

---

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO SEEK FUNDING TO  
REESTABLISH POLLING PLACES THAT CLOSED IN 2010 AND 2012.

1           WHEREAS, voter participation is the foundation of an  
2 effective democracy; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, Hawaii's voter turnout percentage has  
5 significantly declined since statehood in 1959, when voter  
6 turnout stood at ninety-four percent of registered voters; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, Hawaii currently ranks fifty-first of the fifty  
9 states and the District of Columbia in the percentage of  
10 registered voters who turn out to vote; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii stood at forty-three  
13 percent in the 2010 primary election and fifty-six percent in  
14 the 2010 general election; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii stood at forty-two percent  
17 in the 2012 primary election and sixty-two percent in the 2012  
18 general election; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, the current measurement of voter turnout is an  
21 overestimation because it does not account for potential voters;  
22 and

23  
24           WHEREAS, Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, closed  
25 polling locations with fewer than five hundred voters; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, the reduction of polling places decreases access  
28 to ballots for voters; and

29  
30           WHEREAS, ninety-seven polling places closed in 2010 due to  
31 budget shortages, and more polling places closed in 2012; and

32  
33           WHEREAS, the reduction of polling places targets and  
34 disproportionately affects voters living in rural areas and  
35 neighbor island districts; and



1 WHEREAS, diminishing voter participation rates signifies  
 2 that fewer people are involved in the selection of elected  
 3 officials, which threatens to undermine the intent of a  
 4 representative form of government; now, therefore,

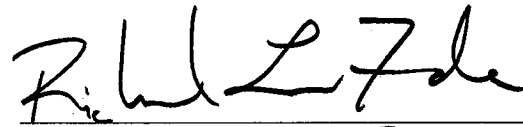

5  
 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 7 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 8 Session of 2014, that the Office of Elections is requested to  
 9 seek funding to reestablish polling places previously removed or  
 10 provide reasonable alternative polling locations to districts in  
 11 which such removal has occurred, and the Governor is requested  
 12 to give his full support to this cause; and

13  
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections is  
 15 further requested to disseminate information about the  
 16 reestablishment or formation of polling places to registered  
 17 voters affected; and

18  
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections is  
 20 further requested to examine differences in district voter  
 21 registration and casting to evaluate the effectiveness of the  
 22 increase and dissemination of additional polling places on  
 23 encouraging voter participation, and submit a report of its  
 24 efforts and findings no later than twenty days prior to the  
 25 convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

26  
 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Senate President,  
 29 the House Speaker, the Chief Elections Officer, and the County  
 30 Clerks for the City and County of Honolulu, Maui County, Hawaii  
 31 County, and Kauai County.

OFFERED BY:

32  
 33   


MAR 07 2014

