

MAR 04 2011

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## SENATE 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  
26 joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11  
27 attacks as "antireligious"; and



1 WHEREAS, in October 2005, the Ecumenical Patriarch, along  
2 with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders, cosponsored the  
3 Conference on Peace and Tolerance II to further promote peace  
4 and stability in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region, and  
5 Central Asia through religious leaders' interfaith dialogue,  
6 understanding, and action; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for  
9 nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300,000,000 members  
10 worldwide with more than 2,000,000 members in the United States;  
11 and  
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13 WHEREAS, since 1453, the continuing presence of the  
14 Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul has been a living testament  
15 to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and  
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17 WHEREAS, this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because  
18 the Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered by the Turkish  
19 government to be the head of the Greek minority in Istanbul  
20 exclusively, rather than the head of the Greek Orthodox Church;  
21 and  
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23 WHEREAS, the Turkish government has limited the candidates  
24 available to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to only  
25 Turkish nationals, and there remain fewer than 2,000 of the  
26 Ecumenical Patriarch's congregation in Turkey today; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the Turkish government closed the Theological  
29 School on the island of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow  
30 it to reopen, thus impeding training for Orthodox Christian  
31 clergy; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the Turkish government does not recognize the  
34 Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal entity, and is therefore  
35 confiscating all of its properties along with the majority of  
36 the property belonging to the Greek community and its parishes,  
37 and imposing high taxes on the Balouki Hospital and Home for the  
38 Aged, a charity hospital; and  
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40 WHEREAS, the European Union, a group of nations with a  
41 common goal of promoting peace and the well-being of its  
42 peoples, began accession negotiations with Turkey on October 3,  
43 2005; and



1           WHEREAS, the European Union defined membership criteria for  
2 accession at the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, obligating  
3 candidate countries to achieve certain levels of reform,  
4 including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy,  
5 adherence to the rule of law, and respect for and protection of  
6 minorities, human rights, and religious rights; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the Turkish government's current treatment of the  
9 Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership  
10 conditions and goals of the European Union; and  
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12           WHEREAS, Orthodox Christians in Hawaii and throughout the  
13 United States stand to lose their spiritual leader because of  
14 the deliberate actions of the Turkish government; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the  
17 Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, a group of laymen who each  
18 have been honored with a patriarchal title, or "offikion," by  
19 the Ecumenical Patriarch for their outstanding service to the  
20 Orthodox Church, will send an American delegation to Turkey to  
21 meet with Turkish government officials, as well as the United  
22 States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, regarding the  
23 Turkish government's treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;  
24 now, therefore,  
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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,  
28 that the Republic of Turkey is requested to:  
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- 30           (1) Uphold and safeguard religious and human rights  
31           without compromise;  
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- 33           (2) Cease its discrimination against the Ecumenical  
34           Patriarchate;  
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- 36           (3) Grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate ecumenical  
37           recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to  
38           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 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 Furukawa

