

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP ON
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION.

1 WHEREAS, every eligible person should be able to register
2 to vote in a convenient and secure way that is beneficial to new
3 voters and administrators alike; and
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5 WHEREAS, key voter registration improvements can ensure
6 state election systems are secure and efficient, safeguard
7 votes, and save money; and
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9 WHEREAS, in the 2024 primary election, for example, the
10 State experienced its lowest turnout in sixty-five years, with
11 only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot; and
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13 WHEREAS, to improve statewide voter turnout, the State must
14 enact measures that strengthen the right to vote; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2021, the State established automatic voter
17 registration to increase the State's historically low voter
18 participation rates; and
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20 WHEREAS, the automatic voter registration system
21 established by the Legislature was an opt-in system that places
22 the responsibility for voter registration on the part of
23 individual voters, which fails to fully include the total
24 potential population of new voters; and
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26 WHEREAS, changing the State's automatic voter registration
27 system from an opt-in to an opt-out model would maximize
28 democratic participation by making voter registration as
29 streamlined as possible; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
33 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of



S.C.R. NO. 158

1 Elections is requested to convene a working group on automatic
2 voter registration; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
5 to make recommendations regarding changing the State's automatic
6 voter registration initiative to be an opt-out program; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
9 to consist of the following members:

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- 11 (1) The Chief Election Officer, or the Chief Election
- 12 Officer's designee, who is requested to serve as the
- 13 working group's chairperson;
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- 15 (2) The Director of the Department of Customer Services of
- 16 the City and County of Honolulu, or the Director's
- 17 designee;
- 18
- 19 (3) A representative from Common Cause Hawaii;
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- 21 (4) A representative from the League of Women Voters of
- 22 Honolulu; and
- 23
- 24 (5) A representative from the Institute for Responsive
- 25 Government; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
28 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
29 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
30 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
31 of 2026; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Elections
35 Officer, Director of the Department of Customer Services of the
36 City and County of Honolulu, Executive Director of Common Cause
37 Hawaii, President of the League of Women Voters of Honolulu, and
38 Executive Director of the Institute for Responsive Government.

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41 OFFERED BY: Karl Abrahams

