

JAN 23 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CLERK OF EACH COUNTY TO INCLUDE A POSTAGE PREPAID
RETURN ENVELOPE WITH EACH BALLOT MAILED TO AN ABSENTEE
VOTER.

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 as convenient as
10 possible and should promote informed voting; and

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12 WHEREAS, section 15-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, directs
13 that the mailed distribution and return of absentee ballots
14 shall be at no cost to the voter; and

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16 WHEREAS, section 15-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
17 directs that the State and counties share in the cost of all
18 postage associated with the distribution and return of absentee
19 ballots, if the costs are not covered by the federal government;
20 now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
24 that the Clerk of each county is requested to include a postage
25 prepaid return envelope with each ballot mailed to an absentee
26 voter, such that the mailed distribution and return of absentee
27 ballots shall be at no cost to the voter; and

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S.R. NO. 8

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of each county of the
3 State and the Chief Election Officer.
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OFFERED BY:

Shannon Chun O'Connell

