
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEMORATE AUGUST 26, 2020, AS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF, AND HONORING HAWAII'S ROLE IN, THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, in a landmark constitutional victory, the
2 Nineteenth Amendment enshrined in the United States Constitution
3 a more expansive democracy for the nation on August 26, 1920, by
4 prohibiting states from denying the right to vote on the basis
5 of sex; and
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7 WHEREAS, Jeannette Rankin, appointed to the Committee on
8 Woman Suffrage in the Sixty-Fifth session of Congress was the
9 first female member elected and sworn into Congress in April of
10 1917, one of numerous influential females on the front lines of
11 the fight for national suffrage; and
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13 WHEREAS, women suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
14 Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony first organized and
15 collectively fought for women's suffrage rights at the national
16 level in July of 1848; and
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18 WHEREAS, during his reign, King Kalākaua also recognized
19 the importance of including women in political decision-making,
20 he relied on the service and advice of women like Emma
21 Ka'ilikapuolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, who was appointed
22 Commissioner of Private Ways and Water Rights from 1892 to 1907;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, Emma Ka'ilikapuolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina hosted
26 social gatherings of nationally acclaimed women's suffragists;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett, a
30 native Hawaiian, founded the National Women's Equal Suffrage
31 Association in 1912, and hosted meetings in her home in an



1 active fight for suffrage encouraging Hawaiian women with her
2 passion for the movement; and

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4 WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani, sister to King Kalākaua, as
5 the first and only Queen of Hawaii was a powerful symbol of a
6 woman's ability to govern and participate in civic life; and

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8 WHEREAS, the constitutional monarchy of Hawaii was
9 overthrown in 1893, and in 1898, Hawaii became a United States
10 territory; and

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12 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians argued that as a territory they
13 should have suffrage rights in the United States; and

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15 WHEREAS, although, in 1920 Hawaii was not a state and
16 therefore could not vote on the Nineteenth Amendment, Hawaiian
17 women became enfranchised along with their mainland sisters; and

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19 WHEREAS, as a celebratory symbol in support of the passage
20 of the Nineteenth Amendment, the people of Hawaii sent a
21 ratification star, which is currently displayed at Belmont-Paul
22 Women's Equality National Monument in Washington, to the
23 National Woman's Party; and

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25 WHEREAS, the State has been memorialized by the exemplary
26 leadership of numerous influential women in service of the
27 United States as members of Congress; and

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29 WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Farrington, publisher of the
30 "Honolulu Star-Bulletin", served the Eighty-Third and Eighty-
31 Fourth Congressional Sessions; and

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33 WHEREAS, Patsy Takemoto Mink, was born in Paia, was the
34 first woman of color elected to Congress, and was elected and
35 sworn into the Eighty-Ninth, Ninety-First, Ninety-Third, One
36 Hundred-First, and One Hundred-Fifth Sessions. Her contributions
37 to Hawaii have been commemorated by the State's dedication of a
38 statue honoring her legacy; and

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40 WHEREAS, Patricia Saiki worked to preserve Hawaii's natural
41 beauty and unique resources as a member of the One Hundredth
42 Congress; and



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2 WHEREAS, Mazie Hirono, a graduate of Kaimuki High School
3 and the University of Hawaii, served seven consecutive sessions
4 beginning with the One Hundred-Tenth Congressional Session; and

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6 WHEREAS, Colleen Hanabusa, who grew up in Waianae, Oahu,
7 served three terms in the United States House of
8 Representatives, beginning in 2011; and

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10 WHEREAS, Tulsi Gabbard has represented the State in
11 Congress since 2012; and

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13 WHEREAS, the daughters, granddaughters, and great-
14 granddaughters of the women, who fought so hard to vote, have
15 been making their voices heard at the polls for nearly one
16 hundred years; and

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18 WHEREAS, most of the women, who began asking for the right
19 to vote, never lived to see the enfranchisement of women; and

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21 WHEREAS, women are currently running for office in
22 unprecedented numbers. Many current politicians, both male and
23 female, remember that they follow in the footsteps of these
24 great suffragists; and

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26 WHEREAS, Congress passed a joint resolution in 1973,
27 declaring August twenty-sixth as National Women's Equality Day,
28 to commemorate the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment to
29 the United States Constitution; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
32 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that this body
33 requests the Governor to recognize and commemorate August 26,
34 2020, as Women's Equality Day, celebrating the centennial of,
35 and honoring Hawaii's role in, the Women's Suffrage Movement,
36 thus reaffirming its commitment to empowering and uplifting the
37 voices of women across our great State; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Senate President,
41 Speaker of the House of Representatives, League of Women Voters
42 of Hawaii, and Patsy Mink Foundation.

