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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE THIRTY-THIRD HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO  
ADOPT RULES CHANGES TO FOSTER DECORUM AND STRENGTHEN TRUE  
DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

1           WHEREAS, the rules of the Hawaii State House of  
2 Representatives are an agreement all members make regarding how  
3 they conduct themselves while doing legislative business; and  
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5           WHEREAS, while these rules allow for the current  
6 fulfillment of the body's duties, there is much room for reform  
7 as it comes to mandating heightened decorum and the adoption of  
8 true democratic processes; and  
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10           WHEREAS, in 2022 two legislators in leadership positions  
11 pled guilty to corruption, with one infamously known to brag he  
12 could kill a bill any time he wanted; and  
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14           WHEREAS, it has been said that "absolute power corrupts  
15 absolutely", but the House Rules themselves bestow high levels  
16 of power concentration onto a select group of representatives;  
17 and  
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19           WHEREAS, particularly, the ability for a committee chair to  
20 unilaterally determine whether legislation will be deferred  
21 without a vote by all members of a committee is in stark  
22 contrast to the representative democratic principles on which  
23 the Hawaii State Legislature was established; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the recommendation to recommit has increasingly  
26 been used to stall legislation as opposed to keeping it active,  
27 often eliminating the ability for members to vote on typically  
28 controversial matters and mask their stance by instead being  
29 asked to vote simply on procedure; and  
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# H.R. NO. 164

1 WHEREAS, while disagreement is inherent in all debate,  
2 members have been known to misuse mechanisms meant to maintain  
3 decorum in a manner that instead merely interrupt speech due to  
4 differences of opinion, on no grounds of actual rules violation;  
5 now, therefore,

6  
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
8 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
9 of 2025, that the Hawaii State House of Representatives is urged  
10 to adopt rules changes that foster decorum and strengthen true  
11 democratic principles; and

12  
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Rules be amended to  
14 remove a committee chair's unilateral decision-making power for  
15 the deferral of legislation; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Rules clarify  
18 appropriate uses of recommendations to recommit legislation in  
19 order to prevent the practice from being used to stall measures  
20 versus allowing for a vote by members on the legislation's  
21 actual subject matter; and

22  
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Rules be amended to  
24 have members refrain from calling point of order or recess when  
25 another member is speaking; and

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Resolution be transmitted to the members of the Hawaii State  
29 House of Representatives.

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31  
32 OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2025

