
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT THE VISA
IMPROVEMENTS TO STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM TO THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACT.

1 WHEREAS, building relationships with nations like China,
2 India, and other emerging economies and powers is vital for the
3 United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii is well positioned to be a place where East
6 meets West to build commercial, diplomatic, and strategic ties
7 for mutual benefit; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Pacific region is a vast market for new
10 visitors and reforming our visa process is a cost-effective,
11 common-sense way to make it easier and more inviting for
12 international businesses and visitors to come to Hawaii and the
13 rest of the United States; and
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15 WHEREAS, the recently introduced bipartisan legislation,
16 the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International Tourism to the
17 United States of America Act, H.R. 3341, 2011 (VISIT USA Act),
18 by cutting red tape and reforming United States visa policies,
19 could potentially bring an estimated increase of 280,000
20 visitors yearly from China, Canada, and other high-growth
21 markets to Hawaii, boosting economic growth in the State; and
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23 WHEREAS, the VISIT USA Act would establish five-year
24 multiple entry visas for Chinese visitors, extend the time
25 Canadian retirees can stay in the United States, make changes to
26 the Visa Waiver Program, and make other low-cost reforms that
27 would increase tourism to Hawaii and the rest of the United
28 States; and



H.C.R. NO. 170

1 WHEREAS, in 2010 more than 54,000,000 Chinese citizens
 2 travelled abroad and Europe welcomed 3,700,000 of these
 3 visitors, but the United States received only 800,000 Chinese
 4 visitors, of which a mere 62,000 came to Hawaii; and

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 6 WHEREAS, improvements to the visa process and other policy
 7 changes will provide a huge economic boost to Hawaii by, among
 8 other things, facilitating more visitors from other countries
 9 such as China in travelling to the State; and

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 11 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the average visitor from
 12 China would stay in the State for six days and spend \$350 a day,
 13 yielding an estimated \$573,000,000 for Hawaii's economy; and

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 15 WHEREAS, in 2008 the Homeland Security Secretary signed a
 16 visa waiver program memorandum of understanding with South Korea
 17 that has helped Hawaii recognize steady growth in visitors from
 18 South Korea each year; now, therefore,

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 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 21 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 22 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the United
 23 States is urged to enact the VISIT USA Act; and

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 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader,
 27 United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of
 28 Representatives; the members of Hawaii's congressional
 29 delegation; the Governor; and the National Conference of State
 30 Legislatures.

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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures]
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 Kal Abouh
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