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HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

WHEREAS, in 2000, world leaders in the United Nations Millennium Declaration committed to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015; and

WHEREAS, both rich and poor countries committed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for development; and

WHEREAS, the Millennium Development Goals reflect goals and benchmarks consistent with Hawaii's commitment to sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Millennium Development Goals represent an agreement between rich and poor countries for each to take appropriate steps toward their achievement; and

WHEREAS, poor countries pledged to reform policies, to improve governance, and to channel resources to development objectives, as embodied in the goals; and

WHEREAS, developed and more prosperous countries promised to provide increasingly effective aid, faster debt relief, and fairer trade rules; and

WHEREAS, today, the world has sufficient money and knowledge to achieve these goals but the governments of the world lack the political commitment to make this happen; and

 WHEREAS, in their book, "What can one person do?", Sabina Alkire and Edmund Newell suggest several actions individuals can take that will have a real impact on extreme poverty; and

WHEREAS, these actions include:

- (1) Prayer, study and discussion of issues of poverty;
- (2) Giving a suggested .7 percent of individual income toward the Millennium Development Goals;
- (3) Volunteering labor or services to assist those in poverty;
- (4) Raising public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals; and
- (5) Urging government officials to address issues of global poverty;

now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that this body endorses and accepts the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as components of a framework for assessing Hawaii's efforts toward sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the county councils to endorse and use the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as indicators for each county's efforts toward sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney General, Director of Finance, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Director of Public Safety, and Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, and the Mayor and the council chairperson of the respective counties.

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OFFERED BY July B. Berg.

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