
HOUSE 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
4

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.R. NO. 58

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:
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- 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.R. NO. 58

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, that the Office of the Clerk of each county is requested
 11 to designate and establish additional voter service centers at
 12 appropriate locations for the 2020 elections based upon the
 13 particular needs of the county's voters; and

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating and establishing
 16 additional VSCs, consideration be given to the use of state
 17 libraries and other state or county locations; and

18
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consideration be given to
 20 staffing the VSCs with trained volunteers from non-partisan
 21 civic organizations; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election Officer, Mayor
 25 and Office of the Clerk of the City and County of Honolulu,
 26 Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the County of Hawaii, Mayor and
 27 Office of the Clerk of the County of Maui, and Mayor and Office
 28 of the Clerk of the County of Kauai.

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 31

OFFERED BY: *Nicole E. Lowe*

Daniel Carnas
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[Signature]

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