
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF A YEAR-ROUND LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, the constitutionally mandated length of a
2 legislative session is sixty working days per year, generally
3 stretching from the third Wednesday in January until early May;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, certain facets of community engagement, emergency
7 response, and other operational aspects of the Legislature could
8 be improved by requiring the Legislature to be in session
9 throughout the whole year; and

10
11 WHEREAS, a year-round Legislature in Hawaii could provide a
12 more thorough understanding of public sentiment, as lawmakers
13 have increased opportunities to interact with their constituents
14 and stakeholders and analyze community needs in greater detail,
15 which enables them to have a more precise understanding of
16 public opinion on a wide range of social and economic issues;
17 and

18
19 WHEREAS, legislatures in the nation with longer legislative
20 sessions are more likely to establish policies that address
21 specific concerns of their state, rather than applying policies
22 from other states and national lobbying organizations; and

23
24 WHEREAS, a year-round Legislature would also increase
25 transparency as it would provide lawmakers more time to address
26 statewide issues while also providing more opportunity for
27 public input and engagement; and

28
29 WHEREAS, however, a year-long Legislature would require
30 increased staffing and resources; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the costs associated with a year-long Legislature
33 have not been studied in depth and there is no understanding of



H.R. NO. 119

1 the potential financial burden on taxpayers if the Legislature
2 were to operate year-round; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2024, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is
7 requested to study the implementation of a year-round
8 Legislature, including the effects of a year-round Legislature
9 on staff retention, salary and economic support costs, program
10 costs, and financial ramifications of other forms of employment
11 held by legislators; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
14 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its study, including
15 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
16 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
17 the Regular Session of 2025; and

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
21 Reference Bureau.

22
23
24

OFFERED BY:



MAR - 8 2024

