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 S.C.R. NO. 46

FEB 1 7 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTIES AMEND THEIR CHARTERS OR ORDINANCES
TO REQUIRE CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICES TO FILE
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS ON THE SAME DATE AS
NOMINATION PAPERS.

WHEREAS, article XIV of the Hawaii Constitution states, "The people of Hawaii believe that public officers and employees must exhibit the highest standards of ethical conduct and that these standards come from the personal integrity of each individual in government"; and

WHEREAS, the best interests of the State and its people are served by good governmental practices that promote a culture of transparency and fairness; and

WHEREAS, an informed electorate is essential to the effective functioning of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, local governments make decisions, expend resources, and create policies in a way that has a direct and immediate impact on the lives of Hawaii's residents; and

WHEREAS, the financial and economic interests of persons who seek elected office are relevant to those individuals' qualification to hold the public trust; and

WHEREAS, early disclosure of candidates' financial and economic interests promotes transparency and encourages an informed electorate by making relevant information available to the public from the earliest possible date; and

WHEREAS, standardized rules across jurisdictions within the State encourage equal treatment of candidates for local office as well as provide an equal opportunity for all voters to make informed decisions about their local governments; now, therefore,

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5 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the House of Representatives concurring, that the County of Hawaii, the County of Kauai, the County of Maui, and the City and County of Honolulu are respectfully urged to amend their respective county codes or ordinances to require that candidates for county elective office file financial disclosure statements on the same date as candidate nomination papers; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of each county and to the respective chairs of each county council.

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OFFERED BY:

J. Kelani Eglish

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