
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CONVENE A LIMITED-PURPOSE
CONVENTION TO RESTORE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.

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
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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 desires to restore balance and integrity to elections by
23 urging Congress to convene a limited-purpose convention to
24 consider 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
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31 WHEREAS, the Twenty-ninth Legislature desires that Hawaii
32 have an equal number of delegates to the limited-purpose



1 convention as any other state; provided that former or current
2 federal office holders, whether elected or appointed, are not
3 eligible to serve as delegates to the convention; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Twenty-ninth Legislature intends that this
6 application shall be considered with the applications that have
7 been adopted by the 2013-2014 Vermont Legislature, the 2013-2014
8 California Legislature, the Ninety-eighth Illinois General
9 Assembly, the 2014-2015 New Jersey Legislature, and the 2015-
10 2016 Rhode Island Legislature, as well as all applications that
11 are subsequently adopted until two-thirds of the several states
12 have applied for, and Congress has convened, a limited-purpose
13 convention for proposing amendments to restore free and fair
14 elections, subject to the right reserved by the Legislature of
15 the State of Hawaii to rescind this application by concurrent
16 resolution; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the people of the State of
21 Hawaii speaking through its Legislature, hereby submit an
22 application to the United States Congress to restore free and
23 fair elections as described herein; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of
26 Hawaii shall retain the ability to restrict or expand the
27 authority of its delegates within the limits expressed herein by
28 concurrent resolution; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of
31 Hawaii expressly reserves the right to rescind the application
32 expressed herein by concurrent resolution; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
36 United States; Vice President of the United States, as presiding
37 officer of the United States Senate; President Pro Tempore of
38 the United States Senate; the Minority Leader of the United
39 States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of
40 Representatives; the Minority Leader of the United States House
41 of Representatives; and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

