
HOUSE 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; and
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33 WHEREAS, a 2010 study conducted by Project Vote noted that
34 supervisors of elections in Florida find that student voter pre-



1 registration and education programs are "tremendously effective"
2 in increasing voter registration and turnout; and
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4 WHEREAS, the 2010 Project Vote study found that states that
5 establish partnerships, actively involve students and teachers,
6 and conduct civic education and voter pre-registration programs
7 have successfully registered many young voters and have engaged
8 the youth population in the elections process; and
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10 WHEREAS, according to the County of Hawaii website, the
11 County implements a Young Voter Registration Program "geared
12 toward Junior and Senior students in high school to increase
13 voter awareness and election information as they become eligible
14 to vote"; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
18 Session of 2013, that the Department of Education, in
19 cooperation with the State of Hawaii Office of Elections, is
20 requested to create and implement a Voter
21 Pre-registration and Education Program for public high school
22 students in Hawaii; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, more specifically, the Program
25 is requested to include:
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- 27 (1) Information on and assistance with the pre-
28 registration process;
29 (2) Information and education on the voting process; and
30 (3) Any other components the Department deems necessary to
31 effectuate the purpose and goals of the Program; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
34 consult with the County Clerk of Hawaii in the creation of the
35 Program; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department's Program is not
38 requested to be implemented for public schools in the County of
39 Hawaii, if implementation of the Program there would duplicate
40 the efforts of the County's Young Voter Registration Program;
41 and
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
44 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of
2 2014 and 2015, containing information on the creation and
3 implementation of the Program; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
7 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of
8 the State Elections Commission, the Chief Election Officer, and
9 the County Clerk of Hawaii.
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