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# HOUSE 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, that the Criminal Justice Research Institute within the  
26 Office of the Chief Justice is requested to conduct a study on  
27 the effects of felony disenfranchisement, particularly the  
28 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Criminal  
9 Justice Research Institute.

