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## HOUSE 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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33           WHEREAS, the United States' failure to ratify the  
34 Convention undermines the principle that human rights of women



1 are universal and worthy of being guaranteed through  
2 international human rights standards; and  
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4 WHEREAS, as women in the Unites States are succeeding in  
5 greater leadership roles in business and government and  
6 participate in local and national elections in record numbers,  
7 it is appropriate that the United States Congress demonstrate  
8 its unequivocal support for the rights of women internationally  
9 by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of  
10 All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; now, therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
14 Session of 2008, that the Legislature urges the United States  
15 Senate to demonstrate our national commitment to human rights  
16 for all people by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the  
17 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and  
18 joining the one hundred eighty-five ratifying nations in  
19 endorsing the most comprehensive treaty ensuring fundamental  
20 human rights and equality for all women; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States  
24 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
25 Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional  
26 delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:

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