

JAN 24-2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
CONDUCTING ALL ELECTIONS BY MAIL.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the lowest voter turnout rate in the
2 nation, with just over forty per cent of eligible voters voting
3 in the two most recent elections, and in contrast, eighty-four
4 per cent of registered voters in Oregon voted in 2004; and
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6 WHEREAS, Oregon's vote-by-mail system, approved by almost
7 seventy per cent of Oregonians in a 1998 initiative, is credited
8 with improving voter participation in Oregon; and
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10 WHEREAS, Oregon's vote-by-mail system is used for all
11 elections and is popular with voters because it empowers the
12 voter and eliminates many of the problems that exist in other
13 voting systems; and
14

15 WHEREAS, in Oregon, ballots are mailed to voters, and the
16 voter is required to return the ballot by mail or by dropping it
17 off at designated sites within a two-week period; and
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19 WHEREAS, although Oregon is the only state to use a vote-
20 by-mail system for all elections, at least ten other states
21 allow voting by mail at some level; and
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23 WHEREAS, a vote-by-mail system has a number of advantages
24 over traditional polling; and
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26 WHEREAS, Act 37, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, allows voting
27 in any federal, state, or county election, other than a
28 regularly scheduled primary or general election, to be conducted
29 by mail in the determination of the Chief Election Officer or
30 county clerk, as applicable; and
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32 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 433, SD2, HD1, 2006, would have required
33 the establishment of a vote-by-mail pilot program and a report



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1 thereto to the Legislature, but the measure did not pass out of
2 conference committee; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of
7 Elections is requested to conduct a study on the feasibility of
8 an all-voting-by-mail system of voting, including but not
9 limited to costs, logistics, education of the public; and
10 language barriers; and

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections report
13 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later
14 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
15 of 2008; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election
19 Officer.

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21
22 OFFERED BY:

Theranne Chun Oakland
Chun & Richi

