
HOUSE 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
6

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
11

12 WHEREAS, a county council may include both district
13 representative members and "at-large" members; and
14

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
19

20 WHEREAS, article 3 of the Maui County Charter provides for
21 district representation for Maui Council members by mandating
22 that:
23

24 (1) One member shall be a resident of the island of Lanai;
25

26 (2) One member shall be a resident of the island of
27 Molokai;
28

29 (3) One member shall be a resident of East Maui;
30

31 (4) One member shall be a resident of West Maui;



1
2 (5) One member shall be a resident of the area of Makawao-
3 Haiku-Paia;

4
5 (6) One member shall be a resident of Upcountry Maui;

6
7 (7) One member shall be a resident of South Maui;

8
9 (8) One member shall be a resident of Kahului; and

10
11 (9) One member shall be a resident of the area of Wailuku-
12 Waihee-Waikapu; and

13
14 WHEREAS, however, there is no corresponding residency
15 requirement for voters; instead, article 3 provides that every
16 registered voter in Maui County, which includes residents of
17 Maui, Lanai, and Molokai, has the right to vote for each and
18 every member of Maui County Council; and

19
20 WHEREAS, Maui County Council combines district
21 representation with "at-large" voting such that the nine members
22 of the council represent designated districts, but are elected
23 "at-large" by all of the registered voters throughout Maui
24 County, without regard to the residency of the voters; and

25
26 WHEREAS, residency requirements for county council members
27 effectively provide that all residents of a county have a county
28 council member who is responsive to the concerns of their
29 district; however, allowing county-wide voters to elect district
30 council members who represent specific geographic districts
31 could result in voter conflict of interest, uninformed voters,
32 or voter apathy; and

33
34 WHEREAS, "district voting", or the election of a council
35 members by the registered voters who reside in the council
36 district area, would allow voters to choose the council
37 candidate whom they believe would most effectively represent
38 their own district; now, therefore,

39
40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular




1 Session of 2007, that this body requests all counties to
2 institute district voting for council members by providing that:

3
4 (1) All county residents have district representation by
5 at least one county council member who resides in a
6 specifically designated geographic area or district;
7 and

8
9 (2) A council member who represents a designated district
10 shall be elected by the registered voters who reside
11 in the district represented by that council member;
12 and

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Chairperson of the
16 Council, and the County Clerk of each respective county, and the
17 Chief Election Officer.
18
19
20

OFFERED BY: _____


Cindy Evans

Barbara Marmeto

Mele Carroll

Tang W.

MAR 14 2007

