
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A VOTER
PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE ON VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER
TURNOUT IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's voter turnout percentage has
2 significantly declined since statehood in 1959, when voter
3 turnout stood at ninety-four percent of registered voters; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawaii presently ranks among the bottom of the
6 fifty states in the percentage of registered voters who turn out
7 to vote; and
8

9 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii stood at thirty-seven
10 percent in the 2008 primary election and sixty-six percent in
11 the 2008 general election; and
12

13 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii stood at forty-three
14 percent in the 2010 primary election and fifty-six percent in
15 the 2010 general election; and
16

17 WHEREAS, voter participation is the hallmark of an
18 effective democracy; and
19

20 WHEREAS, diminishing voter participation rates mean that
21 fewer people are involved in the selection of elected officials
22 and this threatens to undermine the strength of a representative
23 form of government; and
24

25 WHEREAS, innovative efforts have been undertaken in other
26 states to successfully reduce barriers to voting and encourage
27 voter participation; now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Lieutenant Governor is
32 requested to convene a voter participation task force to:



H.C.R. NO. 161

- 1
2 (1) Study voter participation rates in Hawaii, including
3 voter turnout among registered voters and all eligible
4 voters;
5
- 6 (2) Review existing laws and practices regarding voter
7 registration in Hawaii, including requirements for
8 community groups conducting voter registration drives,
9 and identify barriers to voting;
10
- 11 (3) Analyze ways to improve Hawaii's voter registration
12 and voter turnout, including voter modernization
13 efforts to potentially improve voter participation
14 including but not limited to election day
15 registration, online registration, universal or
16 automatic voter registration, voting by mail, voter
17 registration drives, and shortening the thirty-day
18 deadline for voter registration, and assess the
19 feasibility of implementing those efforts in Hawaii;
20 and
21
- 22 (4) Study best practices or innovations in other states
23 that have resulted in improved voter participation and
24 the feasibility of implementing those practices in
25 Hawaii; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter participation task
28 force include:

- 29
- 30 (1) One representative of the Office of Elections;
31
- 32 (2) One representative of each of the offices of the City
33 Clerk for the City and County of Honolulu and the
34 County Clerk for the County of Kauai, County of Maui,
35 and County of Hawaii;
36
- 37 (3) One representative of the University of Hawaii
38 political science or public administration department,
39 to be selected by the President of the Senate;
40
- 41 (4) One representative of the University of Hawaii
42 political science or public administration department,
43 to be selected by the Speaker of the House of
44 Representatives;



H.C.R. NO. 161

1
2 (5) Two representatives, one to be selected by the
3 President of the Senate and one to be selected by the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives, each from a
5 separate nonpartisan public interest group that works
6 on voting and elections issues; and
7

8 (6) Two members representing young eligible voters to be
9 selected by the President of the Associated Students
10 of the University of Hawaii; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all members of the task force
13 shall be registered voters in the State of Hawaii; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lieutenant Governor convene
16 the first meeting of the task force no later than July 1, 2012;
17 and
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a
20 preliminary report on its activities no later than twenty days
21 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter participation task
24 force report its findings and recommendations, including
25 proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than
26 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
27 2014; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter registration task
30 force and the Lieutenant Governor be available to provide
31 testimony to the Legislature on measures and for informational
32 briefings; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter participation task
35 force cease to exist on the day of the adjournment of the
36 Regular Session of 2014; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor,
40 Chief Election Officer, City Clerk of Honolulu, Kauai County
41 Clerk, Maui County Clerk, Hawaii County Clerk, President of the
42 University of Hawaii System, Chair of the Department of
43 Political Science at the University of Hawaii, Chair of the
44 Department of Public Administration at the University of Hawaii,



