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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROMPTLY REINSTATE FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST TO SUPPORT ITS LIFE-SAVING AND CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.

1           WHEREAS, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for  
2 Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing  
3 critical humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees since its  
4 establishment in 1949; and

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6           WHEREAS, innocent men, women, and children in Palestine  
7 continue to face dire humanitarian conditions, including mass  
8 displacement, loss of livelihoods, and limited access to  
9 necessities such as food, clean water, and health care services;  
10 and

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12           WHEREAS, Palestinian refugees are faced with escalating  
13 conflicts and crises in the region, resulting in nearly thirty  
14 thousand deaths and 1,900,000 people displaced from their homes;  
15 and

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17           WHEREAS, most of UNRWA's regular budget for Gaza pays for  
18 the salaries of thirteen thousand employees in the region,  
19 including teachers, health care specialists, engineers, and  
20 sanitation workers; and

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22           WHEREAS, the total amount of funding that is typical for  
23 salaries and operational expenses for UNRWA comes out to  
24 \$30,000,000 monthly, according to Juliette Touma, UNRWA Director  
25 of Communications; and

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27           WHEREAS, however since the start of the 2023 conflict in  
28 Gaza, a supplemental budget for UNRWA increased to 47,000,000 a



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1 month from 12,000,000 a month, according to Tom White, Director  
2 of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza; and

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4 WHEREAS, that extra money has paid for flour for three  
5 hundred fifty thousand families, fourteen million food items,  
6 mattress pads, blankets, and kitchen sets, and the distribution  
7 of twenty million liters of water; and

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9 WHEREAS, some of UNRWA's budget in Gaza also goes to  
10 distributing life-saving medications, including insulin and  
11 vaccines; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the United States usually gives between  
14 \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000 to UNRWA on an annual basis,  
15 according to Matthew Miller, Spokesperson for the United States  
16 Department of State, which amounts to roughly one-third of the  
17 agency's annual budget; and

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19 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has expressed  
20 his commitment to promoting human rights and addressing  
21 humanitarian crises worldwide; and

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23 WHEREAS, in January 2023, the United States suspended  
24 funding to UNRWA amid claims that twelve of its thirteen  
25 thousand staff members in Gaza may have abetted extremist  
26 activities; and

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28 WHEREAS, in response, the United Nations Secretary-General  
29 immediately announced the creation of an independent panel to  
30 investigate the allegations made against UNRWA employees; and

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32 WHEREAS, suspension of funding to UNRWA by the United  
33 States government has severely impacted UNRWA's ability to  
34 deliver life-saving assistance to Palestinian refugees; and

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36 WHEREAS, reinstating funding to UNRWA is essential to  
37 ensure the delivery of critical services for Palestinian  
38 refugees, such as food, health care, and emergency relief  
39 assistance; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
42 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



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1 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the President of  
2 the United States is urged to promptly reinstate funding for the  
3 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in  
4 the Near East to support its life-saving and critical  
5 humanitarian assistance programs for Palestinian refugees; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
9 United States, United States Secretary of State, Administrator  
10 of the United States Agency for International Development, and  
11 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:



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