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## HOUSE 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  
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30           WHEREAS, in 2010 more than 54,000,000 Chinese citizens  
31 travelled abroad and Europe welcomed 3,700,000 of these



1 visitors, but the United States received only 800,000 Chinese  
2 visitors, of which a mere 62,000 came to Hawaii; and

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

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

12  
13 WHEREAS, in 2008 the Homeland Security Secretary signed a  
14 visa waiver program memorandum of understanding with South Korea  
15 that has helped Hawaii recognize steady growth in visitors from  
16 South Korea each year; now, therefore,

17  
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
20 of 2012, that the Congress of the United States is urged to  
21 enact the VISIT USA Act; and

22  
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader, United States  
25 Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of  
26 Representatives; the members of Hawaii's congressional  
27 delegation; the Governor; and the National Conference of State  
28 Legislatures.

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OFFERED BY: Karen Auana

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Kal Nho

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