
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM THAT WILL RESTORE BALANCE AND INTEGRITY TO OUR NATIONAL SYSTEM OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE IN THE INTEREST OF PRESERVING SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

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 and,

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6 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on
7 the people alone to a dependency on powerful special interests
8 through spending by third-party groups, campaigns, or out-of-
9 state donors; and

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11 WHEREAS, as a result, the United States Congress has faced
12 issues of internal dysfunction, unable to perform the basic
13 functions of a legislature, and consistently unable to pass
14 necessary legislation; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Framers of the Constitution of the United
17 States knew that amendments would be needed to address
18 deficiencies and to adjust to new circumstances that would face
19 our nation, and therefore provided the procedure for adding
20 amendments to that Constitution in Article V; and

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22 WHEREAS, in the Regular Session of 2010, Hawaii became the
23 first state legislature to formally request that the United
24 States Congress propose an amendment to protect the states'
25 ability to legislate common sense campaign finance laws by
26 passing House Concurrent Resolution 282, House Draft 1; and



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1 WHEREAS, in the following ten years, the Hawaii Legislature
2 has received no proposed amendment from Congress and continues
3 to perceive the growing need for an amendment to the
4 Constitution of the United States that will permanently protect
5 fair elections in America by ensuring balance, integrity, and
6 transparency to our national system of campaign finance; and
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8 WHEREAS, the State intends the proposed constitutional
9 amendment to protect and strengthen the First Amendment by
10 ensuring the voices of the American people can be heard and
11 represented equally in government, and can no longer be
12 disproportionately minimized by the undue influence of powerful
13 special interests and dark money groups; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State also intends the proposed constitutional
16 amendment to ensure the ability of the United States Congress
17 and the states, within their respective jurisdictions, to
18 reasonably regulate contributions and expenditures in campaigns,
19 elections, or ballot measures however they deem appropriate; and
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21 WHEREAS, the State further intends the proposed amendment
22 to ensure that the United States Congress and the states shall
23 have the power to implement and enforce the amendment by
24 appropriate legislation; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Framers appointed the United States Congress
27 as an originator of needed amendments, but also recognized that
28 the United States Congress itself may become in need of reform
29 and may prove unwilling to reform itself, so an alternative
30 source for proposed amendments was needed and the state
31 legislatures were selected as that source; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights, among fifteen of twenty-seven
34 amendments added to the Constitution of the United States, were
35 partly in response to pressure from state legislatures calling
36 for a convention to propose needed amendments; and
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38 WHEREAS, because the Constitution of the United States
39 requires that three-fourths of the states ratify an amendment
40 proposed by Congress or to convene an amendments convention, no
41 amendment has ever been adopted unless it represents a



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1 bipartisan consensus, thus ensuring that no extreme or partisan
2 proposal can succeed; and

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4 WHEREAS, an amendment convention held pursuant to Article V
5 of the Constitution of the United States would be limited to
6 only the subject specified in the applications from thirty-four
7 states, would have its delegates bound by the instructions and
8 limitations of the state legislatures that sent them, and would
9 have such limitations enforceable by the United States judicial
10 system; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that this body requests the
15 United States Congress to propose an amendment to the
16 Constitution of the United States of America on campaign finance
17 reform to restore balance and integrity to our national system
18 of campaign finance and permanently protect the integrity of our
19 elections; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the United States Congress
22 does not propose a constitutional amendment satisfying the
23 principles as described within this Concurrent Resolution, this
24 body urges the Hawaii State Legislature of the Regular Session
25 of 2024 to petition to the United States Congress to call for a
26 limited convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing
27 amendments that satisfy the principles as described within this
28 Concurrent Resolution to the Constitution of the United States;
29 and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution is
32 intended to be a continuing application considered together with
33 applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014
34 Vermont Legislature as R-454, the 2013-2014 California
35 Legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General
36 Assembly as SJR 0042, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as
37 SCR 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as HR 7670 and
38 SR 2589, and all other passed, pending, and future applications
39 until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied
40 for a convention for a similar purpose and said convention is
41 convened by the United States Congress; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this body urges the legislatures of
2 each of the states comprising the United States of America to
3 issue similar petitions in order to build the consensus
4 necessary to amend the Constitution of the United States; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body respectfully requests
7 that the full and complete text of this Concurrent Resolution be
8 printed in the Congressional Record; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the
11 cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling
12 the United States Congress to call a convention for proposing
13 amendments pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the
14 United States of America; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
18 United States; Vice President of the United States in the Vice
19 President's capacity as presiding officer of the United States
20 Senate; Speaker of the United States House of Representatives;
21 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives;
22 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; Hawaii's
23 Congressional Delegation; and the presiding officers of each
24 legislative body of the states that comprise the United States
25 of America.
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OFFERED BY:



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