
HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING HAWAII TO BE A HO'OKIPA (WELCOMING) STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the State motto "[u]a mau ke ea 'o ka 'āina i ka
2 pono," which means, "[t]he life of the land is perpetuated in
3 righteousness," reminds us that our deepest community values
4 compel us to welcome the visitor and care for the wanderer in
5 our midst; and
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7 WHEREAS, the traditional Hawaiian value of ho'okipa, or
8 open-hearted hospitality, calls us to welcome the visitor and
9 the stranger alike, and to unselfishly extend to others the best
10 that we have to give; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is justifiably proud of its diverse
13 immigrant heritage, which has woven the many people of this
14 State into a rich tapestry of races, ancestral groups,
15 religions, cultures, and languages from all over the world; and
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17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique spirit of inclusiveness allows its
18 diverse people to live in relative harmony because of our
19 respect and aloha for each other and our commitment to peace and
20 justice; and
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22 WHEREAS, our state and county governments cultivate a
23 culture of inclusion when they ensure that all people in our
24 communities receive equal protection under the law and
25 respectful treatment, without regard to their race, national
26 origin, ancestry, or citizenship status; and
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii's inclusionary and peaceful culture is now
29 threatened by inflammatory rhetoric and harsh federal policies
30 that vilify immigrants, divide communities and families, and
31 create fear and suspicion among different racial, ethnic, and
32 ancestral groups; and
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1 WHEREAS, the executive branch of the federal government has
2 recently revived a program under section 287(g) of the
3 Immigration and Nationality Act that allows a state or local law
4 enforcement entity to enter into a partnership with the
5 Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) division of the
6 Department of Homeland Security in order to receive delegated
7 authority for immigration enforcement within their
8 jurisdictions; and
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10 WHEREAS, the enforcement of federal immigration laws is a
11 function that is reserved to the federal government, and the
12 costs of which should be borne by the federal government; and
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14 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii already shoulder the costs of
15 providing health care, housing, education, and other social
16 services to migrants from various Pacific Island communities,
17 who were forced to leave their ancestral homelands because of
18 the devastating effects of some actions of the United States,
19 such as the above-ground testing of nuclear weapons and the
20 building of large military installations that displaced
21 islanders from the ancestral lands; and
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23 WHEREAS, it would be an injustice to Hawaii's residents for
24 the State, or any of its political subdivisions, to expend
25 scarce state resources enforcing federal immigration policies
26 instead of providing for housing, education, transportation,
27 medical care, and other basic human needs here in Hawaii; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the involvement of state law enforcement officers
30 in federal deportation programs and activities would alienate
31 members of our many communities and undermine the relationships
32 between the State's law enforcement agencies and local
33 communities; and
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35 WHEREAS, many other state and city governments across the
36 country have acted to protect their residents who are
37 undocumented immigrants by preventing local law enforcement
38 agents from asking people about their immigration status or from
39 serving as federal agents to perform the duties reserved to
40 federal agents, and by ensuring that all residents have access



1 to state and county services, regardless of immigration status;
2 now, therefore,


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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2017, requests that the State of Hawaii and its political
7 subdivisions recognize that immigration is a federal function
8 and that local law enforcement agencies should decline to work
9 with federal immigration agencies; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State and its political
12 subdivisions are requested to not expend state or county funds
13 by entering into any agreements under section 287(g) of the
14 Immigration and Nationality Act or any similar agreement with
15 the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or
16 by engaging in any other law enforcement activities that
17 collaborate with ICE or any other federal law enforcement agency
18 in connection with the deportation of undocumented immigrants
19 who have not been convicted of committing a violent crime; and

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
22 appoint a Ho'okipa Commission to ensure a safe, secure, and
23 welcoming community for everyone, including immigrants of every
24 status, to promote respectful relations and collaboration
25 between community members and agencies providing public safety
26 services; and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Mayors of the
30 City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Kauai, Maui, and
31 Hawaii; the Chairs of the respective county councils; and the
32 Chiefs of Police of the City and County of Honolulu and the
33 Counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; and the Chief Justice of
34 the Hawaii Supreme Court.

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OFFERED BY: 



H.R. NO. 76

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