
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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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,

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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
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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
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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
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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
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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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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2025

