THE SENATE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024 STATE OF HAWAII

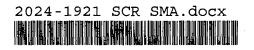
S.C.R. NO. 108

MAR 0 8 2024

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO STOP PERSECUTION BASED ON RELIGION AND FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO HOLD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ACCOUNTABLE FOR VIOLATING THE RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

1 WHEREAS, since 1999, the United States Department of State has labeled China as a country of particular concern regarding 2 religious freedom; and 3 4 WHEREAS, in December 2023, the Biden Administration 5 reported the People's Republic of China as one of the countries 6 of particular concern regarding religious freedom; and 7 8 9 WHEREAS, in February 2024, the United States Congress introduced a resolution to recognize religious freedom as a 10 fundamental right and expressed concern over continuing threats 11 to religious freedom around the world; and 12 13 14 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China has the highest population of religious prisoners in the world, many of whom 15 face high levels of persecution, and are pressured to adhere to 16 Chinese Communist Party ideology; and 17 18 WHEREAS, certain religious and spiritual groups have been 19 banned by the People's Republic of China, claiming that these 20 religious groups will use religion as camouflage, spread 21 superstitious ideas, deceive members, and endanger society; and 22 23 24 WHEREAS, religious minorities have been subject to torture, mass arbitrary detention, forced disappearances, mass 25 surveillance, cultural and religious persecution, separation of 26 families, forced labor, sexual violence, and violations of 27 reproductive rights; and 28 29 WHEREAS, regulations on religious belief implemented by the 30 Chinese government only recognize five religions: Buddhism, 31



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1 Catholicism, Daoism, Islam, and Protestantism, but religious measures in the People's Republic of China's Constitution create 2 undefined and broad religious regulations that do not guarantee 3 the right to practice or worship; and 4 5 6 WHEREAS, as reported in a United States Congress Senate Resolution the People's Republic of China has harassed, 7 intimidated, imprisoned, and committed acts of violence against 8 minorities based on religion which include but are not limited 9 Uyqhur Muslims, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, and Falun to: 10 Gong practitioners; and 11 12 WHEREAS, the Human Rights Watch expressed concern over new 13 14 regulations, worried that religious practitioners are expected to conform with ideologies of the Chinese Communist Party or 15 risk imprisonment; and 16 17 WHEREAS, as reported by Human Rights Watch and the United 18 Nations, the People's Republic of China has committed crimes 19 against humanity for systematic abuse against Uyghurs and other 20 Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang; and 21 22 WHEREAS, in 2014, the People's Republic of China launched a 23 movement titled Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism 24 25 that resulted in extreme religious regulations over Xinjiang and implemented punishments for religious online activities 26 involving owning digital copies of the Quran; and 27 28 29 WHEREAS, as further reported by Human Rights Watch in February 2024, the People's Republic of China implemented 30 regulations to tighten control over religious practices to 31 sinicize (modify by or adjust to Chinese influence) religions as 32 33 a new government priority under President Xi Jinping; now, therefore, 34 35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second 36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the 37 House of Representatives concurring, that the government of the 38 39 People's Republic of China is urged to stop the persecution of religious minorities; and 40 41



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this practice is still state-sanctioned and continues, the United States Department of State is urged to express and promote concern over the violations of the People's Republic of China on religious minorities subject to persecution and deprivation of religious freedom; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of 9 State is urged to hold the People's Republic of China 10 accountable for violating rights to religious freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, United States Secretary of State, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States, and Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

Kal Nhonh

