

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GRANT FULL VOTING RIGHTS
FOR RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provided for the
2 establishment of a federal district, known as Washington,
3 District of Columbia, and the residents of the federal district
4 were allowed to vote for members of the United States House of
5 Representatives from the time of incorporation in 1791 until
6 1801; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the
9 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United
10 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for
11 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the
12 United States; and

13
14 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted
15 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through
16 passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the United States
17 Constitution in 1961, which Hawaii was the first state to
18 ratify; and

19
20 WHEREAS, Congress has allowed the District of Columbia to
21 send a nonvoting delegate to the United States House of
22 Representatives since 1971; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Congress passed a constitutional amendment in 1978
25 to grant full voting rights to District of Columbia residents
26 and, although it was ratified by Hawaii and fifteen other
27 states, the proposed amendment was ultimately unsuccessful, thus
28 keeping the right to vote for congressional representation out
29 of reach for District of Columbia residents; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has 601,723 residents,
32 which according to the 2010 census is comparable to the



1 populations of Wyoming (563,626), Vermont (625,741), North
2 Dakota (672,591), and Alaska (710,231); and

3
4 WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents share all the
5 responsibilities of citizenship, including paying federal taxes,
6 serving on federal juries, and defending the United States as
7 members of the United States Armed Services in every war since
8 the War for Independence, yet they are denied full
9 representation in Congress; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia's economy is larger than
12 the economies of more than fifteen states; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the lack of federal representation severely limits
15 the ability of residents of the District of Columbia to
16 influence legislation on matters directly affecting them,
17 including health, gun control, budgeting, taxes, and governance;
18 and

19
20 WHEREAS, the United States is a signatory to international
21 treaties calling for countries to grant full voting rights to
22 its adult citizens, including the International Covenant on
23 Civil and Political Rights, the Organization of American States'
24 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the
25 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination;
26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Inter-American Commission on Human
29 Rights of the Organization of American States found the United
30 States to be in violation of international human rights law for
31 its disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents; and

32
33 WHEREAS, Benjamin Cayetano, as Governor of the State of
34 Hawaii, recognized the fundamental right to representation of
35 District of Columbia residents and proclaimed August 2002
36 "District of Columbia Voting Rights Month"; and

37
38 WHEREAS, the White House has affixed the District of
39 Columbia's "Taxation Without Representation" license plates on
40 the presidential limousine and other vehicles, stating that
41 President Obama "has seen first-hand how patently unfair it is
42 for working families in D.C. to work hard, raise children and
43 pay taxes, without having a vote in Congress. Attaching these
44 plates to the presidential vehicles demonstrates the President's



1 commitment to the principle of full representation for the
2 people of the District of Columbia and his willingness to fight
3 for voting rights, home rule, and budget autonomy for the
4 district"; and

5
6 WHEREAS, in 2013, several measures have been introduced in
7 the United States Congress that provide for greater
8 representation and autonomy for the residents of the District of
9 Columbia; now, therefore,

10
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that members of the 113th
14 United States Congress are urged to enact federal legislation or
15 propose a constitutional amendment granting full voting rights
16 to residents of the District of Columbia; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
20 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
21 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
22 District of Columbia's congressional delegate, and members of
23 Hawaii's congressional delegation.

24
25
26

OFFERED BY:  _____



