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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that citizen  
2 participation in elections is vital to the health and well-being  
3 of our democracy and representative form of government. When  
4 the citizenry opts out of their responsibility to vote, public  
5 confidence and support of government is undermined, as is  
6 government's effectiveness in serving the people of the State.

7           The 2000 election statistics show that Hawaii ranked last  
8 in the nation in voter turnout, with about half of its voting  
9 age citizens having participated in that presidential election.  
10 In the 2002 elections, voter participation may have improved  
11 slightly, but little state resources were contributed to  
12 coordinate or implement voter registration or educational  
13 programs.

14           The legislature believes that government can help to  
15 facilitate community-based efforts aimed at increasing the  
16 percentage of voting age citizens who are actually registered to  
17 vote, educating voters on the candidates and questions on the  
18 ballot, informing voters on their polling locations and methods



1 of voting, and encouraging voters to participate in the  
2 elections. The legislature further believes that a state-funded  
3 community-based voter registration and education program in the  
4 office of elections should be established to serve as a  
5 facilitator for this program.

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish a voter  
7 registration and education program in the office of elections to  
8 promote participation in elections by encouraging voter  
9 registration, voter turnout, and educating voters. This Act  
10 also appropriates funds to implement this program.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
12 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
13 read as follows:

14 "§11- **Voter registration and education program.** The  
15 chief election officer shall establish a voter registration and  
16 education program to promote participation in elections by  
17 encouraging voter registration, voter turnout, and educating  
18 voters."

19 SECTION 3. The chief election officer shall report on  
20 progress made toward establishing the voter registration and  
21 education program, including any findings and recommendations  
22 and any proposed implementing legislation, to the legislature no



1 later than twenty days before the convening of the regular  
2 session of 2008.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000, or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the  
6 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2008-2009, for the chief election officer to establish a voter  
8 registration and education program.

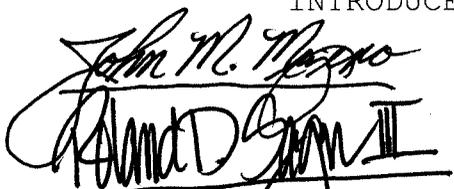
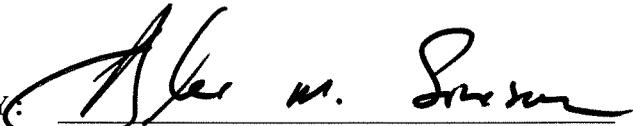
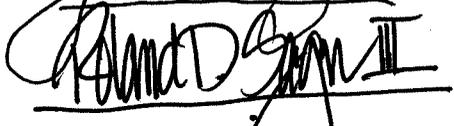
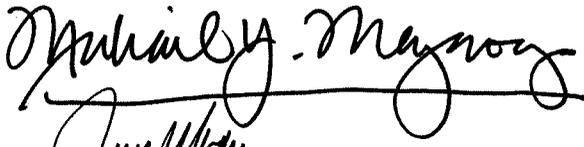
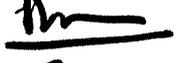
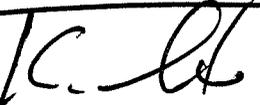
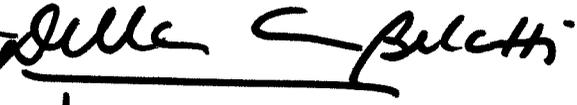
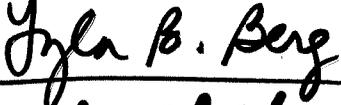
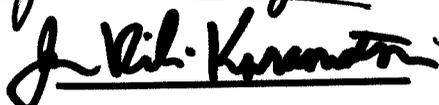
9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
10 elections for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:



**Report Title:**

Elections; Voter Registration and Education Program

**Description:**

Establishes a voter registration and education program in the office of elections to promote participation in elections by encouraging voter registration, voter education, and voter turnout.

