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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROPOSE  
REVISIONS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTY CHARTERS TO AUTHORIZE  
CONSOLIDATION OF THE FIRST SPECIAL ELECTION AND THE SECOND  
SPECIAL ELECTION FOR NONPARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICIALS  
INTO A SINGLE ELECTION HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE  
GENERAL ELECTION.

1 WHEREAS, generally, the mayors, county council members, and  
2 prosecutors in the counties of the State of Hawaii are required  
3 to run for office as nonpartisan candidates; and  
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5 WHEREAS, nonpartisan county elective officials are elected  
6 through county nonpartisan first and second special elections  
7 that are held in conjunction with the state primary and general  
8 elections, respectively, of the applicable election year; and  
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10 WHEREAS, if a candidate for a nonpartisan county office  
11 receives the majority of votes cast for that office in a first  
12 special election, held in conjunction with the primary election,  
13 that candidate is deemed elected; and  
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15 WHEREAS, if no county candidate is elected in a first  
16 special election, the two candidates who receive the highest  
17 number of votes for each office are placed on the ballot for the  
18 second special primary election, held in conjunction with the  
19 general election, and the candidate who receives the highest  
20 number of votes for each office in the second special election  
21 is deemed elected; and  
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23 WHEREAS, although voter turnout has been extremely low in  
24 Hawaii in recent years, the voter turnout for first special  
25 elections is noticeably lower than for second special elections  
26 since voter turn out generally is higher in general elections  
27 than primary elections; and  
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1 WHEREAS, an extremely low voter participation in first  
2 special elections may result in final candidates for the second  
3 special election being chosen by relatively a small number of  
4 voters; and

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6 WHEREAS, on the other hand, a voter who forgets to vote or  
7 fails to vote in the first special election risks having no say  
8 in choosing the ultimate winner, if a nonpartisan county  
9 candidate receives a majority of the votes in the first special  
10 election; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, Australia, Ireland, and several cities in the  
13 United States have consolidated the nonpartisan first special  
14 election and nonpartisan second special election elections into  
15 one instant runoff voting election, eliminating the expense of a  
16 second election; and

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18 WHEREAS, instant runoff voting allows voters to rank  
19 candidates in order of their preference and a second special  
20 election is unnecessary; and

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22 WHEREAS, consolidation of first and second special  
23 elections for nonpartisan county offices deserves further  
24 consideration; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
28 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the counties are  
29 requested to consider proposing amendments to their respective  
30 county charters to authorize consolidation of the first and  
31 second special elections for nonpartisan offices and are urged  
32 to adopt ordinances to authorize the election of county  
33 nonpartisan officials in one election held in conjunction with  
34 the general election; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election  
38 Officer, the Mayor, the County Clerk, and the Chairperson of the  
39 Council of each county.

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42 OFFERED BY:

*Cindy Evans*

