

JAN 24 2007

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
CONDUCTING ALL ELECTIONS BY MAIL.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has the lowest voter turnout rate in the  
2 nation, with just over forty per cent of eligible voters voting  
3 in the two most recent elections, and in contrast, eighty-four  
4 per cent of registered voters in Oregon voted in 2004; and  
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6           WHEREAS, Oregon's vote-by-mail system, approved by almost  
7 seventy per cent of Oregonians in a 1998 initiative, is credited  
8 with improving voter participation in Oregon; and  
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10           WHEREAS, Oregon's vote-by-mail system is used for all  
11 elections and is popular with voters because it empowers the  
12 voter and eliminates many of the problems that exist in other  
13 voting systems; and  
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15           WHEREAS, in Oregon, ballots are mailed to voters, and the  
16 voter is required to return the ballot by mail or by dropping it  
17 off at designated sites within a two-week period; and  
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19           WHEREAS, although Oregon is the only state to use a vote-  
20 by-mail system for all elections, at least ten other states  
21 allow voting by mail at some level; and  
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23           WHEREAS, a vote-by-mail system has a number of advantages  
24 over traditional polling; and  
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26           WHEREAS, Act 37, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, allows voting  
27 in any federal, state, or county election, other than a  
28 regularly scheduled primary or general election, to be conducted  
29 by mail in the determination of the Chief Election Officer or  
30 county clerk, as applicable; and  
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32           WHEREAS, S.B. No. 433, SD2, HD1, 2006, would have required  
33 the establishment of a vote-by-mail pilot program and a report  
34 thereto to the Legislature, but the measure did not pass out of  
35 conference committee; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
3 that the Office of Elections is requested to conduct a study on  
4 the feasibility of an all-voting-by-mail system of voting,  
5 including but not limited to costs, logistics, education of the  
6 public; and language barriers; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections report  
9 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later  
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
11 of 2008; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election Officer.  
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OFFERED BY: Therese Chun Oakland  
Chunak Keiki

