
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOLY SEE, THE SUPREME PONTIFF, AND THE BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO EXPLORE THE WIDESPREAD ADOPTION OF VIRI PROBATI, OR THE ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF CERTAIN QUALIFIED MARRIED MEN.

1 WHEREAS, the Catholic Church's policy of clerical celibacy,
2 or the discipline by which only unmarried men are ordained to
3 the priesthood, was adopted about one thousand years ago during
4 the Middle Ages; and

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6 WHEREAS, clerical celibacy is a policy rooted in tradition,
7 not Catholic dogma; and

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9 WHEREAS, in recent decades, the pernicious problem of
10 sexual abuse within the Catholic Church, particularly the sexual
11 abuse of children by Catholic clergy, has become a matter of
12 worldwide public attention and concern, resulting in
13 defrockings, resignations, and criminal convictions of numerous
14 Catholic clergy members; and

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16 WHEREAS, the incidence of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy
17 is overwhelming, and both Pope John Paul II in 2001 and Pope
18 Francis in 2018 acknowledged the shame of the church's
19 collective history involving sexual abuse and the mishandling of
20 related matters by church authorities; and

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22 WHEREAS, all children, including those in the care of
23 clergy members, have a right to safety and freedom from
24 physical, mental, emotional, and sexual abuse; and

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26 WHEREAS, the common element of the improprieties and crimes
27 perpetrated by numerous Catholic clergy members worldwide is
28 that their wrongdoings were sexual in nature; and

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30 WHEREAS, for the safety of church members and the
31 preservation of the Catholic faith, it is in the best interest



1 of the Catholic Church to examine the root cause of many of
2 these issues and take concrete action to resolve the issue of
3 sexual abuse and misconduct by Catholic clergy; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
7 2019, that the Legislature urges the Holy See, the Supreme
8 Pontiff, and the Bishops of the Catholic Church to explore the
9 widespread adoption of viri probati, or the ordination of
10 certain qualified married men; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges and
13 supports the Vatican's efforts to continue to engage in
14 meaningful processes to resolve issues of sexual abuse,
15 establish procedures to stop any future occurrences, and
16 establish and fully support a pathway for victims to heal and
17 maintain their faith in the Catholic Church; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Supreme Pontiff, United States
21 Ambassador to the Holy See, Archbishop of Boston and President
22 of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Dean
23 of the School of Canon Law at the Catholic University of
24 America, and Bishop of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY: John A. Aokawa

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
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