
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CLERK OF EACH COUNTY TO MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN
A TIMELY MANNER TO PROMOTE INFORMED VOTING.

1 WHEREAS, in 2006, voter turnout in Hawaii plummeted to a
2 new low of fifty-three per cent of registered voters; and
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4 WHEREAS, voting by absentee ballot is becoming increasingly
5 popular, with thirty-four per cent of the voter turnout
6 comprised of absentee voters either by walk-in or mail; and
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8 WHEREAS, in the interest of bolstering the electoral
9 process, the absentee voting process should be convenient and
10 should promote informed voting; and
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12 WHEREAS, the absentee ballot should be delivered to each
13 absentee voter at the appropriate time to allow the voter time
14 to research and receive information on all the candidates and
15 ballot questions; and
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17 WHEREAS, in recent elections, absentee ballots have been
18 delivered more than one month before the election, which may be
19 too early to allow voters to access important information that
20 may become available closer to the date of the elections; and
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22 WHEREAS, when absentee voters receive their ballots too
23 early, there is a chance that the ballots may be set aside for a
24 long period of time, thereby increasing the chance that it will
25 be misplaced or forgotten; and
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27 WHEREAS, when absentee voters cast their ballot far in
28 advance of the election, those voters may be voting based on a
29 different set of information than those who vote closer to the
30 election or on the day of the election; and
31



H.C.R. NO. 8

1 WHEREAS, absentee voters who are traveling or otherwise out
 2 of State may need their ballots a month early, but those in
 3 State may need it only ten days before; and
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5 WHEREAS, absentee voters should be able to choose when they
 6 receive their ballots so that they may have the appropriate
 7 amount of time to be a more informed voter; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 10 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 11 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the respective
 12 clerks of each county are requested to revise the absentee
 13 ballot request forms to allow absentee voters to choose the
 14 timing of the mailing of their ballot, whether early (such as
 15 thirty days prior to election day) or closer to the elections
 16 (such as ten days prior to election day); and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of each county is
 19 requested to include a return postage prepaid envelope with each
 20 ballot mailed to an absentee voter, such that the mailed
 21 distribution and return of absentee ballots shall be at no cost
 22 to the voter; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of each county
 26 of the State and the Chief Election Officer.
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 28
 29

OFFERED BY:

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