

FEB 22 2016

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION  
GRANTING BUDGET AUTONOMY, LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY, AND  
STATEHOOD TO 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 Congress when  
4 the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the  
7 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United  
8 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for  
9 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the  
10 United States; and  
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12           WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted  
13 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through  
14 passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the United States  
15 Constitution in 1961; and  
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17           WHEREAS, according to the 2010 census, the District of  
18 Columbia has 601,723 residents, which is comparable to the  
19 populations of Wyoming (563,626), Vermont (625,741), North  
20 Dakota (672,591), and Alaska (710,231); and  
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22           WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents share all the  
23 responsibilities of citizenship, including paying federal taxes,  
24 serving on federal juries, and defending the United States as  
25 members of the United States Armed Services in every war since  
26 the War for Independence, yet they are denied full  
27 representation in Congress; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia have  
30 endorsed Statehood for the District of Columbia, and passed a  
31 District-wide referendum on budget autonomy; and



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1  
2 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of  
3 self-government, including participation in its national  
4 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has repeatedly  
7 interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-  
8 government by enacting laws that affect the District of  
9 Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue,  
10 including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus  
11 violating the fundamental principle that states and local  
12 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents  
13 the will of its citizens; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed a  
16 balanced budget in a timely manner in each of the last twenty  
17 years, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly  
18 because of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget;  
19 and  
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21 WHEREAS, legislation is often introduced, but rarely  
22 considered, in the United States Congress that would provide for  
23 greater representation and autonomy for the residents of the  
24 District of Columbia; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has  
27 called upon the United States Congress to address the District  
28 of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization  
29 of American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the  
30 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter  
31 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now,  
32 therefore,  
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
36 House of Representatives concurring, that members of the United  
37 States Congress are urged to enact federal legislation or  
38 propose a constitutional amendment granting budget autonomy,  
39 legislative autonomy, and statehood to the District of Columbia;  
40 and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
 3 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
 4 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
 5 District of Columbia's congressional delegate, the members of  
 6 Hawaii's congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of  
 7 each legislative body in each state.

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