
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RESTORE FREE AND FAIR
ELECTIONS BY APPLYING FOR A CONVENTION TO PROPOSE
AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

1 WHEREAS, according to The Federalist No. 52 by James
2 Madison, the framers of the Constitution of the United States
3 intended that the Congress of the United States should be
4 "dependent on the people alone"; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the "dependency on the people alone" has evolved
7 into a dependency on powerful special interests that act through
8 campaigns or third-party groups, thereby creating a fundamental
9 imbalance in our representative democracy; and
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11 WHEREAS, Americans across the political spectrum agree that
12 elections in the United States should be free from the
13 disproportional influence of special interests and fair enough
14 that any citizen can be elected into office; and
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16 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
17 requires Congress to convene a convention for proposing
18 amendments to the federal Constitution on the application of
19 two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of
22 Hawaii perceives the need for a convention for the limited
23 purpose of restoring balance and integrity to our elections by
24 proposing a federal constitutional amendment to permanently
25 protect free and fair elections in the United States by
26 addressing issues raised by the decision of the Supreme Court of
27 the United States in Citizens United v. Federal Election
28 Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), and related cases and events;
29 and



1 WHEREAS, the Twenty-ninth Legislature desires that
2 currently elected state or local office holders shall be
3 appointed in equal numbers as the delegates to the Convention,
4 or alternatively, delegates shall be elected from each
5 Congressional district; provided that former or current federal
6 office holders, whether elected or appointed, are not eligible
7 to serve as delegates to the Convention; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Twenty-ninth Legislature shall retain the
10 ability to restrict or expand the authority of its delegates
11 within the limits expressed herein; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Twenty-ninth Legislature intends that this
14 continuing application shall be considered with the applications
15 for a convention that have been adopted by the 2013-2014 Vermont
16 Legislature, the 2013-2014 California Legislature, the Ninety-
17 eighth Illinois General Assembly, the 2014-2015 New Jersey
18 Legislature, and the 2015-2016 Rhode Island Legislature, as well
19 as all applications that are subsequently adopted until two-
20 thirds of the several states have applied for, and Congress has
21 convened, a convention for proposing amendments to restore free
22 and fair elections; now, therefore,
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the people of the State of
27 Hawaii speaking through its Legislature, and pursuant to Article
28 V of the Constitution of the United States, hereby submit an
29 application to the United States Congress to call a convention
30 for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the
31 Constitution of the United States that will restore free and
32 fair elections as described herein, as soon as two-thirds of the
33 several states have applied for a convention for a similar
34 purpose; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
38 United States; Vice President of the United States, as presiding
39 officer of the United States Senate; President Pro Tempore of
40 the United States Senate; the Minority Leader of the United
41 States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of



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1 Representatives; the Minority Leader of the United States House
2 of Representatives; and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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[Signature]

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