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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A  
PROPOSAL TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE COST AND PERSONNEL  
REQUIRED TO PREPARE AND DISTRIBUTE A VOTER INFORMATION  
GUIDE.

1           WHEREAS, public confidence in the conduct of elections is  
2 essential to the operation of self-governance; and  
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4           WHEREAS, the public needs access to information on  
5 candidates for elected office and ballot questions in a clear,  
6 standardized format; and  
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8           WHEREAS, there is increasing demand for access to  
9 information in a digital format; and  
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11           WHEREAS, voters with special-needs require adaptive  
12 technology to access digital information; and  
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14           WHEREAS, voters may require ballot information to be made  
15 available in their native language; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the House of Representatives established the  
18 Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct pursuant to House  
19 Resolution No. 9, Regular Session of 2022, with the essential  
20 goal of providing recommendations that would help restore public  
21 trust in state government and increase the level of transparency  
22 in its operations and accountability of individuals; and  
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24           WHEREAS, the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct  
25 convened regularly throughout 2022 to diligently review,  
26 discuss, and consider the issues presented; submit an interim  
27 report to the House of Representatives outlining areas of  
28 immediate and long-term focus; receive input from the public and  
29 invited individuals and agencies; and issue a final report with  
30 various recommendations and accompanying proposed legislation;  
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WHEREAS, one of the recommendations made by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct was to require the Office of Elections to prepare a voter information guide that includes candidate statements and statements on ballot questions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the Office of Elections is requested to prepare a proposal detailing the cost and personnel required to prepare and distribute a voter information guide in a printed format, digital format, and screen reader-accessible format for voters with special needs who are unable to read standard print due to disability; and a translation of the digital voter information guide in Olelo Hawaii, Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog, and any other language as required by federal or state law on the Office of Elections' website. The voter information guide would include:

- (1) A photograph and short statement of less than one hundred fifty words for each candidate running for public office, to be prepared by the candidate; provided that the Office of Elections may uniformly limit the number of words for the candidate statement by applicable public office;
- (2) A clear and concise explanation drafted by the Department of the Attorney General of each state constitutional amendment that will be proposed to voters in the next general election; and
- (3) A clear and concise explanation drafted by the appropriate county corporation counsel for each proposed county charter amendment, proposed initiative, and proposed referendum issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections is requested to include in its cost estimate the cost to print and mail a physical copy of the voter information guide to any voter upon request, and to prepare and mail with each ballot for a primary election a notice to voters that a digital voter

1 information guide is available on the Office of Elections'  
2 website and send the notice by electronic mail to all voters  
3 with special needs who have registered to receive alternate  
4 format ballots; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information made available  
7 over the Internet as part of the voter information guide would  
8 need to meet or exceed the most current, ratified standards  
9 under section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29  
10 U.S.C. 794d), as amended, and the Web Content Accessibility  
11 Guidelines 2.0 adopted by the World Wide Web Consortium for  
12 accessibility; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Elections is  
15 requested to submit the proposal to the Legislature no later  
16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
17 of 2024; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chief Election  
21 Officer.

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OFFERED BY: David Carnas

MAR 10 2023

