

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS AND
PROTECTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Whereas, The First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that there be no law establishing a religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and protects freedom of speech, the press, peaceful assembly, and the right to petition the Government for redress of grievances; and

Whereas, This amendment was intended to prevent establishment of a national religion as in European states and not to prohibit government entities from encouraging religious based behavior beneficial to society; and

Whereas, Legislation such as Hawai'i's Sexual Assault legislation, Hawai'i's same-sex marriage "Equality" bill, and the national Patient Care and Affordable Care Act require individuals and organizations to provide services contrary to strongly held moral and religious beliefs and values; and

Whereas, At one time, Universities were champions of academic freedom and diverse thought, but now they have become intolerant of any expression that opposes progressive ideology, they institutionalize speech codes by aggressively penalizing speech deemed to be politically incorrect, and limiting the free flow of ideas to "free speech zones," and presently the University of Hawai'i in Hilo is being sued by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) because the school was prohibiting students from distributing copies of the U.S. Constitution on campus; and

Whereas, Historic religious monuments have been removed from Camp Smith and the Kolekole Pass, the Hawai'i State Senate discontinued daily prayer, and Moanalua High School cancelled a charity music concert as a result of lawsuits and threats of lawsuits by atheist Mitchell Kahle and associates; and

Whereas, Members of Hawai'i's legislature recognized the need for additional protections for religious liberty and introduced a bill, HB1624, during the 2014 session, and the bill did not receive the required to pass into law; now, be it

Resolved, That the Hawai'i Republican Party in convention at Honolulu, Hawai'i on May 17, 2014 reaffirm that the Hawai'i Republican Party stands for religious liberty, conscience protections for individuals, organizations and institutions, and the right to peaceful assembly in public; and

Resolved, The legislature will be encouraged to pass a Religious Liberty Restoration Act to reinstate religious liberty and conscience protections for all individuals, organizations and institutions; and

Resolved, That religious symbols, speech, and other First Amendment rights including proselytizing in the public square must be protected; and

Resolved, That no "hate" crime measures should be passed in the legislature since a person's thoughts or speech does not make the crime any more or less egregious, and that corrective measure to reinstitute the concept that all men and women are equal before the law should be reaffirmed; and

Resolved, That free speech will be protected and not limited by speech codes, free speech zones or constrained in areas protected by the Secret Service; and

Resolved, That taxpayer funding for biased media outlets such as NPR should be discontinued; and

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Hawai'i elected officials, be posted on the Hawai'i Republican Party website, and distributed to media for public dissemination.