## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONGRESSIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDS CAUCUS TO REINTRODUCE AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE "ENGAGE THE PACIFIC ACT".

WHEREAS, broadening and deepening engagement with Pacific Islands is vital to securing allies in the Asia-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, the Asia-Pacific region plays an outsized role in the national security interests of the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, islands in the Pacific face major challenges such as natural disasters, economic obstacles, maintenance of civil society, and threats to democracy and sovereignty from maligned actors; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 and 2024 the  $118^{\rm th}$  United States Congress considered the Engage the Pacific Act; and

WHEREAS, the Engage the Pacific Act took into account specific requests from Pacific Island leaders and priorities identified by United States government officials; and

WHEREAS, the Engage the Pacific Act would require the Secretary of State to establish a Committee on Engagement with Civil Society Organizations in the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the Engage the Pacific Act would also require the Secretary of State to further develop the United States' communications strategy in the Pacific region; and

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WHEREAS, the Engage the Pacific Act would also support professional development and higher education scholarship programs for Pacific Island citizens; and

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WHEREAS, despite these many benefits, the 118th United States Congress failed to pass the Engage the Pacific Act; and

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WHEREAS, renewed consideration and the ultimate passage of the Engage the Pacific Act would demonstrate the United States' sustained commitment to the Pacific Islands; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus is urged to reintroduce and advocate for the passage of the Engage the Pacific Act; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to all members of the United States Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus.

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OFFERED BY

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