SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, human rights and fundamental freedoms are core values of the United States of America and the State; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America completed its second Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations Human Rights Council at the Palace of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2015; and

WHEREAS, many civil society associations and non-governmental organizations in Hawaii participated in the preparation of stakeholder reports and hosted community dialogues for the Universal Periodic Review; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America received three hundred forty-three recommendations, a record number of recommendations for implementations to realize human rights; and

WHEREAS, many of the human rights recommendations refer to actions at the local and state level; and

WHEREAS, local and state officials across the United States of America have begun to take the lead to utilize the Universal Periodic Review as a positive tool to transform their communities, such as the Universal Periodic Review consultation in Birmingham, Alabama, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Selma with a focus on the future of fundamental freedoms rooted in human rights; and

WHEREAS, the State should review and examine whether and how it is positioned and prepared to implement the Universal
Periodic Review human rights recommendations annually before the next Universal Periodic Review is held; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body endorses and adopts the Universal Periodic Review recommendations of the United Nations Human Rights Council as a framework for addressing and assessing Hawaii's commitment to civil and human rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are urged to endorse and use the Universal Periodic Review recommendations of the United Nations Human Rights Council as measurements for each county's efforts regarding the county's commitment to its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United Nations Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, President of the United States of America, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Governor, Attorney General, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Director of Public Safety, President of the University of Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, and Mayor and Council Chairperson of the respective counties.

OFFERED BY: