

MAR 10 2022

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

6  
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

11  
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

15  
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

19  
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

24  
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

30  
31          WHEREAS, given the expanded access and participation  
32          afforded by remote participation in board meetings, technologies



S.C.R. NO. 66

1 that facilitate remote participation should be made a permanent  
2 component of board meetings; and

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

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

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

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

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

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and heads  
37 of each executive department of the State.

38  
39  
40 OFFERED BY: Jane Acasio

