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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE VOTER REGISTRATION IN THE STATE AND REGISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM AS A CONDITION FOR RECEIVING A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, the promotion of civic education, democratic discourse, and public participation, particularly among young people, is a priority in the State; and

WHEREAS, in addition to coursework in history and government studies, satisfactory completion of "Participation in Democracy", a course that emphasizes civic discourse and active citizenship, is mandatory for any public school student in the State in order to earn a Hawaii high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, students in this course examine government structures, political activities, democratic processes, and other contemporary civic issues; and

WHEREAS, at the federal level, civic participation is encouraged and even required in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, specifically, male United States citizens and male immigrant non-citizens who are not otherwise exempt are required to register with the United States Selective Service System within thirty days of reaching the age of eighteen, and remain registered until the age of twenty-six; and

WHEREAS, the federal selective service registration requirement ensures a fair and equitable military draft, if ever required, to protect our nation; and

WHEREAS, registration with the United States Selective Service System is required to qualify for various federal programs and opportunities, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, certain student loans, Pell grants, federal employment, federally funded job training, and citizenship through naturalization; and

WHEREAS, establishing voter registration in the State and registration in the United States Selective Service System as a condition for the issuance of a Hawaii high school diploma to any public high school student in the State promotes the interests and priorities of the State; 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 Board of Education is requested to require voter registration in the State and registration in the United States Selective Service System pursuant to title 50 United States Code chapter 49, as amended, as a condition for receiving a public high school diploma in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any requirement to register with the federal selective service should not apply to any student who qualifies for the exemption for persons conscientiously opposed to war as specified in title 5 United States Code chapter 49, section 3806, as amended; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is requested to adopt administrative rules to effectuate the purposes of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY: Makes K. Makes

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