S.C.R. NO. 59

STATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO DULY CONSIDER WOMEN-, VETERAN-, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN-OWNED BUSINESSES WHEN AWARDING STATE CONTRACTS, AND REQUESTING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO SUBMIT TO THE LEGISLATURE A LIST OF STATE CONTRACTS AWARDED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS TO WOMEN-, VETERAN-, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN-OWNED BUSINESSES.

WHEREAS, according to data mined from the State Procurement Office website, it appears that only three percent of state contracts are awarded to women-owned architectural and engineering firms located in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, despite the Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, women-owned firms in Hawaii continue to face disparate treatment in the awarding of state contracts; and

WHEREAS, according to the Society of Women Engineers, close to twenty percent of engineering school graduates are women, but less than fourteen percent of engineers in the workforce are women, and according to data from the Society of Women Engineers and the National Science Foundation, women are more likely than men to leave engineering as their careers progress; and

WHEREAS, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine concluded in their Beyond Bias and Barriers report released in 2007 that women are very likely to face discrimination in the engineering field; and

WHEREAS, according to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, over forty percent of architecture degrees are awarded to women, but only twenty-five percent of architect and architectural designers in the workforce are women; and
WHEREAS, data is currently unavailable regarding the overall percent of state contracts awarded to women-, veteran-, or Native Hawaiian-owned businesses in Hawaii, but in all likelihood these businesses face challenges in procuring state contracts and are underrepresented in the state procurement process; and

WHEREAS, women-, veteran-, and Native Hawaiian-owned businesses in Hawaii must be given proper consideration and equal opportunity for procuring state contracts if women-, veteran-, and Native Hawaiian-owned business are to succeed and achieve fair representation in the workforce; 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 Hawaii's state departments and agencies, including the Department of Transportation, Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Education, and University of Hawaii System, are urged to duly consider women-, veteran-, and Native Hawaiian-owned businesses when awarding state contracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation, Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Education, and University of Hawaii System are requested to submit to the Legislature, no later than October 1, 2017, a list of state contracts under their department or agency awarded to women-, veteran-, and Native Hawaiian-owned businesses in the last two years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller, and Administrator of the State Procurement Office; provided that the Administrator of the State Procurement Office is requested to transmit certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution to the chief procurement officer of each state department and agency.