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## HOUSE 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 Resolution 282, House Draft 1; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, in the following ten years, the Hawaii Legislature  
29 has received no proposed amendment from Congress and continues



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1 to perceive the growing need for an amendment to the  
2 Constitution of the United States that will permanently protect  
3 fair elections in America by ensuring balance, integrity, and  
4 transparency to our national system of campaign finance; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the State intends the proposed constitutional  
7 amendment to protect and strengthen the First Amendment by  
8 ensuring the voices of the American people can be heard and  
9 represented equally in government, and can no longer be  
10 disproportionately minimized by the undue influence of powerful  
11 special interests and dark money groups; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, the State also intends the proposed constitutional  
14 amendment to ensure the ability of the United States Congress  
15 and the states, within their respective jurisdictions, to  
16 reasonably regulate contributions and expenditures in campaigns,  
17 elections, or ballot measures however they deem appropriate; and  
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19 WHEREAS, the State further intends the proposed amendment  
20 to ensure that the United States Congress and the states shall  
21 have the power to implement and enforce the amendment by  
22 appropriate legislation; and  
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24 WHEREAS, the Framers appointed the United States Congress  
25 as an originator of needed amendments, but also recognized that  
26 the United States Congress itself may become in need of reform  
27 and may prove unwilling to reform itself, so an alternative  
28 source for proposed amendments was needed and the state  
29 legislatures were selected as that source; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights, among fifteen of twenty-seven  
32 amendments added to the Constitution of the United States, were  
33 partly in response to pressure from state legislatures calling  
34 for a convention to propose needed amendments; and  
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36 WHEREAS, because the Constitution of the United States  
37 requires that three-fourths of the states ratify an amendment  
38 proposed by Congress or to convene an amendments convention, no  
39 amendment has ever been adopted unless it represents a  
40 bipartisan consensus, thus ensuring that no extreme or partisan  
41 proposal can succeed; and



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

8  
9           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2021, that this body requests the United States Congress to  
12 propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of  
13 America on campaign finance reform to restore balance and  
14 integrity to our national system of campaign finance and  
15 permanently protect the integrity of our elections; and

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

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

37  
38           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this body urges the legislatures of  
39 each of the states comprising the United States of America to  
40 issue similar petitions in order to build the consensus  
41 necessary to amend the Constitution of the United States; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body respectfully requests  
2 that the full and complete text of this Resolution be printed in  
3 the Congressional Record; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the  
6 cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling  
7 the United States Congress to call a convention for proposing  
8 amendments pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the  
9 United States of America; and

10  
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States;  
13 Vice President of the United States in the Vice President's  
14 capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate;  
15 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; Minority  
16 Leader of the United States House of Representatives; President  
17 Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; Hawaii's Congressional  
18 Delegation; and the presiding officers of each legislative body  
19 of the states that comprise the United States of America.  
20  
21  
22

OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2021

