

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO RESTORE THE  
PRIOR FORMAT, ORGANIZATION, AND SUBSTANTIVE COMPLETENESS OF  
THE COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

1           WHEREAS, the United States has long asserted a national  
2 commitment to democracy, liberty, justice, and the rule of law;  
3 and  
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5           WHEREAS, the United States Department of State's *Country*  
6 *Reports on Human Rights Practices* have, for decades, served as a  
7 significant public record of internationally recognized human  
8 rights conditions throughout the world; and  
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10           WHEREAS, those reports have historically informed Congress,  
11 policymakers, advocates, journalists, scholars, and the  
12 international community regarding abuses committed by foreign  
13 governments and other actors, including arbitrary detentions,  
14 denials of due process, examples of corruption, restrictions on  
15 political participation, suppressions of speech and assembly,  
16 mistreatment of prisoners, and violence against vulnerable  
17 populations; and  
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19           WHEREAS, comprehensive and candid reporting on human rights  
20 conditions advances accountability, promotes transparency, and  
21 reinforces the credibility of the United States in matters  
22 involving democracy and fundamental freedoms; and  
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24           WHEREAS, federal law contemplates the submission of full  
25 and complete reports concerning internationally recognized human  
26 rights; and  
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28           WHEREAS, on April 18, 2025, National Public Radio indicated  
29 that the United States Department of State had revised the  
30 format and scope of these reports to remove or reduce  
31 discussions of certain categories of concern that had  
32 traditionally appeared in prior reports, including discussions



1 on prison conditions, corruption, restrictions on freedom of  
2 movement and peaceful assembly, political-process restrictions,  
3 interference with privacy, internet freedom, harassment of human  
4 rights organizations, gender-based violence, and certain due-  
5 process concerns; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the omission or minimization of this information  
8 may impair the usefulness, comparability, and credibility of the  
9 *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* as instruments of  
10 public accountability; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, official reporting that is thorough, consistent,  
13 and specific is especially important for persons subjected to  
14 repression, arbitrary detention, political imprisonment, or  
15 other abuses in jurisdictions governed by authoritarian or  
16 repressive regimes; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the preservation of meaningful reporting on human  
19 rights is consistent with the principles of freedom, liberty,  
20 and justice for all and with the role of democratic institutions  
21 in bearing witness to abuse and affirming the dignity of all  
22 persons; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States  
27 Department of State is urged to restore the prior format,  
28 organization, and substantive completeness of the *Country*  
29 *Reports on Human Rights Practices* so that the reports continue  
30 to provide full, credible, and comprehensive accounts of  
31 internationally recognized human rights conditions; and

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body affirms the  
34 importance of accountability for human rights violations and the  
35 continuing value of democratic institutions that protect and  
36 promote freedom, liberty, justice, and the rule of law; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body condemns the federal  
39 government's decision to substantially revise the *Country*  
40 *Reports on Human Rights Practices* in a manner that diminishes  
41 the reporting of serious abuses, undermines the reports'  
42 completeness and credibility, erodes transparency, weakens a



1 longstanding instrument of democratic accountability for human  
2 rights violations, represents a serious retreat from the  
3 principles of democratic governance and the rule of law, and  
4 departs from the United States' established commitment to candid  
5 and comprehensive human rights reporting; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body respectfully urges  
8 the United States Department of State to ensure that future  
9 *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* fully and consistently  
10 document all material categories of abuse and conditions  
11 relevant to evaluating the protection of human rights around the  
12 world; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
16 United States, Vice President of the United States, Secretary of  
17 State, Chair of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign  
18 Relations, Speaker of the United States House of  
19 Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional  
20 delegation.  
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OFFERED BY: Karl Rhoads

