
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING
VIDEO-CONFERENCING CAPABILITY IN THE STATE CAPITOL TO
ENSURE CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH NEIGHBOR ISLAND RESIDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an island-state in which the State
2 Capitol, the hub of our state government, is located on the
3 island of Oahu in the heart of Honolulu; and
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5 WHEREAS, each member of the Hawaii State Legislature
6 maintains an office within the State Capitol building at 415
7 South Beretania Street; and
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9 WHEREAS, 23 members of the Hawaii State Legislature--16
10 members of the House of Representatives and 7 members of the
11 Senate--reside on and represent our Neighbor Islands; and
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13 WHEREAS, these Neighbor Island legislators represent
14 between one-fourth and one-third of the state's population and
15 are dispersed throughout Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui counties; and
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17 WHEREAS, with few exceptions, legislative committee
18 hearings and informational briefings regarding measures that may
19 have a great impact on our Neighbor Island communities are only
20 held at the Hawaii State Capitol in Honolulu; and
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22 WHEREAS, the work of the Legislature requires a significant
23 amount of interaction with the people throughout the state to
24 get to know, fully understand, and address the multiple and
25 many-faceted concerns legislators are challenged with; and
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27 WHEREAS, the ability of Neighbor Island residents to have
28 their concerns heard by legislators in the context of public
29 hearings, informational briefings, or one-on-one meetings is
30 constrained by the geography of the islands, the distance
31 between the State Capitol building on Oahu and the Neighbor

1 Islands, and the rapidly increasing expense of traveling to Oahu
2 to represent their concerns in person; and

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4 WHEREAS, as a result, most Neighbor Island residents who
5 wish to testify in public hearings, participate in informational
6 briefings, or meet directly with their area legislators are
7 limited to submitting written testimony or writing letters and
8 email and do not have the opportunity to engage in direct
9 discussion with legislators; and

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11 WHEREAS, modern information technology enables legislative
12 committees and individual legislators to receive public
13 testimony and input from remote locations by means of video-
14 conferencing; and

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16 WHEREAS, the use of video-conferencing has the potential of
17 saving taxpayers a significant amount of money by reducing the
18 need for legislators and their staff to fly throughout the state
19 to conduct meetings and gather information; and

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21 WHEREAS, state legislatures in large western states such as
22 Nevada, Wyoming, and Alaska routinely provide citizens who live
23 great distances from their capitol with the ability to testify
24 before committees through the use of satellite-based video-
25 conferencing; and

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27 WHEREAS, video-conferencing provides another option for
28 allowing citizens to participate in the legislative process and
29 broadening the scope of assistance the legislators may provide
30 to their constituents; and

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32 WHEREAS, using video-conferencing technology in legislative
33 public hearings, informational briefings, and to meet with their
34 area legislator would enable Neighbor Island residents to
35 participate more directly in the legislative process; now,
36 therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Comptroller is
41 requested to determine the feasibility of providing video-
42 conferencing capability in the State Capitol to ensure close
43 communication between residents of the Neighbor Islands and
44 their elected officials; and

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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of the review, the
3 Comptroller is requested to identify:

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5 (1) The scope and adequacy of the State's video-
6 conferencing capability;
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8 (2) The feasibility of providing additional video-
9 conferencing capability to enable residents of the
10 Neighbor Islands to testify at public hearings,
11 informational briefings, and meet with legislators;
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13 (3) The feasibility and impacts, if any, of including
14 public agency meetings as an additional user;
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16 (4) The costs and technology necessary to provide video-
17 conferencing and other interactive multimedia methods
18 for Neighbor Island residents; and
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20 (5) Potential locations in the State Capitol for this
21 undertaking;

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23 and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller is also
26 requested to identify all existing state and county video-
27 conferencing systems statewide, including but not limited to
28 their hours of operation and requirements for use; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller is requested to
31 submit findings and recommendations, including proposed
32 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
33 the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller.