

MAR 04 2011

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO UPHOLD AND SAFEGUARD  
RELIGIOUS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CEASE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST  
THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE, TO GRANT THE ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCH APPROPRIATE ECUMENICAL RECOGNITION, ECCLESIASTIC  
SUCCESSION, AND THE RIGHT TO TRAIN CLERGY OF ALL  
NATIONALITIES, AND TO RESPECT THE PROPERTY RIGHTS, HUMAN  
RIGHTS, AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF THE ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCHATE.

1           WHEREAS, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul,  
2 Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of  
3 brotherhood over a communion of self-governing churches of the  
4 Orthodox Christian world; and

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6           WHEREAS, the See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch  
7 Bartholomew, who is the 270<sup>th</sup> in direct succession to the Apostle  
8 Andrew and holds titular primacy as primus inter pares, meaning  
9 "first among equals," in the community of Orthodox Christian  
10 churches worldwide; and

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12           WHEREAS, in 1994, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along  
13 with leaders of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, cosponsored  
14 the Conference on Peace and Tolerance, which brought together  
15 Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious leaders for an  
16 interfaith dialogue to help end the Balkan conflict and the  
17 ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region; and

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19           WHEREAS, in 1997, the Congress of the United States awarded  
20 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the Congressional Gold  
21 Medal; and

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23           WHEREAS, following the terrorist attacks on our nation on  
24 September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered a  
25 group of international religious leaders to produce the first



1 joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11  
2 attacks as "antireligious"; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in October 2005, the Ecumenical Patriarch, along  
5 with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders, cosponsored the  
6 Conference on Peace and Tolerance II to further promote peace  
7 and stability in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region, and  
8 Central Asia through religious leaders' interfaith dialogue,  
9 understanding, and action; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for  
12 nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300,000,000 members  
13 worldwide with more than 2,000,000 members in the United States;  
14 and  
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16 WHEREAS, since 1453, the continuing presence of the  
17 Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul has been a living testament  
18 to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and  
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20 WHEREAS, this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because  
21 the Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered by the Turkish  
22 government to be the head of the Greek minority in Istanbul  
23 exclusively, rather than the head of the Greek Orthodox Church;  
24 and  
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26 WHEREAS, the Turkish government has limited the candidates  
27 available to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to only  
28 Turkish nationals, and there remain fewer than 2,000 of the  
29 Ecumenical Patriarch's congregation in Turkey today; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the Turkish government closed the Theological  
32 School on the island of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow  
33 it to reopen, thus impeding training for Orthodox Christian  
34 clergy; and  
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36 WHEREAS, the Turkish government does not recognize the  
37 Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal entity, and is therefore  
38 confiscating all of its properties along with the majority of  
39 the property belonging to the Greek community and its parishes,  
40 and imposing high taxes on the Balouki Hospital and Home for the  
41 Aged, a charity hospital; and  
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43 WHEREAS, the European Union, a group of nations with a  
44 common goal of promoting peace and the well-being of its



1 peoples, began accession negotiations with Turkey on October 3,  
2 2005; and

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4 WHEREAS, the European Union defined membership criteria for  
5 accession at the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, obligating  
6 candidate countries to achieve certain levels of reform,  
7 including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy,  
8 adherence to the rule of law, and respect for and protection of  
9 minorities, human rights, and religious rights; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Turkish government's current treatment of the  
12 Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership  
13 conditions and goals of the European Union; and

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15 WHEREAS, Orthodox Christians in Hawaii and throughout the  
16 United States stand to lose their spiritual leader because of  
17 the deliberate actions of the Turkish government; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the  
20 Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, a group of laymen who each  
21 have been honored with a patriarchal title, or "offikion," by  
22 the Ecumenical Patriarch for their outstanding service to the  
23 Orthodox Church, will send an American delegation to Turkey to  
24 meet with Turkish government officials, as well as the United  
25 States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, regarding the  
26 Turkish government's treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;  
27 now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Republic of Turkey  
32 is requested to:

- 33  
34 (1) Uphold and safeguard religious and human rights  
35 without compromise;  
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37 (2) Cease its discrimination against the Ecumenical  
38 Patriarchate;  
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40 (3) Grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate ecumenical  
41 recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to  
42 train clergy of all nationalities; and



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(4) Respect the property rights, human rights, and religious rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, and to the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY: *Carol Johnson*