
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE
LEGISLATION FOR AND TO SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V OF
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT TWO-THIRDS OF THE
STATES TO DIRECTLY PROPOSE SPECIFIC CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS, IN SUBSTITUTION FOR THE STATES' CURRENT
AUTHORITY TO CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BY THE
CONGRESS.

1 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States
2 provides for two methods of amending the Constitution, one
3 initiated by congressional action and the other initiated by the
4 states; and

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6 WHEREAS, to date, all constitutional amendments have been
7 congressionally initiated through the process whereby two-thirds
8 of each house of Congress proposes the constitutional amendment;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, the state-initiated process, whereby Congress
12 calls for a constitutional convention to consider amendments
13 upon the application of two-thirds of state legislatures, has
14 never been employed; and

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16 WHEREAS, the state-initiated constitutional convention is
17 potentially open-ended and therefore too cumbersome and
18 problematic in light of current and foreseeable circumstances;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, permitting the direct submission of proposed
22 constitutional amendments by two-thirds of the states would be a
23 more effective process for state-initiated amendments; and

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25 WHEREAS, the existing constitutional requirement that
26 three-fourths of all states must ratify any proposed



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1 constitutional amendment remains the ultimate safeguard against
2 poorly considered amendments, irrespective of source; and
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4 WHEREAS, currently only Congress is authorized to directly
5 propose an amendment to Article V of the Constitution of the
6 United States to permit the states to directly propose specific
7 amendments rather than require Congress to call for a
8 potentially open-ended constitutional convention that could
9 result in constitutional changes other than those desired by the
10 states; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's congressional
15 delegation is requested to introduce legislation for and to
16 support an amendment to Article V of the Constitution of the
17 United States to permit two-thirds of the states to directly
18 propose specific constitutional amendments, in substitution for
19 the states' current authority to call for a constitutional
20 convention by the Congress; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
24 congressional delegation and the chief executive officer of each
25 house of every state legislature in the United States.
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OFFERED BY: *Gene. Am*

JAN 18 2017

