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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RATIFY THE UNITED  
NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.

1           WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
2     Discrimination Against Women (Convention) was adopted by the  
3     United Nations General Assembly in 1979; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Convention is the most complete international  
6     agreement that focuses specifically on basic human rights for  
7     women; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the Convention requires ratifying nations to  
10    improve the status of women and to work towards eliminating  
11    discrimination and violence against women by establishing  
12    equality in legal status, political participation, education,  
13    employment, healthcare, and the family structure; and  
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15          WHEREAS, the Convention has resulted in reforms for women  
16    around the world, including measures against sex slavery,  
17    domestic violence, and trafficking of women; increasing primary  
18    education previously denied to females; and improved health care  
19    that have saved lives during pregnancy and childbirth; and  
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21          WHEREAS, in 1972, Hawaii was the first state to ratify the  
22    federal Equal Rights Amendment, which would have amended the  
23    United States Constitution by establishing a guarantee of equal  
24    rights for women; and  
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26          WHEREAS, although the United States played an important  
27    role in drafting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms  
28    of Discrimination Against Women, the United States is one of  
29    only eight countries that include Sudan, Somalia, Qatar, Iran,  
30    Nauru, Palau, and Tonga, that have not ratified the Convention  
31    as of March 1, 2007; and



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WHEREAS, the United States' failure to ratify the Convention undermines the principle that human rights of women are universal and worthy of being guaranteed through international human rights standards; and

WHEREAS, as women in the United States are succeeding in greater leadership roles in business and government and participate in local and national elections in record numbers, it is appropriate that the United States Congress demonstrate its unequivocal support for the rights of women internationally by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the United States Senate to demonstrate our national commitment to human rights for all people by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and joining the one hundred eighty-five ratifying nations in endorsing the most comprehensive treaty ensuring fundamental human rights and equality for all women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

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