5 our midst; and

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7 WHEREAS, the traditional Hawaiian value of ho'okipa, or
8 open-hearted hospitality, calls us to welcome the visitor and
9 the stranger alike, and to unselfishly extend to others the best
10 that we have to give; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is justifiably proud of its diverse
13 immigrant heritage, which has woven the many people of this
14 State into a rich tapestry of races, ancestral groups,
15 religions, cultures, and languages from all over the world; and

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17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique spirit of inclusiveness allows its
18 diverse people to live in relative harmony because of our
19 respect and aloha for each other and our commitment to peace and
20 justice; and

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22 WHEREAS, our state and county governments cultivate a
23 culture of inclusion when they ensure that all people in our
24 communities receive equal protection under the law and
25 respectful treatment, without regard to their race, national
26 origin, ancestry, or citizenship status; and

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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii's inclusionary and peaceful culture is now
29 threatened by inflammatory rhetoric and harsh federal policies
30 that vilify immigrants, divide communities and families, and
31 create fear and suspicion among different racial, ethnic, and
32 ancestral groups; and



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2 WHEREAS, the executive branch of the federal government has
3 recently revived a program under section 287(g) of the
4 Immigration and Nationality Act that allows a state or local law
5 enforcement entity to enter into a partnership with the
6 Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) division of the
7 Department of Homeland Security in order to receive delegated
8 authority for immigration enforcement within their
9 jurisdictions; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Tenth Amendment to the United States
12 Constitution guarantees states' sovereignty and provides that
13 "powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution,
14 nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States
15 respectively, or to the people;" and

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17 WHEREAS, the Tenth Amendment further provides that the
18 federal government may not commandeer state and local officials
19 by demanding that they enforce federal laws and regulatory
20 programs; and

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22 WHEREAS, each state, and municipality within each state,
23 has the sovereign power to choose how they allocate their
24 resources and cannot be forced to carry out the federal
25 government's agenda; and

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27 WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies should not be
28 required to bear the immense financial burden of enforcing
29 federal immigration laws; and

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31 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii already shoulder the costs of
32 providing health care, housing, education, and other social
33 services to migrants from various Pacific Island communities,
34 who were forced to leave their ancestral homelands because of
35 the devastating effects of some actions of the United States,
36 such as the above-ground testing of nuclear weapons and the
37 building of large military installations that displaced
38 islanders from the ancestral lands; and

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40 WHEREAS, it would be an injustice to Hawaii's residents for
41 the State, or any of its political subdivisions, to expend
42 scarce state resources enforcing federal immigration policies
43 instead of providing for housing, education, transportation,
44 medical care, and other basic human needs here in Hawaii; and



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2 WHEREAS, the involvement of state law enforcement officers
3 in federal deportation programs and activities would alienate
4 members of our many communities and undermine the relationships
5 between the State's law enforcement agencies and local
6 communities; and
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8 WHEREAS, in the face of discriminatory policies and the
9 element of uncertainty in the promulgation and execution of
10 continually evolving orders and policies of the federal
11 government, the State of Hawaii and its leaders are encouraged
12 to advocate for the protection of all residents, including
13 immigrants, and their due process rights, as guaranteed by both
14 the Constitutions of the United States of Hawaii; now therefore
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2017, requests that the State of Hawaii and its political
19 subdivisions recognize that immigration is a federal function
20 and that local law enforcement agencies should decline to work
21 with federal immigration agencies; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State and its political
24 subdivisions are requested to not expend state or county funds
25 by entering into any agreements under section 287(g) of the
26 Immigration and Nationality Act or any similar agreement with
27 the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or
28 by engaging in any other law enforcement activities that
29 collaborate with ICE or any other federal law enforcement agency
30 in connection with the deportation of undocumented immigrants
31 who have not been convicted of committing a violent crime; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Mayors
35 of the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Kauai,
36 Maui, and Hawaii; the Chairs of the respective county councils;
37 and the Chiefs of Police of the City and County of Honolulu and
38 the Counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; and the Chief Justice
39 of the Hawaii Supreme Court.
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