

MAR 10 2022

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING STATE BOARDS TO FACILITATE REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS AND PROVIDE BOARD PACKETS IN ADVANCE OF BOARD MEETINGS.

1           WHEREAS, there are over one hundred seventy state boards,  
2 councils, authorities, committees, and commissions, hereinafter  
3 collectively referred to as "boards", that are established by  
4 the Constitution of Hawaii, state statutes, and executive  
5 orders; and

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7           WHEREAS, these boards exist to give citizens a voice in  
8 government and provide an opportunity for a cross-section of the  
9 State's residents to offer vital input to influence decisions  
10 that shape the quality of life for the residents of Hawaii; and

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12           WHEREAS, given the important role of these boards, it is  
13 critical to promote public access and the ability to participate  
14 in their meetings; and

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16           WHEREAS, chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires  
17 every meeting of all government boards to be open to the public  
18 unless otherwise provided by law; and

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20           WHEREAS, government boards successfully implemented  
21 interactive conference technology that allowed board members and  
22 the public to participate in board meetings remotely during the  
23 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic; and

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25           WHEREAS, the expanded public access and participation made  
26 possible through interactive conference technology was of great  
27 utility and benefit for all persons, especially for individuals  
28 with disabilities and residents of rural areas and neighbor  
29 islands; and

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31           WHEREAS, given the expanded access and participation  
32 afforded by remote participation in board meetings, technologies  
33 that facilitate remote participation should be made a permanent  
34 component of board meetings; and



1 WHEREAS, chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, also requires  
2 boards to provide advance notice of board meetings to persons  
3 who request such notice and make "board packets"--documents that  
4 are compiled by the board and distributed to board members  
5 before a meeting for use at that meeting--available for public  
6 inspection; and

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8 WHEREAS, chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, does not,  
9 however, presently require board packets to be provided to  
10 interested persons in advance of board meetings; and

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12 WHEREAS, the provision of board packets to interested  
13 persons in advance of board meetings will promote more informed  
14 and meaningful public participation in board meetings; now,  
15 therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
19 that the heads of the departments and agencies that have  
20 administrative control over or supervise boards are urged to  
21 provide interactive conferencing technology to facilitate remote  
22 participation in board meetings; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the heads of the departments  
25 and agencies that have administrative control over or supervise  
26 boards are urged to provide, or cause to be provided, board  
27 packets to persons requesting the board packets at least twenty-  
28 four hours prior to the board meeting to which the board packet  
29 pertains; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and heads of each  
33 executive department of the State.

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35  
36 OFFERED BY:



