

JAN 23 2008

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## SENATE 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  
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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  
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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,  
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
7 that the respective clerks of each county are requested to  
8 revise the absentee ballot request forms to allow absentee  
9 voters to choose the timing of the mailing of their ballot,  
10 whether early (such as thirty days prior to election day) or  
11 closer to the elections (such as ten days prior to election  
12 day); and  
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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  
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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.  
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OFFERED BY: *Shiranne Chun O'Alaulana*

