

FEB 24 2016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PETITIONING CONGRESS FOR A LIMITED AMENDMENTS CONVENTION FOR THE
PURPOSE OF PROPOSING A FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

1 WHEREAS, the first President of the United States, George
2 Washington, stated, "The basis of our political systems is the
3 right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of
4 Government."; and

5
6 WHEREAS, it was the stated intention of the framers of the
7 Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress
8 of the United States of America should be "dependent on the
9 people alone."; and

10
11 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on
12 the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively
13 in elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

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15 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens*
16 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010),
17 removed restrictions on amounts of independent political
18 spending; and

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20 WHEREAS, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in
21 the unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have
22 supplanted the will of the people by undermining their ability
23 to choose political leadership, write their own laws, and
24 determine the fate of the state; and

25
26 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
27 requires the United States Congress to call a convention for
28 proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the
29 legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing
30 amendments to the United States Constitution; and



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1 WHEREAS, this body sees the need for a convention to
2 propose amendments in order to address concerns such as those
3 raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in
4 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases
5 and events including those occurring long before or afterward or
6 for a substantially similar purpose, and desires that the
7 convention should be so limited; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the people of the
12 State of Hawaii, speaking through its Legislature and pursuant
13 to Article V of the United States Constitution, petition the
14 United States Congress to call a convention for the purpose of
15 proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States of
16 America as soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied
17 for a convention to address concerns raised by the decision of
18 the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal*
19 *Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 130 (2010) and related cases and
20 events; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this be a continuing
23 application considered together with applications calling for a
24 convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont Legislature as R454,
25 the 2013-2014 California Legislature as Resolution Chapter 77,
26 the 98th Illinois General Assembly as Senate Joint Resolution
27 No. 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey Legislature as SCR 132, and all
28 other passed, pending, and future applications, the
29 aforementioned concerns of Hawaii notwithstanding until such
30 time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a
31 convention and the convention is convened by Congress; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates to the convention
34 be comprised equally of individuals currently elected to state
35 and local office, or be selected by election, in each
36 Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates,
37 though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office,
38 now or in the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to
39 the convention, and that this body intends to retain the ability
40 to restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the
41 limits expressed above; and
42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 3 United States, Vice President of the United States, Speaker of
 4 the United States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of
 5 the United States House of Representatives, President Pro
 6 Tempore of the United States Senate, Hawaii's congressional
 7 delegation, Governor of each State, and presiding officer of
 8 each legislative body of each of the several states.

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