

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

4  
5 WHEREAS, key voter registration improvements can ensure  
6 state election systems are secure and efficient, safeguard  
7 votes, and save money; and

8  
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

12  
13 WHEREAS, to improve statewide voter turnout, the State must  
14 enact measures that strengthen the right to vote; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, in 2021, the State established automatic voter  
17 registration to increase the State's historically low voter  
18 participation rates; and

19  
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

25  
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,

30  
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

3  
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

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
9 to consist of the following members:

- 10  
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;  
14  
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;  
20  
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  
26

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  
32

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.  
39  
40  
41

OFFERED BY: Karl Abrah

