

MAR 10 2017

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER TO CONVENE AN AUTOMATIC  
VOTER REGISTRATION TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF  
ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING AN AUTOMATIC VOTER  
REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's voter turnout percentage has  
2 significantly declined since Hawaii became a state in 1959, when  
3 the voter turnout was reported at ninety-four percent of  
4 registered voters; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, Hawaii currently ranks among the bottom of all  
7 states in the nation in the percentage of registered voters who  
8 turn out to vote; and

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10          WHEREAS, voter participation is the hallmark of an  
11 effective democracy; and

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13          WHEREAS, an improved process of automatic voter  
14 registration is beneficial to the public and will reduce any  
15 inconveniences that individuals may experience that prevent them  
16 from turning out to vote; and

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18          WHEREAS, automatic voter registration increases accuracy  
19 and efficiency and improves access to voting by removing  
20 barriers to registration for eligible voters; and

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22          WHEREAS, automatic voter registration provides eligible  
23 voters an opportunity to register to vote when applying for or  
24 renewing a driver's license or a civil identification card,  
25 commonly known as a state identification card, unless the  
26 eligible voter affirmatively declines to be registered to vote;  
27 and

28  
29          WHEREAS, automatic voter registration uses information that  
30 government agencies have available in electronic databases; and  
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1 WHEREAS, existing federal laws authorize the electronic  
2 transfer of voter registration information from the counties and  
3 Department of Transportation to election officials and the  
4 statewide voter registration system; and  
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6 WHEREAS, six states and the District of Columbia have  
7 already successfully enacted automatic voter registration; and  
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9 WHEREAS, in 2016, Oregon implemented automatic voter  
10 registration and, as a result, over two hundred seventy thousand  
11 eligible voters registered via automatic voter registration, and  
12 of those individuals who registered, forty-three percent voted  
13 in the 2016 general election, which helped Oregon set a new  
14 state record for the number of votes cast; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration will increase  
17 security and improve accuracy of the voter rolls through the use  
18 of an encrypted system to transfer voter registration data  
19 rather than paper voter registration application forms; and  
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21 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration will result in long-  
22 term cost savings for the State as the cost of processing paper  
23 voter registration application forms is approximately thirty  
24 times more than the processing costs of an electronic  
25 registration system; and  
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27 WHEREAS, innovation in other states has successfully  
28 reduced barriers to voting, encouraged voter participation, and  
29 increased convenience and access in the voting process, and  
30 Hawaii could greatly benefit from similar innovations; now,  
31 therefore,  
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Chief Election  
36 Officer is requested to convene an automatic voter registration  
37 task force; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
40 comprise the following:  
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# S.C.R. NO. 108

- 1           (1) The Chief Election Officer, or the Chief Election  
2           Officer's designee;
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- 4           (2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian  
5           Affairs, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
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- 7           (3) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's  
8           designee;
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- 10          (4) The City Clerk of the City and County of Honolulu, or  
11          the City Clerk's designee;
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- 13          (5) The Clerk of the County of Maui, or the Clerk's  
14          designee;
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- 16          (6) The Clerk of the County of Hawaii, or the Clerk's  
17          designee;
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- 19          (7) The Clerk of the County of Kauai, or the Clerk's  
20          designee; and
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- 22          (8) Up to three additional members representing  
23          stakeholder parties selected by the Chief Election  
24          Officer; and
- 25

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Election Officer, or  
27           the Chief Election Officer's designee, is requested to serve as  
28           the chairperson of the task force; and

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30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force  
31           be selected from among registered voters in the State; and

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33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting of the task  
34           force be convened no later than July 1, 2017; and

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36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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- 38          (1) Review existing data systems used by the Department of  
39          Transportation and the counties that contain pertinent  
40          information for the purposes of voter registration to  
41          identify collaborative methods to streamline the  
42          transfer of data;



- 1
- 2 (2) Review existing federal and state laws and practices
- 3 relating to voter registration, including but not
- 4 limited to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as
- 5 amended, and National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
- 6 as amended;
- 7
- 8 (3) Determine the feasibility, cost savings, and cost
- 9 impact of implementing an automatic voter registration
- 10 system in Hawaii and potential sources of funding for
- 11 the system; and
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- 13 (4) Develop proposed legislation to establish and
- 14 implement an automatic voter registration process in
- 15 Hawaii; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the  
 18 assistance of the Office of Elections, is requested to submit a  
 19 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
 20 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
 21 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and  
 22


23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on  
 24 June 30, 2018; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election  
 28 Officer, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian  
 29 Affairs, Director of Transportation, City Clerk of the City and  
 30 County of Honolulu, Clerk of the County of Maui, Clerk of the  
 31 County of Hawaii, and Clerk of the County of Kauai.  
 32  
 33  
 34

*Michelle Solari*  
*Mike Gabban*  
*Will Eyro*  
*Clarence K. Mishiher*  
*Ron E. Pider*  
*Anna Mercedes K.*

OFFERED BY:

*SC. Gov. Ige*  
*Breanne Han*  
*Randy H. Baker*  
*Elaine Ige*  
*Kal Nishida*




S.C.R. NO. 108

*Naura Turk*  
*Alm*  
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