
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
OF THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF IMPLEMENTING TERM LIMITS
FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, when the United States Supreme Court decided in
2 *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), that certain campaign
3 spending limits would not have to be observed, the ability of
4 nonincumbents to challenge elected officials was substantially
5 impaired; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 1974, the year of the only state election
8 having mandatory spending limits, twenty-two new members were
9 elected to the House of Representatives and eight new members
10 were elected to the Senate; and
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12 WHEREAS, forty-three percent of the representatives and
13 thirty-two percent of the senators elected in Hawaii in 1974
14 were new to the Legislature; and
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16 WHEREAS, fifteen states have imposed term limits on their
17 state legislators and thirty-six states have imposed term limits
18 on their governors; and
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20 WHEREAS, twenty-three states have imposed term limits on
21 the members of their delegations to the United States House of
22 Representatives and United States Senate; and
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24 WHEREAS, the expenses for nonincumbents seeking election to
25 the Legislature and the small chance of winning leads to a
26 reduction in the number of seriously contested races, which
27 results in voter apathy and the undermining of the entire
28 foundation and process of representative democracy; now,
29 therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



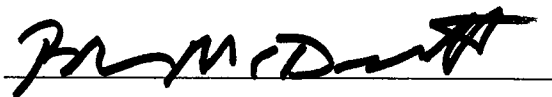
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1 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference
2 Bureau is requested to conduct a study of the benefits and
3 drawbacks of implementing term limits for members of the
4 Legislature; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
7 Bureau is requested to submit a report of the Bureau's findings
8 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
9 convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
13 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY:


FEB 24 2021

