
HOUSE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
TEMPORARILY ALLOW REMOTE PARTICIPATION.

1 WHEREAS, an ongoing global respiratory disease pandemic
2 named "coronavirus disease 2019", or COVID-19 has made a
3 dramatic impact on the health, safety, and economic well-being
4 of the State and continues to pose a serious health, safety, and
5 economic risk to Hawaii; and

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7 WHEREAS, in a matter of months, the COVID-19 pandemic
8 swiftly spread around the world, including the United States,
9 and consequently put the health, safety, and welfare of the
10 people of Hawaii at risk; and

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12 WHEREAS, as of June 18, 2020, there have been seventeen
13 deaths and seven hundred sixty-two cases of COVID-19 in the
14 State alone; and

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16 WHEREAS, state and county officials have implemented
17 several emergency measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19,
18 including stay-at-home orders, mandated social distancing
19 measures, a mandatory fourteen-day quarantine for travelers, and
20 the closure of all nonessential businesses; and

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22 WHEREAS, in response to the Centers for Disease Control and
23 Prevention's social distancing recommendations to diminish the
24 risk of spreading COVID-19, the Legislature recessed the Regular
25 Session of 2020, beginning March 17, 2020; and

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27 WHEREAS, since March 23, 2020, the State Capitol has been
28 closed to the public; and

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30 WHEREAS, after nearly two months in an extended recess, the
31 Legislature briefly reconvened the Regular Session of 2020 on
32 May 11, 2020, to address a number of critical issues, including



1 the State's projected \$1,000,000,000 budget shortfall and the
2 receipt of federal economic and financial relief under the
3 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Public Law
4 116-136, and subsequent federal stimulus measures; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature passed several measures before it
7 recessed for a second extended period beginning May 22, 2020;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature has not yet adjourned the Regular
11 Session of 2020 sine die and stands ready to reconvene at a
12 moment's notice; and

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14 WHEREAS, however, in addition to its concerns about social
15 distancing, the House recognizes that nearly one-third of its
16 representatives live on a neighbor island and must travel to
17 Oahu when the Legislature is in session; and

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19 WHEREAS, several legislative chambers, including the Hawaii
20 State Senate, have amended their legislative operations to allow
21 remote participation or voting in response to health and safety
22 concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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24 WHEREAS, the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic
25 and Financial Preparedness continues to hold and successfully
26 broadcast meetings throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by utilizing
27 remote videoconferencing technology; and

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29 WHEREAS, Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution of the
30 State of Hawaii specifically grants to each chamber the power to
31 determine the rules of its proceedings; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
35 2020, that the House of Representatives hereby amends the Rules
36 of the House of Representatives by adding a new part XIV to read
37 as follows:



"PART XIV. REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Rule 61. Remote Participation.

61.1. Committee Meetings.

(1) A committee meeting may be conducted in which one or more members of the committee participate in the meeting remotely upon the approval of the Speaker or the Speaker's designee.

(2) A member participating remotely shall be considered present and in attendance at the committee meeting, including for purposes of determining if a quorum is present and voting.

61.2. Floor Session.

(1) A floor session may be conducted in which one or more members of the House participate in the session remotely by videoconference upon the approval of the Speaker or the Speaker's designee.

(2) A member participating remotely shall be considered present and in attendance at the floor session, including for purposes of determining if a quorum is present and voting.

61.3. Repeal.

This part shall be repealed on January 19, 2021."

OFFERED BY:

SCOTT K. BROWN

JUN 22 2020

