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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE CIVIC EDUCATION TO  
CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FEASIBILITY AND  
IMPLICATIONS OF LOWERING THE VOTING AGE FOR STATE AND LOCAL  
ELECTIONS FROM EIGHTEEN TO SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

1           WHEREAS, over one-half of registered voters, and slightly  
2 less than one-third of voters aged eighteen to twenty-nine years  
3 of age, cast ballots in Hawaii during the 2018 general election;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, studies show that voting is a habit that may be  
7 acquired during a voter's first election; and

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9           WHEREAS, early voting experiences are an important  
10 determinant of future voting behavior and developing a regular  
11 routine of voting activism at an early age tends to  
12 significantly increase the probability that the person will  
13 continue to vote in future elections; and

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15           WHEREAS, evidence from jurisdictions that lowered the  
16 voting age to sixteen years of age demonstrates that sixteen  
17 years of age, rather than eighteen years of age, is a better  
18 time to start the habit of voting; and

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20           WHEREAS, this evidence suggests that extending voting  
21 rights to Hawaii residents aged sixteen and seventeen, coupled  
22 with robust civic education at the high school level, will  
23 likely increase the civic engagement of young people and help  
24 instill a culture of voting that will lead to higher voter  
25 turnout among all demographics in the State; and

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27           WHEREAS, sixteen- and seventeen-year-old persons should be  
28 able to vote on matters that directly impact them since they



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1 work and pay taxes; drive; and, in some cases, may be married,  
2 have children, or even be tried in adult courts; and

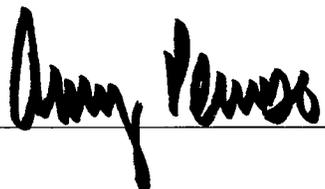
3  
4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Supreme Court adopted new Rule 23 of  
5 the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii, creating  
6 the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education; and

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8 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Commission to Promote and  
9 Advance Civic Education is to promote and advance civic  
10 education for students and citizens throughout the State; now,  
11 therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
15 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Commission to Promote  
16 and Advance Civic Education is urged to conduct a comprehensive  
17 analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the  
18 voting age for state and local elections from eighteen to  
19 sixteen years of age; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission to Promote and  
22 Advance Civic Education is requested to submit this report to  
23 the Governor and the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
24 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief  
28 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and Chairperson of the  
29 Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education.

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31  
32 OFFERED BY: 

MAR 01 2021