
HOUSE 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
3

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
7

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
11

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
16

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
21

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
26

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

32 WHEREAS, absentee voters who are traveling or otherwise out
33 of State may need their ballots a month early, but those in
34 State may need it only ten days before; and
35



1 WHEREAS, absentee voters should be able to choose when they
2 receive their ballots so that they may have the appropriate
3 amount of time to be a more informed voter; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
7 Session of 2008, that the respective clerks of each county are
8 requested to revise the absentee ballot request forms to allow
9 absentee voters to choose the timing of the mailing of their
10 ballot, whether early (such as thirty days prior to election
11 day) or closer to the elections (such as ten days prior to
12 election day); and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of each county is
15 requested to include a return postage prepaid envelope with each
16 ballot mailed to an absentee voter, such that the mailed
17 distribution and return of absentee ballots shall be at no cost
18 to the voter; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of each county of the
22 State and the Chief Election Officer.
23
24
25

OFFERED BY:

John M. ...
Lurana ...
Colleen ...

JAN 14 2008

