HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO INCREASE ONGOING HUMANITARIAN AID TO PALESTINE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME.

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

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

WHEREAS, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established on December 11, 1946, and renamed in 1950 as the United Nations Children's Fund, to provide humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide; and

WHEREAS, UNICEF delivers gender-responsive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions to affected populations in the Gaza Strip and responds to the urgent humanitarian needs in the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, the World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability, and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters, and the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the World Food Programme also supports people in need in Gaza and the West Bank, granting cash transfers to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and distributing thousands of metric tons of food commodities to Palestine each year; and

WHEREAS, both of these agencies rely on voluntary contributions from governments, non-profit organizations, corporations, and other private donors to assist communities in need; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, UNICEF requires \$263,300,000 for humanitarian action in Palestine, including \$74,400,000 for cash transfers, \$62,200,000 for WASH interventions, and \$62,900,000 for health and nutrition interventions; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Food Programme's Palestine Country Brief, it required \$225,000,000 in 2023 to maintain their humanitarian interventions, and given that conflict has heightened in Palestine within the last few months, the funding required for 2024 is surely larger; and

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

WHEREAS, because of the intensified conflict, violence, restricted trade, and unemployment facing Palestinians currently, UNICEF and the World Food Programme urgently need funding to support men, women, and most significantly, children in need in Gaza and the West Bank; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that the President of the United States is urged to increase ongoing humanitarian aid to Palestine through the United Nations Children's Fund and World Food Programme; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, United States Secretary of State, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.