

MAR 14 2012

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY  
OF THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF IMPLEMENTING TERM LIMITS  
FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

1           WHEREAS, when the United States Supreme Court decided in  
2 *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), that certain campaign  
3 spending limits would not have to be observed, the ability of  
4 nonincumbents to challenge elected officials was substantially  
5 impaired; and  
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7           WHEREAS, in 1974, the year of the only state election which  
8 observed spending limits, twenty-two new members were elected to  
9 the House of Representatives and eight new members were elected  
10 to the Senate; in other words, forty-three percent of the  
11 representatives and thirty-two percent of the senators elected  
12 in 1974 were new to the Legislature; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the expenses for nonincumbents seeking election to  
15 the Legislature and the small chance of winning leads to a  
16 reduction in the number of seriously contested races, which  
17 results in voter apathy and the undermining of the entire  
18 foundation and process of representative democracy; now,  
19 therefore,  
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21           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
24 Reference Bureau conduct a study of the benefits and drawbacks  
25 of implementing term limits for members of the Legislature; and  
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27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
28 Bureau report its findings to the Legislature no later than  
29 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
30 2013; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
3 Legislative Reference Bureau, Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives, and Senate President.

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OFFERED BY: Michelle Sedani (br)

