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## HOUSE 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  
29 month from 12,000,000 a month, according to Tom White, Director  
30 of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
40 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
41 Session of 2024, that the President of the United States is  
42 urged to promptly reinstate funding for the United Nations



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



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