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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS, TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, a democracy depends upon the active participation  
2 of voters who elect their representatives; and  
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4           WHEREAS, less than forty-three per cent of registered  
5 voters turned out for the 2012 primary election in Hawaii  
6 statewide; and  
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8           WHEREAS, less than sixty-two per cent of registered voters  
9 turned out for the 2012 general election in Hawaii statewide;  
10 and  
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12           WHEREAS, according to an October 5, 2012, *Honolulu Civil*  
13 *Beat* article, Hawaii traditionally has the lowest voter turnout  
14 in the nation; and  
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16           WHEREAS, according to the same article, in 2008, Hawaii had  
17 the lowest voter turnout among those aged eighteen through  
18 twenty-five; and  
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20           WHEREAS, if low voter turnout remains the norm, government  
21 decisions will be made by elected officials representing a  
22 smaller and smaller number of voters, which is a dangerous  
23 prospect for a democracy; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii allows minors to pre-register  
26 to vote on or after their sixteenth birthday; and  
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28           WHEREAS, according to the Project Vote website, a 2010  
29 study conducted by George Mason University found that pre-  
30 registration of minors "appears to have positive and persisting  
31 long-term effects" on their voting propensities;  
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1 WHEREAS, a 2010 study conducted by Project Vote noted that  
2 supervisors of elections in Florida find that student voter pre-  
3 registration and education programs are "tremendously effective"  
4 in increasing voter registration and turnout; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the 2010 Project Vote study found that states that  
7 establish partnerships, actively involve students and teachers,  
8 and conduct civic education and voter pre-registration programs  
9 have successfully registered many young voters and have engaged  
10 the youth population in the elections process; and  
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12 WHEREAS, according to the County of Hawaii website, the  
13 County implements a Young Voter Registration Program "geared  
14 toward Junior and Senior students in high school to increase  
15 voter awareness and election information as they become eligible  
16 to vote"; now, therefore,  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
20 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
21 Education, in cooperation with the State of Hawaii Office of  
22 Elections, is requested to create and implement a Voter  
23 Pre-registration and Education Program for public high school  
24 students in Hawaii; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, more specifically, the Program  
27 is requested to include:  
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- 29 (1) Information on and assistance with the pre-  
30 registration process;
- 31 (2) Information and education on the voting process; and
- 32 (3) Any other components the Department deems necessary to  
33 effectuate the purpose and goals of the Program; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
36 consult with the County Clerk of Hawaii in the creation of the  
37 Program; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department's Program is not  
40 requested to be implemented for public schools in the County of  
41 Hawaii, if implementation of the Program there would duplicate  
42 the efforts of the County's Young Voter Registration Program;  
43 and  
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# H.C.R. NO. 231

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
2 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of  
4 2014 and 2015, containing information on the creation and  
5 implementation of the Program; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
9 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the  
10 Chairperson of the State Elections Commission, the Chief  
11 Election Officer, and the County Clerk of Hawaii.  
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MAR 13 2013

