
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY CONCERNS
COUNCILS IN RURAL AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that full and active
2 participation by citizens is essential to a well-functioning
3 democracy; and
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5 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu, through the
6 Neighborhood Commission, has successfully implemented its
7 Neighborhood Board System using the concept of "participatory
8 democracy"; and
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10 WHEREAS, the neighborhood boards provide a vehicle through
11 which citizens are able to voice their concerns about public
12 safety issues such as crime and traffic, proposed private or
13 public development in a district, and upcoming events that may
14 impact a district; and
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16 WHEREAS, while the Neighborhood Board System works well in
17 a large urban area, such as the City and County of Honolulu,
18 less-populated rural areas in the State may be better served by
19 a different type of neighborhood citizenry group; and
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21 WHEREAS, a community concerns council made up of seven
22 members elected by the community may be more feasible and
23 accessible for a rural area with a population of ten thousand or
24 less; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that encouraging counties to
27 develop and implement community concerns councils to serve rural
28 communities would improve opportunities for people in rural
29 areas to actively participate in the affairs of their
30 communities; and
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H.C.R. NO. 169

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that counties that
2 develop and coordinate a system of community concerns councils,
3 much like the City and County of Honolulu's Neighborhood
4 Commission coordinates the neighborhood boards, would facilitate
5 the citizen participation process; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the county councils are
10 urged to develop and implement community concerns councils in
11 their counties to serve rural communities within their
12 respective jurisdictions with a population of ten thousand or
13 less; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the mayors and councils
17 of the counties of this State.
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OFFERED BY: Mele Carroll

MAR 14 2012

