
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO INSTITUTE THE ELECTION OF DISTRICT
COUNCIL MEMBERS BY THE RESIDENT VOTERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, county charters establish that
2 nonpartisan county council members are elected through county
3 nonpartisan first and second special elections that are held in
4 conjunction with the state primary and general elections,
5 respectively, of the applicable election year; and
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7 WHEREAS, certain county council members in the State are
8 elected to represent a specifically designated geographic area
9 or district and "at-large" county council members represent all
10 residents of an entire county; and
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12 WHEREAS, a county council may include both district
13 representative members and "at-large" members; and
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15 WHEREAS, generally, council members who represent a
16 designated district are elected by the registered voters who
17 reside in that district, while at-large members are elected by
18 all of the registered voters in a county; and
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20 WHEREAS, article 3 of the Maui County Charter provides for
21 district representation for Maui Council members by mandating
22 that:
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24 (1) One member shall be a resident of the island of Lanai;
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26 (2) One member shall be a resident of the island of
27 Molokai;
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29 (3) One member shall be a resident of East Maui;



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2 (4) One member shall be a resident of West Maui;
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4 (5) One member shall be a resident of the area of Makawao-
5 Haiku-Paia;
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7 (6) One member shall be a resident of Upcountry Maui;
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9 (7) One member shall be a resident of South Maui;
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11 (8) One member shall be a resident of Kahului; and
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13 (9) One member shall be a resident of the area of Wailuku-
14 Waihee-Waikapu; and
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16 WHEREAS, however, there is no corresponding residency
17 requirement for voters; instead, article 3 provides that every
18 registered voter in Maui County, which includes residents of
19 Maui, Lanai, and Molokai, has the right to vote for each and
20 every member of Maui County Council; and
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22 WHEREAS, Maui County Council combines district
23 representation with "at-large" voting such that the nine members
24 of the council represent designated districts, but are elected
25 "at-large" by all of the registered voters throughout Maui
26 County, without regard to the residency of the voters; and
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28 WHEREAS, residency requirements for county council members
29 effectively provide that all residents of a county have a county
30 council member who is responsive to the concerns of their
31 district; however, allowing county-wide voters to elect district
32 council members who represent specific geographic districts
33 could result in voter conflict of interest, uninformed voters,
34 or voter apathy; and
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36 WHEREAS, "district voting", or the election of a council
37 members by the registered voters who reside in the council
38 district area, would allow voters to choose the council
39 candidate whom they believe would most effectively represent
40 their own district; now, therefore,
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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature requests all counties to institute district voting for council members by providing that:

(1) All county residents have district representation by at least one county council member who resides in a specifically designated geographic area or district; and

(2) A council member who represents a designated district shall be elected by the registered voters who reside in the district represented by that council member; and

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

OFFERED BY: _____

[Signature]
Cindy Evans
Barbara V. Harman
Mele Carroll
Tony W.

MAR 14 2007

