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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE AMENDING OF THE HOUSE RULES TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF THE ADVANCE NOTICE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FROM  
FORTY-EIGHT TO SEVENTY-TWO HOURS, EXCLUDING THE HOURS ON  
WEEKENDS AND REQUIRING A VOTE BY THE FULL HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES FOR THERE TO BE WAIVER IN THE HEARING  
NOTICE REQUIREMENT.

1           WHEREAS, transparency is government's obligation to share  
2 information with citizens, and it is as the heart of how  
3 citizens holds their public officials accountable; and  
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5           WHEREAS, a more transparent government begins with  
6 providing the people the opportunity to tell their elected  
7 officials what they think of a piece of legislation, before it  
8 comes up for a vote; and  
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10           WHEREAS, through giving the people adequate time to review  
11 and comment on proposed bills and legislation will improve the  
12 quality of legislation and enhance trust in government; and  
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14           WHEREAS, to ensure public participation in committee  
15 hearings, House Rule 11.5, subsection 1, provides that notice of  
16 committee meetings or decision making must be publicly posted at  
17 forty-eight hours prior to the meeting; and  
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19           WHEREAS, this forty-eight hour rule includes weekends and  
20 holidays, and also includes a provision allowing it to be  
21 shortened "at the discretion of the Speaker upon request on the  
22 House floor by a chair or vice-chair and upon good cause shown";  
23 and  
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25           WHEREAS, the existing short notice makes it difficult for  
26 ordinary citizens to write testimony and almost impossible for  
27 them to rearrange their work or personal schedules to attend a  
28 hearing; and



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2 WHEREAS, more notice of a committee hearing will allow for  
3 more citizens and organizations to submit more meaningful  
4 testimony and can make a big difference in getting more people  
5 to participate in the democratic process; and  
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7 WHEREAS, to ensure citizens are getting adequate advance  
8 notice of a hearing, the forty-eight hour rule should be  
9 extended to seventy-two hours and those hours must not include  
10 weekends or holidays; and  
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12 WHEREAS, in order to increase transparency, whenever an  
13 exception to the hearing notice rule is necessary, the members  
14 of the House should vote on granting the exception to ensure  
15 accountability for implementing the exception; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2011, that the House of Representatives is urged to amend the  
20 rules of the House of Representatives to be amended to extend  
21 the time for public notice of a committee hearing from forty-  
22 eight to seventy-two hours; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the rules of the House of  
25 Representatives be amended to include a provision stipulating  
26 that the new seventy-two hours notice of a hearing does not  
27 include weekends or holidays; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the rules of the House of  
30 Representatives be amended to require that a waiver of the new  
31 seventy-two hour hearing notice requirement can only be granted  
32 upon approval of a vote by the full House of Representatives;  
33 and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of  
37 Representatives, the House Majority Leader, the House Majority  
38 Floor Leader, the House Minority Leader, and the House Minority  
39 Floor Leader.  
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OFFERED BY:

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JAN 21 2011

