

MAR 05 2020

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEMORATE AUGUST 26, 2020, AS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF, AND HONORING HAWAII'S ROLE IN, THE WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

1           WHEREAS, in a landmark constitutional victory, the  
2 Nineteenth Amendment enshrined in the United States Constitution  
3 a more expansive democracy for the nation on August 26, 1920, by  
4 prohibiting states from denying the right to vote on the basis  
5 of sex; and

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7           WHEREAS, Jeannette Rankin, appointed to the Committee on  
8 Woman Suffrage in the Sixty-Fifth session of Congress was the  
9 first female member elected and sworn into Congress in April of  
10 1917, one of numerous influential females on the front lines of  
11 the fight for national suffrage; and

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13           WHEREAS, women suffragists such as Elizabeth Cody Stanton,  
14 Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony first organized and  
15 collectively fought for women's suffrage rights at the national  
16 level in July of 1848; and

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18           WHEREAS, during his reign, King Kalākaua also recognized  
19 the importance of including women in political decision-making,  
20 he relied on the service and advice of women like Emma  
21 Ka'ilikapuolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, who was appointed  
22 Commissioner of Private Ways and Water Rights from 1892 to 1907;  
23 and

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25           WHEREAS, Emma Ka'ilikapuolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina hosted  
26 social gatherings of nationally acclaimed women's suffragists;  
27 and

28  
29           WHEREAS, Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett, a  
30 native Hawaiian, founded the National Women's Equal Suffrage



1 Association in 1912, hosted meetings in her home in an active  
2 fight for suffrage encouraging Hawaiian women with her passion  
3 for the movement; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani, sister to King Kalākaua, as  
6 the first and only Queen of Hawaii was a powerful symbol of  
7 women's ability to govern and participate in civic life; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the last monarch of Hawaii was overthrown in 1893,  
10 in 1898 Hawaii became a United States territory; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians argued that as a territory they  
13 should have suffrage rights in the United States; and  
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15 WHEREAS, although, in 1920 Hawaii was not a state and  
16 therefore could not vote on the Nineteenth Amendment, Hawaiian  
17 women became enfranchised along with their mainland sisters; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, as a celebratory symbol in support of the passage  
20 of the Nineteenth Amendment, the people of Hawaii sent a  
21 ratification star currently displayed at Belmont-Paul Women's  
22 Equality National Monument in Washington, to the National  
23 Woman's Party; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the State has been memorialized by the exemplary  
26 leadership of numerous influential women in service of the  
27 United States as members of Congress; and  
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29 WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Farrington, publisher of the  
30 "Honolulu Star-Bulletin" served the Eighty-Third and Eighty-  
31 Fourth Congressional Session; and  
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33 WHEREAS, Patsy Takemoto Mink, born in Paia and the first  
34 woman of color elected to Congress was elected and sworn into  
35 the Eighty-Ninth, Ninety-First, Ninety-Third, One Hundred-First,  
36 and -Fifth sessions and whose contributions to Hawaii has been  
37 commemorated by the State's declaration of a statue honoring her  
38 legacy; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, Patricia Saiki worked to preserve Hawaii's natural  
41 beauty and unique resources as a member of the Hundredth  
42 session; and



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 2 WHEREAS, a graduate of Kaimuki High School and the  
 3 University of Hawaii, Mazie Hirono, served seven consecutive  
 4 sessions beginning with the One Hundred-Tenth; and

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 6 WHEREAS, Colleen Hanabusa, who grew up in Waianae, Oahu,  
 7 served three terms in the United States House of  
 8 Representatives, beginning in 2011; and

9  
 10 WHEREAS, currently, representing the State in Congress is  
 11 Tulsi Gabbard; and

12  
 13 WHEREAS, daughters, granddaughters, and great-  
 14 granddaughters of the women who fought so hard to vote have been  
 15 making their voices heard at the polls for nearly one hundred  
 16 years; and

17  
 18 WHEREAS, most of the women who began asking for the right  
 19 to vote never lived to see the enfranchisement of women; and

20  
 21 WHEREAS, women are running for office in unprecedented  
 22 numbers, many current politicians, both male and female,  
 23 remember that they follow in the footsteps of these great  
 24 suffragists; and

25  
 26 WHEREAS, Congress passed a joint resolution in 1973  
 27 declaring August twenty-sixth as National Women's Equality Day,  
 28 commemorating the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment to  
 29 the United States Constitution; now, therefore,

30  
 31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 32 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
 33 Representatives concurring, that this body requests the Governor  
 34 to recognize and commemorate August 26, 2020, as Women's  
 35 Equality Day, celebrating the centennial of, and honoring  
 36 Hawaii's role in, the Woman's Suffrage Movement, reaffirming its  
 37 commitment to empowering and uplifting the voices of women  
 38 across our great State; and

39  
 40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Senate



