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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT FEDERAL LEGISLATION  
GRANTING STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA.

1           WHEREAS, the people living on the land that would  
2 eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were  
3 provided the right to vote for representation in the United  
4 States Congress when the United States Constitution was ratified  
5 in 1788; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the  
8 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United  
9 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for  
10 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the  
11 United States; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted  
14 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through  
15 the passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States  
16 Constitution in 1961; and  
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18           WHEREAS, as of 2020, the United States Census Bureau data  
19 estimates the District of Columbia's population at approximately  
20 712,000 residents, which is comparable to the populations of  
21 Wyoming (582,000 residents), Vermont (623,000 residents), Alaska  
22 (731,000 residents), and North Dakota (765,000 residents); and  
23

24           WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all  
25 the responsibility of United States citizenship, including  
26 paying more federal taxes than residents of twenty-two states,  
27 serving on federal juries, and defending the United States as  
28 members of the United States armed forces in every way since the  
29 War for Independence; yet, they are denied full representation  
30 in Congress; and



1           WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia  
2 themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia  
3 and passed a district-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which  
4 favored statehood with eighty-six percent of the votes; and  
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6           WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of  
7 self-government, including participation in its national  
8 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and  
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10          WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack  
11 full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the  
12 residents of the fifty states; and  
13

14          WHEREAS, the United States Congress has interfered  
15 repeatedly with the District of Columbia's limited self-  
16 government by enacting laws that affect the District of  
17 Columbia's expenditure of its locally-raised tax revenue; this  
18 includes barring the usage of locally-raised revenue, thus  
19 violating the fundamental principle that states and local  
20 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents  
21 the will of its citizens; and  
22

23          WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed  
24 consecutive balanced budgets since Fiscal Year 1997, it still  
25 faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of  
26 congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and  
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28          WHEREAS, in the 117th Congress, the District of Columbia  
29 Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom  
30 Carper introduced H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C.  
31 Admission Act, that provides that the State of Washington, D.C.  
32 would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American  
33 citizens, including representation in the United States Congress  
34 consisting of two United States Senators and at least one United  
35 States Representative; and  
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37          WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has  
38 called on the United States Congress to address the District of  
39 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of  
40 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the  
41 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter



# H.R. NO. 91

1 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now,  
2 therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2021, that the United States Congress is urged to enact  
7 federal legislation granting statehood to the people of the  
8 District of Columbia; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the  
11 admission of the District of Columbia into the Union as a state  
12 of the United States of America; and

13  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Vice President of the United  
16 States in the Vice President's capacity as presiding officer of  
17 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
18 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States  
19 Senate, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation with  
20 the respectful request that the full and complete text of this  
21 Resolution be printed in the Congressional Record.

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23  
24 OFFERED BY:

  
MAR 12 2021

