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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES  
A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REVERSE CITIZEN UNITED VS.  
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Constitution protects free  
2 speech and other fundamental rights for the people, not  
3 corporations; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, corporations are legal entities created by law;  
6 and

7  
8           WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United  
9 States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the first  
10 amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade  
11 and invalidate the laws meant to protect the people of this  
12 Nation; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, article V of the United States Constitution  
15 empowers and obligates the people and states of the United  
16 States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to  
17 correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States  
18 Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and  
19 republican self-government; and

20  
21           WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of  
22 America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and  
23 equality for all by using the constitutional amendment process  
24 throughout our history, including in seven of the ten decades of  
25 the twentieth century, and including the reversal of seven  
26 erroneous Supreme Court decisions; and

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28           WHEREAS, this corporate misuse of the first amendment and  
29 the United States Constitution has reached an extreme conclusion  
30 in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United*  
31 *vs. Federal Election Commission*; and

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33           WHEREAS, *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*  
34 overturned a longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations



1 from spending corporate general treasury funds in governmental  
2 elections; and  
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4 WHEREAS, *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*  
5 unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process  
6 unmatched by any prior campaign expenditure totals in United  
7 States history; and  
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9 WHEREAS, *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*  
10 purports to invalidate state laws and even state constitutional  
11 provisions separating corporate money from elections; and  
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13 WHEREAS, *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*  
14 presents a serious and direct threat to our republican  
15 democracy; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2012, that this body urges the United States Congress to pass  
20 and send to the states a constitutional amendment to reverse  
21 *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United  
25 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
26 Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional  
27 delegation.  
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29  
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OFFERED BY:

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By a former

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