
HOUSE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE
ELECTION OF AN INTERIM SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AT LEAST FORTY-
FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING DAY OF THE LEGISLATIVE
SESSION WHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IS NOT ORGANIZED BY THAT DATE.

1 WHEREAS, to ensure the orderly business of the House of
2 Representatives, it is essential that its leadership be in place
3 in a timely matter after the election of a new legislature; and
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5 WHEREAS, as of the opening day of the Twenty-sixth
6 legislature, the leadership of the House of Representatives had
7 yet to be organized, impeding the ability of the House of
8 Representatives to conduct the business of the public; and
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10 WHEREAS, with no organization, committees have not been
11 formed and unable to conduct important business to prepare for
12 the critical matters the legislature will need to address during
13 the session; and
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15 WHEREAS, the absence of formed committees means the members
16 will not able to form important working relationships with
17 fellow members and the committee chair to prepare legislation to
18 address critical issues; and
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20 WHEREAS, the lack of organization has meant the House of
21 Representatives does not have a budget, harming its members and
22 support staff's ability to plan and hire for the session; and
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24 WHEREAS, delayed organization negatively impacted freshman
25 legislators as, for some time, they were unable to settle into
26 an office, harming their ability to meet with advocates, and
27 their ability to communicate with their constituents; and
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1 WHEREAS, other important House functions, such as
2 additional phone lines for staff, and the use of the print shop
3 for constituent mail, are just few examples of the many
4 functions that have slowed or been placed on hold when the
5 organization of the House of Representatives is delayed; and
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7 WHEREAS, these deficiencies and others that come with
8 delayed organization add up to become a major impediment to the
9 Legislature's ability to conduct business; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Rules for the House of Representatives
12 provides that the Speaker of the House is elected by resolution
13 on the opening day of the legislative session; and
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15 WHEREAS, to ensure the work of the House of Representatives
16 continues without impediment, its rules should be amended to
17 address internal disputes that prevent the House from organizing
18 in a timely manner after the election of a new legislature; now,
19 therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
23 of 2011, that the rules for the House of Representatives be
24 amended to provide that if the leadership of the House is not
25 decided forty-five days before the beginning of the legislative
26 session, that an interim Speaker be appointed by members of the
27 House of Representatives; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the duties of the interim Speaker of
30 the House of Representatives shall include but not be limited to
31 forming committees, the placement of newly elected members into
32 an office, and development of a budget for the House of
33 Representatives; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules reflect that the
36 interim Speaker of the House be the representative with the most
37 support, and in the situation where no representative has the
38 support of the majority of the House members, the representative
39 with the greatest plurality of votes shall be appointed the
40 interim Speaker of the House; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, the
 3 Majority Leader, the Majority Floor Leader, the Minority Leader,
 4 and the Minority Floor Leader.

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JAN 21 2011