
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO CONDUCT A
STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT,
PARTICULARLY THE EFFECTS ON MINORITY GROUPS.

1 WHEREAS, disenfranchisement of persons following felony
2 criminal convictions undermines democratic ideals by depriving
3 otherwise qualified citizens of their right to vote; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the National Association for the
6 Advancement of Colored People, disenfranchisement based on
7 criminal conviction has a disproportionate effect on communities
8 of color, which often experience a higher incarceration rate
9 than white communities; and
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11 WHEREAS, many of the state laws that bar people with felony
12 convictions from voting stem from a time in America's history
13 where southern states were working to neutralize the black
14 electorate; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2010, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs released
17 the study, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the
18 Criminal Justice System," which found that Native Hawaiians make
19 up thirty-nine percent of the incarcerated population, but only
20 twenty-four percent of the general population and twenty-five
21 percent of arrestees; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
25 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Criminal Justice Research
26 Institute within the Office of the Chief Justice is requested to
27 conduct a study on the effects of felony disenfranchisement,
28 particularly the effects on minority groups; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Criminal Justice Research
2 Institute is requested to submit a report of its findings,
3 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
4 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
5 of 2021; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
9 Criminal Justice Research Institute.

