

FEB 22 2016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION
GRANTING BUDGET AUTONOMY, LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY, AND
STATEHOOD TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

1 WHEREAS, the people living on the land that would
2 eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were
3 provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when
4 the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and
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6 WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the
7 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United
8 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for
9 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the
10 United States; and
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12 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted
13 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through
14 passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the United States
15 Constitution in 1961; and
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17 WHEREAS, according to the 2010 census, the District of
18 Columbia has 601,723 residents, which is comparable to the
19 populations of Wyoming (563,626), Vermont (625,741), North
20 Dakota (672,591), and Alaska (710,231); and
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22 WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents share all the
23 responsibilities of citizenship, including paying federal taxes,
24 serving on federal juries, and defending the United States as
25 members of the United States Armed Services in every war since
26 the War for Independence, yet they are denied full
27 representation in Congress; and
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29 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia have
30 endorsed Statehood for the District of Columbia, and passed a
31 District-wide referendum on budget autonomy; and



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2 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of
3 self-government, including participation in its national
4 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and
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6 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has repeatedly
7 interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-
8 government by enacting laws that affect the District of
9 Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue,
10 including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus
11 violating the fundamental principle that states and local
12 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents
13 the will of its citizens; and
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15 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed a
16 balanced budget in a timely manner in each of the last twenty
17 years, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly
18 because of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, legislation is often introduced, but rarely
22 considered, in the United States Congress that would provide for
23 greater representation and autonomy for the residents of the
24 District of Columbia; and
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26 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has
27 called upon the United States Congress to address the District
28 of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization
29 of American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the
30 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter
31 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now,
32 therefore,
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that members of the United
37 States Congress are urged to enact federal legislation or
38 propose a constitutional amendment granting budget autonomy,
39 legislative autonomy, and statehood to the District of Columbia;
40 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 3 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
 4 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
 5 District of Columbia's congressional delegate, the members of
 6 Hawaii's congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of
 7 each legislative body in each state.

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OFFERED BY: Clarence G. Bushman

Ernest M. Cleveland

Will Lyne
Frederic G. Moore

Donald Daley

Phillip Kudane

Paul R.

Don A.C. Keith

JW
Mill

