

MAR 08 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO CONVENE A LIMITED NATIONAL CONVENTION
UNDER ARTICLE V FOR THE EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AN
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THAT WILL LIMIT
THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY IN OUR ELECTORAL PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution of the United
2 States of America intended that the Congress of the United
3 States of America should be "dependent on the people alone"
4 (James Madison, Federalist 52); and
5

6 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on
7 the people alone to a dependency on powerful special interests,
8 through campaigns or third-party groups, that has created a
9 fundamental imbalance in our representative democracy; and
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11 WHEREAS, Americans across the political spectrum agree that
12 elections in the United States of America should be free from
13 the disproportional influence of special interests and fair
14 enough that any citizen can be elected into office; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
17 requires Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments
18 to the federal Constitution on the application of two-thirds of
19 the legislatures of the several states; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Hawaii states
22 that all political power "is inherent in the people and the
23 responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people.
24 All government is founded on this authority" (Article I, Section
25 1); and
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27 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature perceives the need
28 for an amendments convention in order to restore balance and
29 integrity to our elections by proposing an amendment to the



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1 federal Constitution that will permanently protect free and fair
2 elections in America by addressing, inter alia, issues raised by
3 the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens*
4 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 130 S.Ct. 876 (2010) and
5 related cases and events, and desires that said convention
6 should be so limited; and
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8 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii desires that the delegates to
9 said convention shall be comprised equally of individuals
10 currently elected to State and local office, or be selected by
11 election, in each Congressional district for the purpose of
12 serving as delegates, provided that all individuals elected or
13 appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited
14 from serving as delegates to the convention, as the State
15 intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of
16 its delegates within the limits expressed herein; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii intends that this be a
19 continuing application considered together with applications
20 calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont
21 Legislature as R-454, the 2013-2014 California Legislature as
22 Concurrent Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General
23 Assembly as SJR 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey Legislature as SCR
24 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island Legislature as HR 7670 and SR
25 2589, and all other passed, pending, and future applications
26 until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied
27 for a convention for a similar purpose and said convention is
28 convened by Congress; now, therefore,
29

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that this body hereby
33 requests the United States Congress to call a convention for the
34 exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution
35 of the United States of America that will limit the influence of
36 money in our electoral process, by overturning the decision of
37 the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal*
38 *Elections Commission* and related cases, as soon as two-thirds of
39 the several states have applied for a convention for a similar
40 purpose; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application is for an
2 Article V convention and does not grant Congress the authority
3 to call a convention for any purpose other than for the sole
4 purpose set forth in this resolution, as soon as two-thirds of
5 the several states have applied for a convention for a similar
6 purpose; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
10 United States, the Vice President of the United States in his
11 capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
12 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
13 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,
14 the President *Pro Tempore* of the United States Senate, to each
15 Senator and Representative from Hawaii in the Congress of the
16 United States with the respectful request that the full and
17 complete text of this Concurrent Resolution be printed in the
18 Congressional Record, and to the presiding officers of each
19 legislative body of each of the several states, requesting the
20 cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling
21 Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant
22 to Article V of the U.S. Constitution.
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OFFERED BY:

Karl Rhoad

