

MAR 11 2022

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT FEDERAL  
LEGISLATION GRANTING STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON,  
D.C.

1           WHEREAS, the people living on the land that would  
2 eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were  
3 provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when  
4 the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the  
7 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United  
8 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for  
9 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the  
10 United States; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted  
13 the right to vote for the President and Vice President of the  
14 United States through passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to  
15 the United States Constitution in 1961; and  
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17           WHEREAS, based on its annual estimate of resident  
18 populations, April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021, United States  
19 Census Bureau data estimates the District of Columbia's resident  
20 population at approximately 689,545 residents, which is  
21 comparable to the resident populations of Wyoming (576,851),  
22 Vermont (643,077), Alaska (733,391), and North Dakota (779,094);  
23 and  
24

25           WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all  
26 the responsibilities of United States citizenship, including  
27 paying more federal taxes than residents of twenty-two states,  
28 service on federal juries, and defending the United States as  
29 members of the United States Armed Forces in every war since the  
30 War for Independence, yet District of Columbia residents are  
31 denied full representation in Congress; and  
32



1           WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia  
2 themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia  
3 and passed a District-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which  
4 favored statehood by eighty-six percent; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of  
7 self-government, including participation in its national  
8 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack  
11 full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the  
12 residents of the fifty states; and

13  
14          WHEREAS, the United States Congress repeatedly has  
15 interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-  
16 government by enacting laws that affect the District of  
17 Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue,  
18 including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus  
19 violating the fundamental principle that states and local  
20 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents  
21 the will of their citizens; and

22  
23          WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed  
24 consecutive balanced budgets since the 1997 fiscal year, it  
25 still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of  
26 Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

27  
28          WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes  
29 Norton and Delaware United States Senator Tom Carper  
30 reintroduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51,  
31 respectively, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that provides  
32 that the State of Washington, D.C. would have all the rights of  
33 citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including two  
34 senators and at least one member of the House of  
35 Representatives; and

36  
37          WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has  
38 called on the United States Congress to address the District of  
39 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of  
40 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the  
41 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter



# S.R. NO. 188

1 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now,  
2 therefore,

3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
6 that the members of the United States Congress are urged to  
7 enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of  
8 Washington, D.C.; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii supports  
11 admitting Washington, D.C., into the Union as a state of the  
12 United States of America; and

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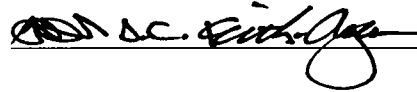
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's  
16 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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