
HOUSE RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THAT ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER, EDUCATION, AND
HEALTHCARE ARE INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF ALL
INDIVIDUALS.

1 WHEREAS, the future health of the people and the economy of
2 this state and country depend upon individual access to basic
3 necessities including clean water, healthcare, and education;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, while the United States is the wealthiest nation
7 in the world, many of the country's most critical resources,
8 such as fresh and clean drinking water, have been compromised;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, over the years, cities across the country, such as
12 Flint, Michigan, have experienced access to clean water being
13 cut off, while towns across the country have experienced
14 freshwater well contamination by chemical discharge as a result
15 of fracking, among other things; and

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17 WHEREAS, even in Hawaii, contamination of freshwater
18 resources has occurred as a result of leaking cesspools and
19 underground fuel storage tanks; and

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21 WHEREAS, despite education being declared a fundamental
22 human right by the United Nations and a necessity for
23 individuals and economies competing in a globalized world, the
24 United States has been ranked among the lowest of all developed
25 nations with regard to education. In 2015, the United States
26 ranked 40th in math, 24th in reading, and 25th in science in the
27 worldwide Program International Student Assessment, with Hawaii
28 ranking consistently among the lowest of all fifty states in
29 these categories; and

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31 WHEREAS, despite having the most expensive healthcare
32 system in the world, with significantly more expensive



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1 prescription medication prices and hospital costs, the United
2 States ranks as one of the worst in terms of healthcare outcomes
3 of any developed nation; and
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5 WHEREAS, one in ten Americans remain uninsured despite
6 various attempts, including the passage of the Affordable Care
7 Act, to insure every American; and
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9 WHEREAS, the high cost of medical treatments, prescription
10 medications, and overall medical care, coupled with a lack of
11 adequate insurance coverage, has caused numerous families across
12 the country to face tremendous financial difficulty, including
13 bankruptcy; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt called for a
16 "second bill of rights" to be enacted that included an
17 individual's right to adequate medical care and a quality
18 education; and
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20 WHEREAS, today, most modern western nations include an
21 individual's right to healthcare, education, and clean water in
22 their constitutions, finding that addressing these priorities
23 has led to improvements in the quality of life for their
24 citizenry; and
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26 WHEREAS, bold steps must be taken to address the priorities
27 of clean water, adequate healthcare, and a quality education for
28 all of the citizens of the United States; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2017, that the Legislature of the State of Hawaii affirms
33 that clean water, adequate healthcare, and quality education are
34 inherent and inalienable rights of all citizens of the United
35 States; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
39 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,



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1 President of the United States Senate, and members of Hawaii's
2 Congressional Delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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