

RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Whereas, the Hawai`i Republican Party endorses the concepts of *Liberty* and *Limited Government*;

Whereas, the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution proclaims, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” which protects the right to choose religious beliefs and the right to “exercise” or practice those beliefs; and

Whereas, John Adams explained, “We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other;” and

Whereas, despite guarantees in the US Constitution, recent social and legal trends are threatening Freedom of Religion in Hawai`i and the nation by erroneously interpreting the First Amendment to mean freedom *from* religion. Religion needs protection from the state, not the other way around; and

Whereas, religious organizations and religious adherents are increasingly unwelcome in the public square. They are being asked to leave their religious beliefs and values at home when they step into the voting booth – as if religion were something that could be turned on and off! Rather, religion permeates one’s thoughts, words, deeds, goals, dreams, standards of behavior and interaction with mankind at all times and in all things and in all places; and

Whereas, Americans have a Constitutional right and duty to exercise their religion, to vote their consciences on public issues, and to participate in elections and in debates in the public square. These are the rights of all citizens, religious or not, and they are also the rights of religious leaders and religious organizations.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Hawai`i Republican Party in convention at Lihue, Hawai`i, May 14, 2011, calls upon the heads of the state and the nation to uphold the First Amendment and to reject measures that restrict or belittle religion and the practice thereof.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be posted on the Hawaii Republican Party website and distributed to Hawai`i elected officials and media for public dissemination.