

Audrey Cabrera, Brown & Caldwell

"After having my second child I've had a hard time finding my balance and feeling like I am fulfilling my roles as employee, mother, and wife. Although we have come so far in terms of women in the professional workforce and specifically STEM careers, the statistics remain that a large portion of women migrate out of their STEM career in their 30's, when they are growing their families. My company is great, with fair pay and good benefits, but I feel that there are some double standards/expectations that probably aren't specific to my company, but in our society in general."

Kimberly Vaituulala, Maui Electric Company (MECO) mentor for Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED)

"Society has taught young girls to care for their baby dolls or encouraged to play "house" with their Barbie dolls. Meanwhile boys are building structures with Legos and playing outside, messing around with their bikes to see what they can do to make it go faster or make it look and sound cooler as they ride by. This beginning transitions into college where the number of boys dominate science and math courses. For me, the significance of IGED is to show these young ladies that engineering/technology IS cool and it's not just for boys. IGED gives these ladies an opportunity to see real people working in STEM careers, and broadens the horizon for these up and coming females. Igniting a spark of interest in just one of the 15 girls in the group makes this effort completely worth it. . . .

"Women are physiologically and psychologically different from men. In order to solve the engineering problems of this world, the men cannot do it alone. It is vitally important for women (of all ages) to be exposed to and consider a career in engineering. The different perspective that women can bring to forth might be the key to making cold fusion a reality one day.

"In college I was one of three girls in my electrical engineering classes. But I know more girls are getting involved in STEM related fields and careers, and it can be attributed to programs like IGED. Sometimes girls need that extra push. Someone to tell them, "Go! You can do it too!" And as long as we can sustain STEM programs like IGED, this trend for girls will continue upward."

Native Hawaiian Science & Engineering Mentorship Program (NHSEMP), University of Hawaii at Manoa Kaiho'olulu Rickard, mentee

"[NHSEMP] helped me focus on my studies and set goals. They got me started with a mentor who's been helping me out with choosing good projects to work on . . . I was introduced to [researcher] Lloyd French, and after that I really began to get involved in projects like MMIC, or Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit, and JPL, which is the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. . . .

"I've really gotten involved in what I'm doing here. My freshman year, my grades weren't so good. I had about a 2.0 GPA then. So, after I joined the program, I was given my own small office, and working with a mentor, basically helped me pull my GPA up to a 3.0 in two semesters."

Ms. HIRONO. I thank Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Her legislation laid the groundwork for the STEM Opportunities Act. I also wish to thank Senators PETERS, MURRAY, GILLIBRAND, BLUMENTHAL, MARKEY, CANTWELL, BOOKER, SCHATZ, and MERKLEY for supporting this effort. Working together, I know we can do better, and I know we will ensure that

women who want to pursue STEM careers can do so in a supportive environment without fear of harassment.

On Equal Pay Day, we are reminded of how far we have to go to achieve equality, and I urge my colleagues to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, the STEM Opportunities Act, and other legislation that will help close the gender gap in our workforce.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 418—RECOGNIZING HAFSAT ABIOLA, KHANIM LATIF, YOANI SÁNCHEZ, AND AKANKSHA HAZARI FOR THEIR SELFLESSNESS AND DEDICATION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAUSES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 418

Whereas women's leadership in the world is critical to shaping and addressing world events and decreasing global instability;

Whereas women leaders play an integral role in fighting against transnational organized crime, human trafficking, and violence against women, including honor killings, and female genital mutilation;

Whereas changing the trajectory of these dynamics requires empowering women leaders to advance economic opportunity and increase political and public leadership;

Whereas women leaders have selflessly sacrificed, and in some cases placed their lives at risk, to advance causes that will better their communities, their nations, and the world;

Whereas Hafsat Abiola of Nigeria, founder of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, campaigns to end violence against women, trains young female leaders, and works to increase civic participation;

Whereas Khanim Latif of Iraq, the Director of Asuda, places her life at risk to provide safe haven to victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and fights threats of honor killings and female genital cutting;

