
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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29 WHEREAS, an extremely low voter participation in first
30 special elections may result in final candidates for the second



1 special election being chosen by relatively a small number of
2 voters; and

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

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

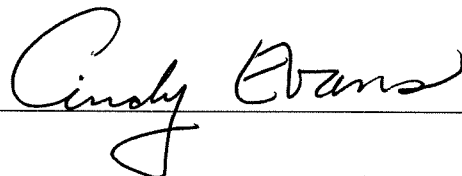
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16 WHEREAS, instant runoff voting allows voters to rank
17 candidates in order of their preference and a second special
18 election is unnecessary; and

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

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

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

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39
40 OFFERED BY:



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