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# HOUSE 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

6  
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, that the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to  
37 advancing the equal rights of women under the law and in  
38 society; and  
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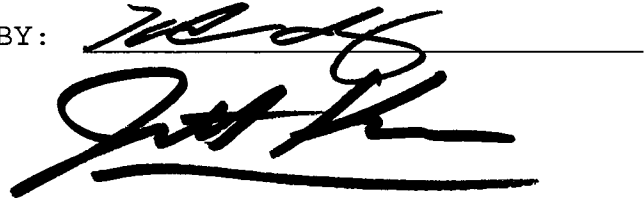
40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayors of the



1 Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and the City and County of  
2 Honolulu, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State  
3 Commission on the Status of Women.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John H.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

MAR 10 2017

