

HM 1253

2008

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the United States Government, urging the
3 United States Government to encourage the government of
4 Cuba to hold free and fair elections.
5

6 WHEREAS, the 11 million people living in Cuba are not
7 allowed the opportunity to live as free people and prosper from
8 their industry, but have been denied the most fundamental
9 freedoms and rights that a democracy provides, and

10 WHEREAS, the government of Cuba, which administered a
11 flourishing economy and was a thriving democracy that held free
12 and fair elections, was replaced by a regime that held instead
13 to the failed promises of communism many years after the demise
14 of the former Soviet Union and its subsidies, and

15 WHEREAS, for nearly fifty years the Cuban people have
16 experienced economic and political poverty and are now among the
17 poorest nations in the western hemisphere, and

18 WHEREAS, a communist reign of nearly fifty years is far too
19 long for any people to be suppressed and denied the privileges
20 for which they once fought, the privileges upon which democratic
21 institutions are built, including the right of citizens to vote,
22 to dissent, and to change their government, and

23 WHEREAS, the people of Florida, cognizant of the recent
24 resignation of Fidel Castro as President of the State Council of
25 Cuba and the appointment of Raul Castro as his successor, are
26 optimistic that these circumstances provide a unique opportunity
27 to institute meaningful change for the Cuban people and
28 encourage a peaceful transition and return to democracy that is

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29 | measured by the restoration of civil liberties, especially the
30 | right to vote in free and fair elections, NOW, THEREFORE,

31 |

32 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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34 | That the United States Government is encouraged to use
35 | every political and monetary incentive and every lawful means of
36 | persuasion granted to it by the American people to urge the
37 | government of Cuba to hold free and fair elections and thereby
38 | allow the citizens of Cuba to participate in the democratic
39 | process that has been denied them during the rule of Fidel
40 | Castro.

41 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
42 | presented to the President of the United States, to the
43 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
44 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
45 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.