

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE
GLOBAL DEMOCRACY PROMOTION ACT, WHICH WOULD REPEAL THE
"GLOBAL GAG RULE" AND RELEASE MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS FOR
INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, healthcare that includes family planning services
2 available to women in developing countries around the world has
3 been reduced by the "global gag rule", a harmful policy imposed
4 since 2001 by President George Bush on his first day as
5 President; and

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7 WHEREAS, the global gag rule bans foreign family planning
8 programs that receive financial aid from the United States from
9 using *their own moneys* to provide counseling on abortion
10 services, family planning advocacy, referrals and other services
11 to women; and

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13 WHEREAS, freedom of speech, a fundamental American value,
14 is essential to a thriving democracy;

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16 WHEREAS, the promotion of democracy is a principal goal of
17 United States foreign policy and critical to encouraging
18 democratic institutions in developing countries; and

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20 WHEREAS, the global gag rule is an unjustified intrusion
21 into the private physician-patient relationship that prevents
22 women from receiving certain necessary healthcare services; and

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24 WHEREAS, it is clear that the global gag rule undermines a
25 key goal of United States foreign policy to improve healthcare
26 in developing nations, and is causing the deaths of some of the
27 poorest women in the world; and
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1 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization reports that over
2 80,000 women and girls die from unsafe abortions every year and
3 expects that number to reach as many as 200,000 persons; and
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5 WHEREAS, on January 22, 2007, thirty-eight members of the
6 United States Congress introduced the Global Democracy Promotion
7 Act, H.R. 4465, which would prohibit discriminatory policies and
8 restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental
9 organizations with respect to their family planning programs;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, the Global Democracy Promotion Act makes clear
13 that United States funds may not be denied to overseas
14 nongovernmental organizations based on the medical services they
15 provide, and that funds may not be used to impose restrictions
16 on free speech and available medical services that would be
17 illegal if applied in the United States; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that Congress is requested
22 to enact H.R. 4465, the Global Democracy Promotion Act, to
23 repeal the restrictions of the global gag rule and release much-
24 needed funds to be used by foreign nongovernmental organizations
25 for their family planning programs; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
29 United States, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate,
30 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of
31 Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY: Shiranne Chun Caldwell
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