

JAN 25 2017

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR, DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE STATE  
LEGISLATURE, AND HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO BAN  
CONVERSION THERAPY.

1           WHEREAS, conversion therapy is currently being practiced in  
2 the State of Hawaii; and

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4           WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports a ban on  
5 conversion therapy for minors and adults as stated in the  
6 party's healthcare plank of the party platform passed by  
7 unanimous vote at the 2014 Democratic Party of Hawaii State  
8 Convention; and

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10           WHEREAS, the American Counseling Association's "Primary  
11 Responsibility" standard states that "the primary responsibility  
12 of counselors is to respect the dignity and to promote the  
13 welfare of clients"; and

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15           WHEREAS, the American Counseling Association's "Avoiding  
16 Harm" standard provides that referring a client to a counselor  
17 who engages in a treatment modality not endorsed by the  
18 profession and that may, in fact, cause harm does not promote  
19 the welfare of clients; and

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21           WHEREAS, President Barack Obama, along with medical  
22 professional organizations such as the World Psychiatric  
23 Association, American Psychological Association, American  
24 Counseling Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American  
25 School Counselor Association, and National Association of Social  
26 Workers have all come out against conversion therapy as a form  
27 of torture; and

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29           WHEREAS, six jurisdictions in the United States -  
30 California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and  
31 the District of Columbia - have banned conversion therapy on the



1 basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in  
2 their respective states; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor,  
7 democratic members of the State Legislature, and Hawaii's  
8 congressional delegation are urged to ban conversion therapy  
9 based on the overwhelming scientific evidence that there is no  
10 way to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or  
11 gender expression, regardless of the type of adverse therapy a  
12 person is put through, including but not limited to: inducing  
13 nausea, vomiting, or paralysis while showing the patient  
14 homoerotic images; providing electric shocks; having the  
15 individual snap an elastic band around the wrist when aroused by  
16 same-sex erotic images or thoughts; using shame to create  
17 aversion to same-sex attractions; orgasmic reconditioning;  
18 hypnosis; behavior or cognitive therapies; sex therapies;  
19 psychotropic medication; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, democratic  
22 members of the State Legislature, and Hawaii's congressional  
23 delegation are urged to ban conversion therapy based on the fact  
24 that the barbaric practice is detrimental to society since the  
25 practice is wholly futile and the side effects on survivors  
26 include but are not limited to: depression; guilt;  
27 helplessness; hopelessness; shame; social withdrawal;  
28 suicidality; substance abuse; stress; disappointment; self-  
29 blame; decreased self-esteem and authenticity to others;  
30 hostility and blame toward parents; increased self-hatred;  
31 feelings of anger and betrayal; loss of friends and potential  
32 romantic partners; problems in sexual and emotional intimacy;  
33 sexual dysfunction; high-risk sexual behaviors; feelings of  
34 being dehumanized and untrue to self; loss of faith; and a sense  
35 of having wasted time and resources; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the democratic members of the  
38 Hawaii State Legislature are urged to introduce and pass  
39 legislation to ban conversion therapy on the basis of sexual  
40 orientation and gender identity or expression; and

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