HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

WHEREAS, more than 170 boards and commissions are established by the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, state statutes, and executive orders; and

WHEREAS, the total number of members of all boards and commissions exceed 1,500; and

WHEREAS, members of each board and commission established by law are nominated and, with the consent of the Senate, appointed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, citizen participation on a board or commission is one of the most effective means for citizens to express their voice to their government; and

WHEREAS, citizens can influence decisions that affect the quality of life for the residents of our State through their participation on boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the expertise of citizen members of boards and commissions are a resource for government decision-makers; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the boards and commissions are volunteer positions that do not compensate the members for their services; and

WHEREAS, members devote significant amounts of their time for board and commission meetings and reading and research to prepare for the meetings; and

H.C.R. NO.5

WHEREAS, there are nearly 350 vacant seats on the boards and commissions, an overall vacancy rate that exceeds 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, vacancy rates exceed 70 percent at certain boards or commissions; and

WHEREAS, certain boards or commissions have not convened for years; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to audit the performance of the State's boards and commissions for the period of fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to include in its audit:

 (1) Evaluations of the performance of the boards or commissions, including the frequency of meetings, the number of vacancies, and the relevancy of the board or commission's purpose to the State's programs and goals; and

(2) Recommendations, including when appropriate:

(A) To improve the administration of boards and commissions, in line with best practices of other jurisdictions; and

(B) For individual boards and commissions, to reduce the number of members, merge similar or duplicative entities, or sunset entities that no longer fulfill a State need or purpose; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to report findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Acting State Auditor.

OFFERED BY:

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