
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROPOSE REVISIONS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTY CHARTERS TO AUTHORIZE CONSOLIDATION OF THE FIRST SPECIAL ELECTION AND THE SECOND SPECIAL ELECTION FOR NONPARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICIALS INTO A SINGLE ELECTION HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION.

1 WHEREAS, generally, the mayors, county council members, and
2 prosecutors in the counties of the State of Hawaii are required
3 to run for office as nonpartisan candidates; and
4

5 WHEREAS, nonpartisan county elective officials are elected
6 through county nonpartisan first and second special elections
7 that are held in conjunction with the state primary and general
8 elections, respectively, of the applicable election year; and
9

10 WHEREAS, if a candidate for a nonpartisan county office
11 receives the majority of votes cast for that office in a first
12 special election, held in conjunction with the primary election,
13 that candidate is deemed elected; and
14

15 WHEREAS, if no county candidate is elected in a first
16 special election, the two candidates who receive the highest
17 number of votes for each office are placed on the ballot for the
18 second special primary election, held in conjunction with the
19 general election, and the candidate who receives the highest
20 number of votes for each office in the second special election
21 is deemed elected; and
22

23 WHEREAS, although voter turnout has been extremely low in
24 Hawaii in recent years, the voter turnout for first special
25 elections is noticeably lower than for second special elections
26 since voter turn out generally is higher in general elections
27 than primary elections; and
28



1 WHEREAS, an extremely low voter participation in first
2 special elections may result in final candidates for the second
3 special election being chosen by relatively a small number of
4 voters; and
5

6 WHEREAS, on the other hand, a voter who forgets to vote or
7 fails to vote in the first special election risks having no say
8 in choosing the ultimate winner, if a nonpartisan county
9 candidate receives a majority of the votes in the first special
10 election; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Australia, Ireland, and several cities in the
13 United States have consolidated the nonpartisan first special
14 election and nonpartisan second special election elections into
15 one instant runoff voting election, eliminating the expense of a
16 second election; and
17

18 WHEREAS, instant runoff voting allows voters to rank
19 candidates in order of their preference and a second special
20 election is unnecessary; and
21

22 WHEREAS, consolidation of first and second special
23 elections for nonpartisan county offices deserves further
24 consideration; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the counties are
29 requested to consider proposing amendments to their respective
30 county charters to authorize consolidation of the first and
31 second special elections for nonpartisan offices and are urged
32 to adopt ordinances to authorize the election of county
33 nonpartisan officials in one election held in conjunction with
34 the general election; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election
38 Officer, the Mayor, the County Clerk, and the Chairperson of the
39 Council of each county.
40
41
42

OFFERED BY: Cindy Evans

