

MAR 13 2008

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING AND DEMONSTRATION TO THE APPROPRIATE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES REGARDING THE OPERATION AND USE OF NEW ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION PRIOR TO CONTRACTING TO PURCHASE ANY NEW VOTING SOFTWARE OR EQUIPMENT RELATED TO ANY NEW VOTING SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, the American system of representative democracy  
2 relies on an engaged citizenry and the accurate representation  
3 of its people; and  
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5           WHEREAS, all elections should be fair and open, and that  
6 means that all eligible voters should be allowed to cast their  
7 ballot and have their ballot be counted; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the State, over the past decade, has gone from  
10 punch-card voting machines to paper ballots with electronic  
11 readers; and  
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13           WHEREAS, electronic voting machines were used successfully  
14 by handicapped voters in the 2004 and 2006 elections; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the key complaint with the electronic voting  
17 system is that the system does not provide a reliable way to  
18 audit the results to check whether the tallies accurately  
19 reflect the votes cast; and  
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21           WHEREAS, several nongovernmental election observers  
22 questioned the use of this technology in Hawaii since the  
23 previous voting system allowed for the ballots to be manually  
24 recounted; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the State Chief Elections Officer stated there is  
27 a system that allows the Office of Elections to provide an audit  
28 even though there will be no paper ballot generated for each  
29 electronically cast ballot; and  
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31           WHEREAS, some election software experts and observers  
32 questioned the reliability of the electronically stored ballots



1 claiming the data stored could be flawed by a computer virus or  
2 bug and still result in a satisfactory audit; and

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4 WHEREAS, with the upcoming primary and general 2008  
5 elections, where the voters may be divided, it is prudent, in a  
6 state like Hawaii to have a voting system that is dependable and  
7 accurate; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Office of Elections may be looking to purchase  
10 new electronic voting system software and equipment that will be  
11 utilized and relied upon in future elections; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Legislature requests the opportunity to  
14 investigate, review, and approve any proposed changes and  
15 contract purchases relating to the electronic voting systems;  
16 now, therefore,

17  
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
20 that the Office of Elections is requested to provide an  
21 informational briefing and demonstration regarding the operation  
22 and use of the new electronic voting systems to the appropriate  
23 Senate and House of Representatives committees; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections provide  
26 answers to any questions or information prior to the purchase of  
27 any new technology or equipment related to the electronic voting  
28 systems; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Elections Officer of the  
32 Office of Elections.

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OFFERED BY: *Gary L. A...*  
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