
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO SEEK FUNDING TO
REESTABLISH POLLING PLACES THAT CLOSED IN 2010 AND 2012.

1 WHEREAS, voter participation is the foundation of an
2 effective democracy; and

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

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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii currently ranks fifty-first of the fifty
9 states and the District of Columbia in the percentage of
10 registered voters who turn out to vote; and

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

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16 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii stood at forty-two percent
17 in the 2012 primary election and sixty-two percent in the 2012
18 general election; and

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20 WHEREAS, the current measurement of voter turnout is an
21 overestimation because it does not account for potential voters;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, closed
25 polling locations with fewer than five hundred voters; and

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27 WHEREAS, the reduction of polling places decreases access
28 to ballots for voters; and

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30 WHEREAS, ninety-seven polling places closed in 2010 due to
31 budget shortages, and more polling places closed in 2012; and
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1 WHEREAS, the reduction of polling places targets and
2 disproportionally affects voters living in rural areas and
3 neighbor island districts; and

4 WHEREAS, diminishing voter participation rates signifies
5 that fewer people are involved in the selection of elected
6 officials, which threatens to undermine the intent of a
7 representative form of government; now, therefore,
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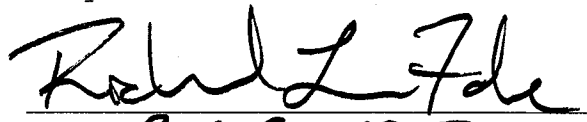

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
11 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Office of
12 Elections is requested to seek funding to reestablish polling
13 places previously removed or provide reasonable alternative
14 polling locations to districts in which such removal has
15 occurred, and the Governor is requested to give his full support
16 to this cause; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections is
19 further requested to disseminate information about the
20 reestablishment or formation of polling places to registered
21 voters affected; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections is
24 further requested to examine differences in district voter
25 registration and casting to evaluate the effectiveness of the
26 increase and dissemination of additional polling places on
27 encouraging voter participation, and submit a report of its
28 efforts and findings no later than twenty days prior to the
29 convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Senate
33 President, the House Speaker, the Chief Elections Officer, and
34 the County Clerks for the City and County of Honolulu, Maui
35 County, Hawaii County, and Kauai County.
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OFFERED BY:

MAR 07 2014

