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



H.R. NO. 52

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Supreme Court adopted new Rule 23 of
2 the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii, creating
3 the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education; and
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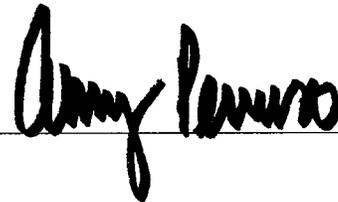
5 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Commission to Promote and
6 Advance Civic Education is to promote and advance civic
7 education for students and citizens throughout the State; now,
8 therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2021, that the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic
13 Education is urged to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the
14 feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for
15 state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission to Promote and
19 Advance Civic Education is requested to submit this report to
20 the Governor and the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
21 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief Justice of the
25 Hawaii Supreme Court, and Chairperson of the Commission to
26 Promote and Advance Civic Education.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 01 2021

