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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE YEAR-  
ROUND LEGISLATURE MODELS OF CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK,  
PENNSYLVANIA, AND WISCONSIN TO CLARIFY THE SIMILARITIES AND  
DIFFERENCES IN OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO LEGISLATIVE  
SCHEDULES, OPERATIONAL COSTS, LEGISLATIVE AND STAFF  
SALARIES, AND POLICIES REGARDING OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT.

1           WHEREAS, the constitutionally mandated length of a  
2 legislative session is sixty working days per year, generally  
3 stretching from the third Wednesday in January until early May;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, certain facets of community engagement, emergency  
7 response, and other operational aspects of the Legislature could  
8 be improved by requiring the Legislature to be in session  
9 throughout the whole year; and

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11           WHEREAS, a year-round Legislature in Hawaii could provide a  
12 more thorough understanding of public sentiment, as lawmakers  
13 have increased opportunities to interact with their constituents  
14 and stakeholders and analyze community needs in greater detail,  
15 which enables them to have a more precise understanding of  
16 public opinion on a wide range of social and economic issues;  
17 and

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19           WHEREAS, legislatures in the nation with longer legislative  
20 sessions are more likely to establish policies that address  
21 specific concerns of their state, rather than applying policies  
22 from other states and national lobbying organizations; and

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24           WHEREAS, a year-round Legislature would also increase  
25 transparency as it would provide lawmakers more time to address  
26 statewide issues while also providing more opportunity for  
27 public input and engagement; and



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2 WHEREAS, however, a year-long Legislature would require  
3 increased staffing and resources; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the costs associated with a year-long Legislature  
6 have not been studied in depth and there is no understanding of  
7 the potential financial burden on taxpayers if the Legislature  
8 were to operate year-round; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
12 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative  
13 Reference Bureau is requested to study the year-round  
14 legislature models of California, New York, Pennsylvania, and  
15 Wisconsin to clarify the similarities and differences in  
16 operations with respect to legislative schedules, operational  
17 costs, legislative and staff salaries, and policies regarding  
18 outside employment; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
21 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its study, including  
22 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the  
23 Legislature no later than forty-five days prior to the convening  
24 of the Regular Session of 2025; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
28 Legislative Reference Bureau.

