

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO REPLACE THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ELECTED BY VOTERS, TO OVERSEE ELECTIONS.

1           WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Congress enacted the  
2 National Voter Registration Act, which mandated that each state  
3 designate a chief election official to oversee elections in that  
4 state; and

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6           WHEREAS, each state has enacted its own legislation  
7 relating to elections and, therefore, no two states have the  
8 exact same election administration mechanisms, including  
9 election boards or commissions, secretaries of state, and chief  
10 election officers; and

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12           WHEREAS, duties of the chief election official or election  
13 board vary, and in some states, their secretary of state  
14 maintains additional duties outside of election oversight,  
15 including but not limited to campaign finance regulation and  
16 licensing in the State; and

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18           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, article IV, section 3, of the Hawaii  
19 State Constitution, requires the Legislature to provide for a  
20 Chief Election Officer of the State; and

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22           WHEREAS, pursuant to section 11-1.6, Hawaii Revised  
23 Statutes, the Chief Election Officer is appointed by the State's  
24 Elections Commission and the appointment is not subject to the  
25 advice and consent of the Senate nor is the position elected by  
26 voters; and

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28           WHEREAS, forty-seven states have the position of secretary  
29 of state and thirty-three states elect their chief election  
30 official; and



1           WHEREAS, while decentralized and state-based election  
2 systems are critical to adaptability and fraud prevention,  
3 aligning Hawaii's elections procedures with other states would  
4 promote better standardization within the states' voting  
5 systems; now, therefore,  
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7           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
10 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study to assess  
11 existing legal authority establishing and governing the state  
12 official responsible for supervising elections in the State and  
13 determine the necessary steps, including legislation, that would  
14 be required to replace the Chief Election Officer with a  
15 Secretary of State, elected by voters, to oversee elections; and  
16

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
18 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
20 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
21 the regular session of 2027; and  
22

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
25 Legislative Reference Bureau.  
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27  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.