

MAR 06 2020

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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



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
4

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 (2) Three VSCs for the County of Maui, one of each located
19 on the island of Maui, island of Molokai, and island
20 of Lanai;
- 21 (3) Two VSCs for the County of Hawaii, one of each located
22 in Hilo and Kailua-Kona; and
- 23 (4) Two VSCs for the City and County of Honolulu, one of
24 each located at Honolulu Hale in Honolulu and Kapolei
25 Hale located in Kapolei; and
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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
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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



S.C.R. NO. 208

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 Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 9 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
 10 Representatives concurring, that the Office of the Clerk of each
 11 county is requested to designate and establish additional voter
 12 service centers at appropriate locations for the 2020 elections
 13 based upon the 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 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election
 25 Officer, Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the City and County of
 26 Honolulu, Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the County of Hawaii,
 27 Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the County of Maui, and Mayor
 28 and Office of the Clerk of the County of Kauai.

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OFFERED BY: DKL

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