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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO OPEN ADDITIONAL VOTER SERVICE CENTERS FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE AMPLE ELECTION SERVICES TO VOTERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS.

WHEREAS, starting with the 2020 primary election, Hawaii registered voters will no longer be voting at traditional polling places, such as schools and community centers; and

WHEREAS, instead all elections statewide will be conducted by mail; and

WHEREAS, under the vote-by-mail election system, ballots will be automatically mailed to all registered voters in the State; and

WHEREAS, Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which enacted vote-by-mail uniformly statewide, also establishes voter service centers to receive personal delivery of mail-in ballots, accommodate voters with special needs, offer same-day registration and voting, and provide other election services; and

WHEREAS, despite the transition to a completely new all-mail-in election system, only eight voter service centers are planned to open in the State for the 2020 elections; and

WHEREAS, in past years, election officials have staffed about two hundred thirty polling locations across the State on election day; and

WHEREAS, while mail-in voting is convenient and can save money, ease administrative burdens, and provide flexibility for voters, having only eight voter service centers for the upcoming elections will broadly limit a citizen's constitutional right to

H.C.R. NO. 153

vote, especially since this year will be the first election for which Hawaii has implemented statewide vote-by-mail; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's already low voter turnout could be worse if election officials do not properly implement the new vote-by-mail system; and

WHEREAS, additional voter service centers are needed in case unexpected issues arise and to help residents get used to the new vote-by-mail system; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the Senate concurring, that the counties are urged to open additional voter service centers for the 2020 elections to provide ample election services to voters in their respective jurisdictions; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election Officer, City Clerk of the City and County of Honolulu, and the County Clerks of the respective Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

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H.C.R. NO. 153

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