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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE COST OF  
CONVENING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 2010.

1           WHEREAS, pursuant to article XVII, section 2, of the  
2 Constitution of the State of Hawaii, at least once every ten  
3 years, the electorate at any general or special election must  
4 vote to determine whether to convene a constitutional convention  
5 to propose a revision of or amendments to the state  
6 constitution; and

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8           WHEREAS, in 1998, the electorate voted against convening a  
9 constitutional convention; and

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11           WHEREAS, the electorate will vote at the November 4, 2008,  
12 general election on whether to convene a constitutional  
13 convention to propose a revision of or amendments to the state  
14 constitution; and

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16           WHEREAS, the last constitutional convention in Hawaii was  
17 held twenty-nine years ago; and

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19           WHEREAS, the 1978 constitutional convention was located in  
20 the historic old federal building in Honolulu based on location  
21 and office space; and

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23           WHEREAS, in addition, the large former Honolulu office of  
24 the Internal Revenue Service was used for plenary sessions, the  
25 old courtrooms were used for large committee meetings, and the  
26 auditorium and conference rooms at the State Capitol were used  
27 for committee hearings and informational sessions; and

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29           WHEREAS, there were one hundred two constitutional  
30 convention delegates representing fifty-one districts throughout  
31 the State; and

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1           WHEREAS, the delegates were compensated \$1,000 per month,  
2 which was equal to the legislative salary at that time, and each  
3 delegate's salary was capped at \$4,000 for the entire  
4 convention; and

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6           WHEREAS, Oahu delegates received a per diem allowance of  
7 \$10 and neighbor island delegates received a per diem allowance  
8 of \$30; and

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10          WHEREAS, a total of three hundred fourteen delegate staff  
11 positions, in a myriad of job descriptions including clerk,  
12 receptionist, researcher, and secretary, supported the  
13 convention process; and

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15          WHEREAS, in addition to the delegates' staff, there were  
16 fifty-three other convention employees; the Chief Clerk,  
17 Assistant Clerk, Chief Attorney and four additional attorneys,  
18 two parliamentarians, an accountant, Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant  
19 Sergeant-at-Arms, two journal clerks, an engrosser, Records  
20 Clerk, Supply Clerk, Accounting Clerk, Chief Legal Stenographer  
21 and three additional legal stenographers, the secretary of the  
22 Chief Clerk, two information clerks, Chief Messenger and ten  
23 additional messengers, three custodians, a parking attendant,  
24 Print Shop Manager, Chief Machine Operator and two additional  
25 machine operators, five file clerks, and four miscellaneous  
26 employees; and

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28          WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriated \$2,500,000 towards  
29 the expenses of the 1978 constitutional convention, with the  
30 actual expenditures totaling a little over \$2,032,401; and

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32          WHEREAS, however, that appropriation does not reflect the  
33 cost of the election or the substantial effort that was made,  
34 beginning in 1976, to educate the public on the possible  
35 constitutional issues and the importance of the delegate  
36 election; and

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38          WHEREAS, for instance, an additional \$485,599 was  
39 appropriated to conduct the election of constitutional  
40 convention delegates and \$8,500 was appropriated to supervise  
41 campaign contributions and expenditures; and

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43          WHEREAS, the Legislative Reference Bureau received \$72,000  
44 as a separate appropriation (in addition to an amount allocated



1 as an expense of the convention) to provide assistance and  
2 services to the convention, including updating the Hawaii  
3 Constitutional Convention Studies; and

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5 WHEREAS, \$2,500 was also appropriated to prepare and  
6 publish a taxation and finance manual for the convention; and

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8 WHEREAS, if the expenses of the 1978 constitutional  
9 convention (e.g. \$2,032,401) were simply adjusted for inflation  
10 to 2008, the cost would be approximately \$6,579,742; however,  
11 the issue of the cost of a constitutional convention is more  
12 complicated than simply adjusting costs to reflect the effects  
13 of inflation; and

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15 WHEREAS, it is important to provide the public with an  
16 estimate of the cost to taxpayers to convene a constitutional  
17 convention in 2010 so voters can make an informed decision on  
18 the issue at the 2008 general election; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
22 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative  
23 Reference Bureau is requested to study the costs of convening a  
24 constitutional convention in 2010 and provide an estimate of the  
25 projected total cost; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the study, the  
28 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to consider, among  
29 other things, that the constitutional convention would:

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31 (1) Convene not less than five months prior to the next  
32 regularly scheduled general election;  
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34 (2) Be held at a leased facility in Honolulu large enough  
35 to accommodate the general operations of the  
36 constitutional convention, including plenary sessions,  
37 large committee meetings, and informational sessions  
38 and to house offices for the delegates;  
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40 (3) Be likely to have one hundred two delegates;  
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42 (4) Require appropriate staff to ensure public input and  
43 facilitate operation of the constitutional convention;  
44 and



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(5) Involve adequate compensation for both delegates and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings, including an estimate of the projected cost of convening a constitutional convention, to the Senate and House of Representatives no later than September 1, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

OFFERED BY: Kirk Caldwell

RC

Mark L.

John M. Yegor

Michael J. Murray

John M. Tom Brown

Shawn E. [unclear]

Marilyn B. Lee Paul [unclear]

Andy Evans

[unclear]

J. R. Hunter

Alex M. [unclear]

K. L. [unclear]

OEY

Karen [unclear]

[unclear] Wannin [unclear]

[unclear]