
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE HAWAII STATE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS CONVENE A
WORKING GROUP ON AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION.

1 WHEREAS, the legislature finds that every eligible person
2 should be able to register to vote in a convenient and secure
3 way that is beneficial to new voters and administrators alike;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, key voter registration improvements can ensure
7 state election systems are secure and efficient, safeguard
8 votes, and save money; and
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10 WHEREAS, in the 2024 primary election, for example, our
11 state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1
12 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot; and
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14 WHEREAS, to improve statewide voter turnout, we must enact
15 measures that strengthen the right to vote; and
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17 WHEREAS, in 2021, Hawaii established automatic voter
18 registration to increase the State's historically low voter
19 participation rates; and
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21 WHEREAS, the automatic voter registration system
22 established by the legislature was an opt-in system that places
23 the responsibility for registration on the part of individual
24 voters, which fails to fully include the total potential
25 population of new voters; and
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27 WHEREAS, changing the state's automatic voter registration
28 system from an opt-in to an opt-out model would maximize
29 democratic participation by making voter registration as
30 streamlined as possible; now, therefore,
31



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State Office of
4 Elections is requested to convene a working group on automatic
5 voter registration; and

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

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
12 to consist of the following members:

- 13
14 (1) The Chief Election Officer for the Hawaii State Office
15 of Elections or the Chief Election Officer's designee,
16 who is requested to serve as the working group's
17 Chairperson;
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19 (2) The Director of the Honolulu Department of Customer
20 Services or the director's designee;
21
22 (3) A representative from Common Cause Hawaii;
23
24 (4) A representative from the League of Women Voters;
25
26 (5) A representative from the Institute for Responsive
27 Government; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
30 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
31 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
32 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
33 2026; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Elections Officer for the
37 Hawaii State Office of Elections and the Director of the
38 Honolulu Department of Customer Services.
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40
41



H.R. NO. 176

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "F. D. R.", written over a horizontal line.

MAR - 7 2025

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