
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

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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 automatic voter registration process is
14 beneficial to the public and will reduce any inconveniences that
15 individuals may experience that prevent them from turning out to
16 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

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29 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration uses information that
30 government agencies have available in electronic databases; and



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2 WHEREAS, existing federal laws authorize the electronic
3 transfer of voter registration information from the counties and
4 Department of Transportation to election officials and the
5 statewide voter registration system; and
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7 WHEREAS, six states and the District of Columbia have
8 already successfully enacted automatic voter registration; and
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10 WHEREAS, in 2016, Oregon implemented automatic voter
11 registration and, as a result, over two hundred seventy thousand
12 eligible voters registered via automatic voter registration, and
13 of those individuals who registered, forty-three percent voted
14 in the 2016 general election, which helped Oregon set a new
15 state record for the number of votes cast; and
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17 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration will increase
18 security and improve accuracy of the voter rolls through the use
19 of an encrypted system to transfer voter registration data
20 rather than paper voter registration application forms; and
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22 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration will result in long-
23 term cost savings for the State as the cost of processing paper
24 voter registration application forms is approximately thirty
25 times more than the processing costs of an electronic
26 registration system; and
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28 WHEREAS, innovation in other states has successfully
29 reduced barriers to voting, encouraged voter participation, and
30 increased convenience and access in the voting process, and
31 Hawaii could greatly benefit from similar innovations; now,
32 therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Chief Election
37 Officer is requested to convene an automatic voter registration
38 task force; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
41 comprise the following:
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- 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
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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;



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(2) Review existing federal and state laws and practices relating to voter registration, including but not limited to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as amended, and National Voter Registration Act of 1993, as amended;

(3) Determine the feasibility, cost savings, and cost impact of implementing an automatic voter registration system in Hawaii and potential sources of funding for the system; and

(4) Develop proposed legislation to establish and implement an automatic voter registration process in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the assistance of the Office of Elections, is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on June 30, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election Officer, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Director of Transportation, City Clerk of the City and County of Honolulu, Clerk of the County of Maui, Clerk of the County of Hawaii, and Clerk of the County of Kauai.

