

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
AMONG OTHER EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS, TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) created the International
2 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial
3 Discrimination, which was adopted in December 1965 by UN General
4 Assembly 2016 and entered into force in January 1969; and
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6 WHEREAS, the UN Charter is centered on the principles of
7 dignity and equality inherent in all human beings and all
8 citizens of the world, and committed to promoting and
9 encouraging universal respect for and observance of human rights
10 and fundamental freedoms for all; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
13 proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in
14 dignity and rights, and everyone is entitled to all the rights
15 and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind,
16 in particular as to race, color, or national origin; and
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18 WHEREAS, the UN has condemned colonization in all its forms
19 and all practices of apartheid, segregation, and discrimination,
20 as enshrined in multiple declarations from the Declaration on
21 the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
22 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
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24 WHEREAS, the term "racial discrimination" means any
25 distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on
26 race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin that has the
27 purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition,
28 enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and
29 fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social,
30 cultural, or any other field of public life; and
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1 WHEREAS, states should adopt immediate and effective
2 measures, particularly in the fields of teaching, education,
3 culture, and information, with a view to combating prejudices
4 that lead to racial discrimination and to promoting
5 understanding, tolerance, and friendship among nations and
6 racial or ethnical groups, as well as to propagating the
7 purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
8 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the United
9 Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial
10 Discrimination; and

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12 WHEREAS, the United States appeared at the UN Committee on
13 the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 107th Session on
14 August 11 and 12 at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, the eighteen expert members of the UN CERD adopted
18 dozens of recommendations based on the six-hour interaction
19 between the United States government and CERD rooted on
20 discussions with directly impacted peoples and civil society
21 representatives; and

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23 WHEREAS, the CERD members selected three specific
24 recommendations around human rights for the United States
25 government to report on at the 110th Session, which were
26 centered around indigenous peoples, migrations, and reproductive
27 rights; and

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29 WHEREAS, the realization of the recommendations will
30 improve and produce a positive impact in Hawai'i and the United
31 States; and

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33 WHEREAS, Hawai'i should update and undertake new creative
34 curriculum around human rights and justice; and

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36 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is an island state with a multicultural
37 population from around the world that recognizes the ancestral
38 wisdom of cherishing the natural environment; and

39
40 WHEREAS, Hawai'i was considered as a potential host site for
41 the UN headquarters to serve as a global diplomatic hub; and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawai'i recently hosted its 18th annual Human
2 Rights Day to illuminate important and imminent issues at the
3 international and island levels and review all recommendations
4 ranging from the UN human rights mechanisms and global
5 environmental and climate agreements; and
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7 WHEREAS, Hawai'i was designed as America's first human
8 rights state by House Resolution No. 194, which was adopted by
9 the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature
10 of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2014; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawai'i was the first state to conduct a voluntary
13 local review at the UN and will conduct its historic second
14 voluntary local review at the UN's High-level Political Forum on
15 Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals Summit
16 at UN headquarters in New York and share its local strategies
17 regarding the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals through the
18 Aloha+ Challenge; and
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20 WHEREAS, civil society, nonprofit associations, and non-
21 governmental organizations can generate solutions and share
22 strategies providing concise, complete contributions to realize
23 human rights in Hawai'i and Moananuiākea; and
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25 WHEREAS, Hawai'i maintains momentum in cultivating a culture
26 of human rights, rule of law, sustainable development, and
27 global justice, partnering with city and county councils, as
28 well as leadership from state agencies and elected public
29 officials, to maintain the human rights movement in Hawai'i; now,
30 therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Planning
35 and Sustainable Development, among other executive departments,
36 is requested to implement the recommendations of the United
37 Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
38 and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the



S.C.R. NO. 173

1 United States; Vice President of the United States; Speaker of
2 the United States House of Representatives; Majority Leader of
3 the United States Senate; United States Department of State,
4 Social Presidential Envoy for Climate; United Nations' Secretary
5 General; United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights;
6 Hawai'i's congressional delegation; Governor; and Director of the
7 Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

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OFFERED BY:

Kal Rhoosh