Whereas Yoani Sánchez of Cuba, founder of "Generación Y", created a blog that captures daily life in Cuba as an effort to encourage political change and increase public awareness and engagement;

Whereas Akanksha Hazari of India fights to deliver basic necessities such as clean water and electricity to impoverished communities and to empower the underserved in India; and

Whereas each of these leaders serves as a role model and an inspiration to help change the lives of others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Hafsat Abiola, Khanim Latif, Yoani Sánchez, and Akanksha Hazari for their selflessness and dedication to their respective causes; and

(2) commends their efforts to advance economic opportunity, increase political and public leadership, combat violence against women, and empower women to address global instability.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to honor and congratulate the Vital Voices Global Partnership and the 2016 Vital Voices Award recipients: Hafsat Abiola, Khanim Latif, Yoani Sánchez, and Akanksha Hazari.

The Vital Voices Global Partnership identifies, invests in, and brings visibility to extraordinary women around the world by unleashing their leadership potential to transform lives and accelerate peace and prosperity. Vital Voices equips such leaders with the management, business development, marketing, and communications skills required to expand their enterprises, to provide for their families, and create jobs in their communities. Vital Voices seeks to empower these women leaders to create a better world for us all.

The Vital Voices Global Partnership has trained and mentored over 14,000 women in 144 countries over the last 15 years, in addition to this year's award recipients Hafsat Abiola of Nigeria, founder of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, campaigns to end violence against women, trains young female leaders, and works to increase civic participation. Khanim Latif of Iraq, the Director of Asuda, places her life at risk to provide safe haven to victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and fights threats of honor killings and female genital cutting. Yoani Sánchez of Cuba, founder of "Generación Y", created a blog that captures daily life in Cuba in an effort to encourage political change and increase public awareness and engagement; and Akanksha Hazari of India fights to deliver basic necessities such as clean water and electricity to impoverished communities and to empower the underserved in India.

Such leaders, supported by the Vital Voices Global Partnership Fund, and through their selfless efforts and advocacy, continue to advance social justice, support democracy, and strengthen the rule of law across the globe.

With this in mind, I am pleased to offer this resolution with Senator FEINSTEIN.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of a resolution, submitted by Senator COLLINS, to honor four women recently recognized by the Vital Voices Global Partnership.

This is a global organization that identifies, supports, and highlights women around the world who exhibit leadership to transform their communities.

I am pleased to sponsor this resolution with Senator COLLINS.

The four women honored by this resolution are leaders who have made a true difference in their countries in the face of adversity.

Hafsat Abiola of Nigeria founded the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy to end violence against women in Nigeria and remove barriers for the civic participation of women. She has been actively working on gender equality and women's leadership in Nigeria since she was a teenager, and continues to advance women's rights.

Khanim Latif of Iraq is the Director of Asuda, which works to combat sexual and gender-based violence in Iraq. She has worked on gender-based violence issues in Iraq for over 15 years,

and has helped provide refuge to women subjected to horrific violence in her country, including to those who have been subjected to ISIL's violent campaign against the region's Yazidi population.

Yoani Sánchez of Cuba founded "Generacion Y," a platform to capture daily life in Cuba as an effort to encourage political change. It stemmed from her personal experiences growing up in Cuba, and the experiences of her family.

Akanksha Hazari of India works to empower impoverished, rural communities in India. She has done this by pioneering a loyalty program—through mobile phones—to provide social goods such as clean water to rural customers in India.

These women were recognized by Vital Voices because they have made significant strides to better the communities in which they live, and they continue to do so.

The resolution, submitted by Senator COLLINS and myself, further recognizes their contributions, and I hope that we can all draw inspiration from their leadership.

I congratulate these women, and look forward to hearing about their continued success.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3640. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3641. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3642. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3643. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3644. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3645. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COATS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3646. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3647. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3648. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3649. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3650. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3651. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3652. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3653. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3654. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3655. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3656. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3657. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3658. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3659. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3660. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3661. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3662. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3663. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3664. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3665. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3666. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3667. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3668. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3669. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3670. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3671. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3672. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3673. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3674. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3675. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3676. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3677. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.