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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PARTICIPATE  
IN ELECTIONS AND PREVENT THE EROSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
PROCESS ON WHICH THE REPUBLIC WAS BUILT.

1           WHEREAS, the United States of America was conceived in  
2 liberty and established as a government that derived its powers  
3 from the consent of the governed; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the United States of America was the first modern  
6 republic granting its citizens the power of self-determination  
7 through democratic elections; and  
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9           WHEREAS, throughout its long history, this nation has grown  
10 by empowering and expanding fundamental voting rights to all its  
11 citizens, regardless of race, gender, or social or economic  
12 status; and  
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14           WHEREAS, in 1964, seventy-seven percent of Americans had  
15 trust in their government and over sixty-four percent of  
16 Americans who were eligible to vote, voted in the presidential  
17 election to choose government leaders and priorities; and  
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19           WHEREAS, in 2019, trust in government has fallen to  
20 seventeen percent and just fifty-five percent of Americans voted  
21 in the 2016 presidential election; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the rapidly increasing influence of money in  
24 politics has led to elections frequently being won on the basis  
25 of the amount of dollars spent on advertising, rather than the  
26 merits of the candidates or issues being debated; and  
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28           WHEREAS, the growing pressure of special interests and  
29 their lobbying influence at the Congress of the United States of



1 America frequently decides issues against public opinion and the  
2 will of the people; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the increasing prevalence of disinformation  
5 campaigns and fake news spread by foreign nations and domestic  
6 entities have begun to influence the outcome of democratic  
7 elections; and

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9 WHEREAS, efforts to limit the ease and ability of citizens  
10 to vote has restricted participation and disenfranchised  
11 countless voters in many states; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, politicians frequently seek to capitalize on the  
14 public's growing cynicism, rather than strive to restore faith  
15 in government and the rule of law; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, deepening partisan divide and political  
18 polarization increasingly decides issues based on political  
19 gain, rather than public interest, which forestalls a productive  
20 exchange of ideas within civil society; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, these growing challenges have threatened and  
23 diminished the ability of citizens to participate in the  
24 democratic process and meaningfully self-govern, leading to an  
25 erosion of democracy; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, each year, the Economist Intelligence Unit  
28 releases a "Democracy Index" which categorizes each county in  
29 the world as a "full democracy" in which basic political  
30 freedoms and civil liberties are respected; "flawed democracy"  
31 in which free and fair elections occur with some issues and  
32 there is a respect for basic civil liberties, but there are  
33 governance problems and low levels of political participation;  
34 "hybrid regimes" which have regular election fraud, issues such  
35 as harassment of the media and government corruption, and more  
36 pronounced faults than flawed democracies; and "authoritarian  
37 regimes" which have no democracy or where the conventional  
38 institutions of democracy have no meaningful significance; and

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40 WHEREAS, in 2016, the "Democracy Index" from the Economist  
41 Intelligence Unit downgraded the ranking of the United States  
42 government from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy", in



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1 part due to the extremely low levels of popular trust in  
2 government, elected representatives, and political parties; and  
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4 WHEREAS, since the downgrading, the ranking of the United  
5 States government as a democracy has continued to drop; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the United States of America was recently rated  
8 twenty-fifth in the world by the "Democracy Index"; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the dangerous disenfranchisement of American  
11 citizens and erosion of democracy threatens the very fabric of  
12 this nation and the democratic principles on which it was built;  
13 now, therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
17 2020, the Senate concurring, that the people of the United  
18 States are urged to participate in elections and prevent erosion  
19 of the democratic process; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every citizen is urged to  
22 educate themselves on the issues most important to them,  
23 register to vote, and participate in the democratic process; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every measure should be taken  
26 by the federal government, every state, and most of all by every  
27 citizen, to ensure that this nation shall have a new birth of  
28 freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and  
29 for the people, shall not perish from the earth; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
33 United States, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United  
34 States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
35 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Hawaii's  
36 congressional delegation, and the Governor of each state of the  
37 United States.



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OFFERED BY:                     *Clu*                    

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