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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF EACH COUNTY TO DESIGNATE  
AND ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL VOTER SERVICE CENTERS AT  
APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS.

1           WHEREAS, in 2019, Hawaii adopted Act 136, Session Laws of  
2 Hawaii 2019, requiring all elections statewide to be conducted  
3 by mail beginning with the 2020 primary election; and  
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5           WHEREAS, since the 2020 primary election will be the first  
6 election in which the majority of Hawaii's voters will be sent  
7 ballots to vote by mail, many voters will likely have questions  
8 about the process, want to turn in their ballots in person, or  
9 want to register and vote on the same day; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, the new vote-by-mail law provides that the Voter  
12 Service Centers (VSC) will be open for a limited amount of time  
13 from the tenth business day preceding an election through the  
14 day of the election to receive personal delivery of mail-in  
15 ballots, accommodate voters with special needs, offer same day  
16 registration and voting, address any problems that may arise  
17 from the inaugural implementation of the brand-new voting  
18 system, and provide other voting-related services; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, since a brand-new voting system will be in place,  
21 it is reasonable to anticipate that issues may arise, including  
22 voters not receiving their ballots in the mail or receiving  
23 their ballots too late to return the ballots by mail in time for  
24 their votes to be counted; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance that the State and each  
27 county are prepared to promptly address any issues that arise so  
28 that voters are not disenfranchised and election results are not  
29 questioned or legally challenged; and



## H.C.R. NO. 75

1 WHEREAS, having an insufficient number of VSCs open for a  
2 limited period of time to resolve issues may result in voter  
3 disenfranchisement and challenges to the election results; and  
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5 WHEREAS, limited access to VSCs has a greater impact to  
6 those voters living in rural areas who may have to drive far  
7 distances to exercise their right to vote, may need to ask  
8 questions about the vote-by-mail process, or may need to resolve  
9 other issues that arise due to no fault of their own; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the Offices of the Clerk of the counties have  
12 indicated that there will be a total of only eight voter service  
13 centers statewide for the first vote-by-mail election year as  
14 follows:  
15

- 16 (1) One VSC for the County of Kauai located in Lihue, on  
17 the island of Kauai;  
18
- 19 (2) Three VSCs for the County of Maui, one of each located  
20 on the island of Maui, island of Molokai, and island  
21 of Lanai;  
22
- 23 (3) Two VSCs for the County of Hawaii, one of each located  
24 in Hilo and Kailua-Kona; and  
25
- 26 (4) Two VSCs for the City and County of Honolulu, one of  
27 each located at Honolulu Hale in Honolulu and Kapolei  
28 Hale located in Kapolei; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, having only eight VSCs open for just a short time  
31 before the 2020 primary and general elections is insufficient to  
32 resolve potential issues and greatly inhibits voters' access to  
33 information and resources, inhibits their ability to cast their  
34 ballots, and may deter election participation rather than  
35 bolster it; and  
36

37 WHEREAS, section 11-109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides  
38 that the Office of the Clerk of a county may designate and  
39 establish additional locations for VSCs to service the  
40 particular needs of a county's voters; and



# H.C.R. NO. 15

1 WHEREAS, the public's trust and confidence in elections  
 2 provides the basis for a healthy election system and a robust  
 3 democracy, and for the initial implementation of the new vote-by  
 4 mail balloting system, the State should have a strong foundation  
 5 in place to ensure the election and voting process is fair and  
 6 reasonable; now, therefore

7  
 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 9 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
 10 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Office of the Clerk of  
 11 each county is requested to designate and establish additional  
 12 voter service centers at appropriate locations for the 2020  
 13 elections based upon the particular needs of the county's  
 14 voters; and

15  
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating and establishing  
 17 additional VSCs, consideration be given to the use of state  
 18 libraries and other state or county locations; and

19  
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consideration be given to  
 21 staffing the VSCs with trained volunteers from non-partisan  
 22 civic organizations; and

23  
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election  
 26 Officer, Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the City and County of  
 27 Honolulu, Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the County of Hawaii,  
 28 Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the County of Maui, and Mayor  
 29 and Office of the Clerk of the County of Kauai.

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 31  
 32

OFFERED BY: Michelle E. Lowe

David Carnas  
Amy Peruso

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
Bevil Kotyachi



Joe Kuber      Alan  
Fin Waring      Gregory Taylor  
J. O.

MAR 03 2020

