

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP ON  
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION.

1 WHEREAS, every eligible person should be able to register  
2 to vote in a convenient and secure way that is beneficial to new  
3 voters and administrators alike; and  
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5 WHEREAS, key voter registration improvements can ensure  
6 state election systems are secure and efficient, safeguard  
7 votes, and save money; and  
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9 WHEREAS, in the 2024 primary election, for example, the  
10 State experienced its lowest turnout in sixty-five years, with  
11 only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot; and  
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13 WHEREAS, to improve statewide voter turnout, the State must  
14 enact measures that strengthen the right to vote; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in 2021, the State established automatic voter  
17 registration to increase the State's historically low voter  
18 participation rates; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the automatic voter registration system  
21 established by the Legislature was an opt-in system that places  
22 the responsibility for voter registration on the part of  
23 individual voters, which fails to fully include the total  
24 potential population of new voters; and  
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26 WHEREAS, changing the State's automatic voter registration  
27 system from an opt-in to an opt-out model would maximize  
28 democratic participation by making voter registration as  
29 streamlined as possible; now, therefore,  
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
33 that the Office of Elections is requested to convene a working  
34 group on automatic voter registration; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
2 to make recommendations regarding changing the State's automatic  
3 voter registration initiative to be an opt-out program; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
6 to consist of the following members:  
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- 8 (1) The Chief Election Officer, or the Chief Election  
9 Officer's designee, who is requested to serve as the  
10 working group's chairperson;  
11  
12 (2) The Director of the Department of Customer Services of  
13 the City and County of Honolulu, or the Director's  
14 designee;  
15  
16 (3) A representative from Common Cause Hawaii;  
17  
18 (4) A representative from the League of Women Voters of  
19 Honolulu; and  
20  
21 (5) A representative from the Institute for Responsive  
22 Government; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
25 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
26 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
27 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
28 of 2026; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Elections Officer,  
32 Director of the Department of Customer Services of the City and  
33 County of Honolulu, Executive Director of Common Cause Hawaii,  
34 President of the League of Women Voters of Honolulu, and  
35 Executive Director of the Institute for Responsive Government.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

