

MAR 06 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTIES, IN COORDINATION WITH THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS, CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE STATE'S CONVERSION TO AN ELECTION BY MAIL SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, (Act 136),
2 which appropriates funds to implement and administer a statewide
3 election by mail system, requires that all elections statewide
4 be conducted by mail, beginning with the 2020 primary election;
5 and

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7 WHEREAS, Section 11-109(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
8 as established by Act 136, only requires the counties to
9 establish a single voter service center located at the office of
10 the clerk; and

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12 WHEREAS, Section 11-109, HRS, only allows additional
13 locations to be established within a county as may be designated
14 by the county clerk to service the needs of the county's voters;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, Act 136 also does not contain any provisions for a
18 transition plan as the State moves to all-mail elections; and

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20 WHEREAS, the county of Hawaii covers the 4,028 square mile
21 island of Hawaii; the county of Maui encompasses the various
22 islands of Maui, Kaho'olawe, Lāna'i, and Molokai; the city and
23 county of Honolulu covers the metropolitan island of Oahu; and
24 the county of Kauai covers the island of Kauai; and

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26 WHEREAS, from times of the American Civil War, there has
27 been a disparity between how one votes in urban and rural
28 communities; and

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30 WHEREAS, not only is this disparity evident along party
31 lines, but also through the methods and means of how these
32 populations vote. Specifically, in Hawaii, votes from rural



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1 areas overwhelmingly come from ballots received through
2 in-person and same-day registration and vote; and
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4 WHEREAS, although 90 percent of people living in Hawaii
5 live in a nonrural area, the votes of the remaining ten percent
6 should not be neglected; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that there needs to be a
9 transition plan as the State executes an election by mail
10 system; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
13 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
14 Representatives concurring, that the County Clerks of the
15 Counties of Hawaii, Maui, Honolulu, and Kauai should, in
16 coordination with the Office of Elections, create and execute a
17 plan that will help voters in rural areas in our State
18 transition to all-mail voting; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Counties are especially
21 encouraged to establish additional voter service centers in
22 rural communities, and;
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the County Clerks of the
26 Counties of Hawaii, Maui, Honolulu, and Kauai; the Comptroller
27 of the Department of Accounting and General Services; and the
28 Chief Election Officer of the Office of Elections.
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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names]

[Signature]
Randy de Bak

[Signature]
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Paul Nash

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Lorraine L. ...

