

MAR 0 5 2020

SENATE 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
12

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
24

25 WHEREAS, Emma Ka'ilikapuolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina hosted
26 social gatherings of nationally acclaimed women's suffragists;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett, a
30 native Hawaiian, founded the National Women's Equal Suffrage
31 Association in 1912, hosted meetings in her home in an active



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1 fight for suffrage encouraging Hawaiian women with her passion
2 for the movement; and
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4 WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani, sister to King Kalākaua, as
5 the first and only Queen of Hawaii was a powerful symbol of
6 women's ability to govern and participate in civic life; and
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8 WHEREAS, the last monarch of Hawaii was overthrown in 1893,
9 in 1898 Hawaii became a United States territory; and
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11 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians argued that as a territory they
12 should have suffrage rights in the United States; and
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14 WHEREAS, although, in 1920 Hawaii was not a state and
15 therefore could not vote on the Nineteenth Amendment, Hawaiian
16 women became enfranchised along with their mainland sisters; and
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18 WHEREAS, as a celebratory symbol in support of the passage
19 of the Nineteenth Amendment, the people of Hawaii sent a
20 ratification star currently displayed at Belmont-Paul Women's
21 Equality National Monument in Washington, to the National
22 Woman's Party; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the State has been memorialized by the exemplary
25 leadership of numerous influential women in service of the
26 United States as members of Congress; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Farrington, publisher of the
29 "Honolulu Star-Bulletin" served the Eighty-Third and Eighty-
30 Fourth Congressional Session; and
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32 WHEREAS, Patsy Takemoto Mink, born in Paia and the first
33 woman of color elected to Congress was elected and sworn into
34 the Eighty-Ninth, Ninety-First, Ninety-Third, One Hundred-First,
35 and -Fifth sessions and whose contributions to Hawaii has been
36 commemorated by the State's declaration of a statue honoring her
37 legacy; and
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39 WHEREAS, Patricia Saiki worked to preserve Hawaii's natural
40 beauty and unique resources as a member of the Hundredth
41 session; and
42



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

4
5 WHEREAS, Colleen Hanabusa, who grew up in Waianae, Oahu,
6 served three terms in the United States House of
7 Representatives, beginning in 2011; and

8
9 WHEREAS, currently, representing the State in Congress is
10 Tulsi Gabbard; and

11
12 WHEREAS, daughters, granddaughters, and great-
13 granddaughters of the women who fought so hard to vote have been
14 making their voices heard at the polls for nearly one hundred
15 years; and

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

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

24
25 WHEREAS, Congress passed a joint resolution in 1973
26 declaring August twenty-sixth as National Women's Equality Day,
27 commemorating the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment to
28 the United States Constitution; now, therefore,

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

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Senate President,
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1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, League of Women Voters
2 of Hawaii, and Patsy Mink Foundation.
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OFFERED BY: James Mercedes Ki

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