
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITMENT TO FULL AND EQUAL RIGHTS
FOR WOMEN.

1 WHEREAS, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the
2 equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family
3 is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace and it is
4 essential that human rights should be protected by the rule of
5 law; and

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7 WHEREAS, all human beings are born free and equal in
8 dignity and rights and are entitled without discrimination to
9 all of the rights and freedoms granted under the law and by
10 society, including life, liberty, security of person, and
11 recognition of such before the law; and

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13 WHEREAS, in the words of former Secretary of State Hillary
14 Rodham Clinton, "women's rights are human rights and human
15 rights are women's right"; and

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17 WHEREAS, all persons are equal before the law and are
18 entitled to equal protection against discrimination or
19 incitement to discrimination, including through the exercise of
20 effective remedy for acts violating fundamental rights; and

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22 WHEREAS, there is a growing recognition that women have
23 been shamefully denied full rights and protections under the law
24 throughout much of Western history, long having been considered
25 as legal chattel and denied the exercise of full personhood; and

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27 WHEREAS, although the status of women in contemporary
28 American society represents a hard-won improvement over that of
29 previous generations and that still experienced by many women
30 across the world, women both here and abroad remain subject to
31 both de jure and de facto inequality; and



1 WHEREAS, women still earn significantly less than men in
2 the workforce and face gender-based discrimination including
3 harassment and assault that affects access to economic and
4 social opportunity, benefits, and advancement; and
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6 WHEREAS, women and girls are exponentially more likely to
7 experience sexual violence, family violence, and abuse within
8 the home than their male counterparts; and
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10 WHEREAS, women's opportunities for full participation in
11 public and community life across the world remain hobbled by
12 outdated stereotypes, unfair policies, lack of control of their
13 own health care, and other manifestations of systemic and
14 pervasive misogyny; and
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16 WHEREAS, while Hawaii is not immune to the effects of
17 gender bias, the State has a robust history of recognizing
18 women's rights that dates back to Ka'ahumanu, wife of Kamehameha
19 II and the most influential advisor to the early Kamehameha
20 dynasty, continues through the monarchy as exemplified by
21 Lili'uokalani's progressive and steadfast leadership in the face
22 of unimaginable adversity, and persists to the present; and
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24 WHEREAS, in the modern era, Hawaii can claim responsibility
25 for a wide array of women's rights milestones, including the
26 election of Patsy Mink, the first Asian American woman to serve
27 in Congress and the driving force behind Title IX, which
28 established women's right to equal educational opportunity in
29 federal law; passage of the country's first legislation to
30 guarantee women the full range of reproductive health options;
31 and production of women leaders in the areas of activism, art,
32 politics, and sport; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature reaffirms
37 its commitment to advancing the equal rights of women under the
38 law and in society; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayors
42 of the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and the City and

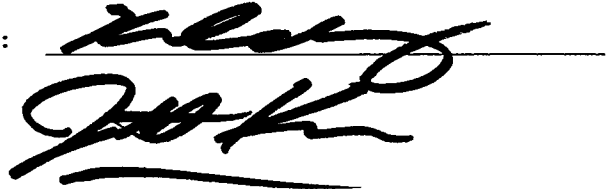


H.C.R. NO. 207

1 County of Honolulu, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii
2 State Commission on the Status of Women.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, there are several more strokes of the signature, including a large loop and a horizontal bar.

MAR 10 2017

