HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF EACH COUNTY TO DESIGNATE AND ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL VOTER SERVICE CENTERS AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS.

1	WHEREAS, in 2019, Hawaii adopted Act 136, Session Laws of
2	Hawaii 2019, requiring all elections statewide to be conducted
3	by mail beginning with the 2020 primary election; and
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5	WHEREAS, since the 2020 primary election will be the first
6	election in which the majority of Hawaii's voters will be sent
7	ballots to vote by mail, many voters will likely have questions
8	about the process, want to turn in their ballots in person, or
9	want to register and vote on the same day; and
10 11	WHEREAS, the new vote-by-mail law provides that the Voter
11	Service Centers (VSC) will be open for a limited amount of time
12	from the tenth business day preceding an election through the
13	day of the election to receive personal delivery of mail-in
15	ballots, accommodate voters with special needs, offer same day
16	registration and voting, address any problems that may arise
17	from the inaugural implementation of the brand-new voting
18	system, and provide other voting-related services; and
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20	WHEREAS, since a brand-new voting system will be in place,
21	it is reasonable to anticipate that issues may arise, including
22	voters not receiving their ballots in the mail or receiving
23	their ballots too late to return the ballots by mail in time for
24	their votes to be counted; and
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26	WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance that the State and each
27	county are prepared to promptly address any issues that arise so
28	that voters are not disenfranchised and election results are not

29 questioned or legally challenged; and



WHEREAS, having an insufficient number of VSCs open for a 1 limited period of time to resolve issues may result in voter 2 disenfranchisement and challenges to the election results; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, limited access to VSCs has a greater impact to 6 those voters living in rural areas who may have to drive far distances to exercise their right to vote, may need to ask 7 8 questions about the vote-by-mail process, or may need to resolve 9 other issues that arise due to no fault of their own; and 10 WHEREAS, the Offices of the Clerk of the counties have 11 indicated that there will be a total of only eight voter service 12 13 centers statewide for the first vote-by-mail election year as follows: 14 15 One VSC for the County of Kauai located in Lihue, on 16 (1)the island of Kauai; 17 18 (2) Three VSCs for the County of Maui, one of each located 19 on the island of Maui, island of Molokai, and island 20 of Lanai; 21 22 Two VSCs for the County of Hawaii, one of each located 23 (3) 24 in Hilo and Kailua-Kona; and 25 (4) Two VSCs for the City and County of Honolulu, one of 26 each located at Honolulu Hale in Honolulu and Kapolei 27 Hale located in Kapolei; and 28 29 30 WHEREAS, having only eight VSCs open for just a short time before the 2020 primary and general elections is insufficient to 31 resolve potential issues and greatly inhibits voters' access to 32 information and resources, inhibits their ability to cast their 33 ballots, and may deter election participation rather than 34 35 bolster it; and 36 WHEREAS, section 11-109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides 37 38 that the Office of the Clerk of a county may designate and establish additional locations for VSCs to service the 39 particular needs of a county's voters; and 40



1 WHEREAS, the public's trust and confidence in elections 2 provides the basis for a healthy election system and a robust 3 democracy, and for the initial implementation of the new vote-by 4 mail balloting system, the State should have a strong foundation 5 in place to ensure the election and voting process is fair and 6 reasonable; now, therefore 7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 9 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 10 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Office of the Clerk of 11 each county is requested to designate and establish additional 12 voter service centers at appropriate locations for the 2020 13 elections based upon the particular needs of the county's 14 voters; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating and establishing 17 additional VSCs, consideration be given to the use of state 18 libraries and other state or county locations; and 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consideration be given to 21 staffing the VSCs with trained volunteers from non-partisan 22 civic organizations; and

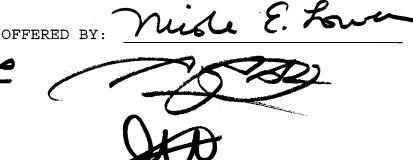
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election 26 Officer, Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the City and County of 27 Honolulu, Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the County of Hawaii, 28 Mayor and Office of the Clerk of the County of Maui, and Mayor 29 and Office of the Clerk of the County of Kauai.

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