
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ALLOWING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE
IN FLOOR SESSIONS REMOTELY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

1 WHEREAS, the ongoing global respiratory disease pandemic
2 named "coronavirus disease 2019", or COVID-19 continues to pose
3 a serious health, safety, and economic risk to Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, since the first reported case of COVID-19 in
6 Hawaii on March 6, 2020, there have been over twenty-five
7 thousand cases and over four hundred deaths in the State alone;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, according to the director of the Centers for
11 Disease Control and Prevention, a COVID-19 vaccine may not be
12 widely available for most Americans until mid-2021; and
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14 WHEREAS, in accordance with the Constitution of the State
15 of Hawaii, the Legislature convened the Regular Session of 2021
16 at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 2021; and
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18 WHEREAS, although the Legislature anticipates addressing
19 several critical issues facing the State and approving the
20 State's biennial budgets during the Regular Session of 2021, the
21 House of Representatives is concerned about the health and
22 safety of its 51 members, some of whom may be at an increased
23 risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19; and
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25 WHEREAS, during the Regular Session of 2020, the House of
26 Representatives amended its rules to temporarily allow members
27 to participate in committee meetings and floor sessions
28 remotely; and
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30 WHEREAS, remote participation allowed members to safely
31 perform their legislative duties without compromising their
32 health or the health of others; and



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1 WHEREAS, the House of Representative's temporary remote
2 participation rule was repealed on January 19, 2021; and

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4 WHEREAS, Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution of the
5 State of Hawaii specifically grants to each chamber the power to
6 determine the rules of its proceedings; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2021, that members of the House of Representatives may
11 participate in floor sessions remotely by videoconference for:

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13 (1) Medical reasons; or
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15 (2) Any other reason upon the approval of the Speaker or
16 the Speaker's designee; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members participating remotely
19 via videoconference shall be:

- 20
21 (1) Visible and audible to other members and the public
22 during the floor sessions unless the House of
23 Representatives is in recess; and
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25 (2) Considered present and in attendance at the floor
26 sessions, including for purposes of determining if
27 quorum is present and voting.
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that floor sessions may be
30 temporarily recessed when visual or audio communication cannot
31 be maintained with a quorum of members participating remotely or
32 with the location where the floor session is being held.
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OFFERED BY: *Allen A. Kaula*

JAN 29 2021

