

MAR 1 6 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
TO AMEND ITS INTERNAL RULES TO ELIMINATE THE FORMAL VOTE
OPTION OF "WITH RESERVATIONS".

1 WHEREAS, at the start of each biennium, each chamber of the
2 Legislature adopts its own set of procedural rules setting out
3 how votes are taken, what options members have, and how votes
4 are formally recorded; and

5
6 WHEREAS, both chambers of the Hawaii State Legislature
7 currently permit members to vote "aye" or "no" on a measure, in
8 addition to voting "with reservations"; and

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10 WHEREAS, Rule 71(1) of the 2025-2026 Rules of the Senate
11 states "a member voting "with reservations" shall be counted as
12 a favorable vote"; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Rule 11.6(2) of the 2025-2026 Rules of the House
15 of Representatives specifies for committee decision making "any
16 member voting "with reservations" shall be deemed to be in favor
17 of the recommendation" with the same holding true in practice
18 for floor votes, though not explicitly stated; and

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20 WHEREAS, while "with reservations" votes allow members to
21 keep a bill alive while still indicating their lack of total
22 support, it oftentimes is employed to avoid having to record a
23 clear stance; and

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25 WHEREAS, the 76 members of the Hawaii State Legislature are
26 expected by their constituencies to vote for or against
27 policies, yet the lack of a binary vote requirement lets
28 legislators straddle both sides of an issue; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature is unique in that it
31 is the only state legislature which permits "with reservations"
32 as a formal vote; and



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2 WHEREAS, with the start of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature
3 occurring in a few months' time, this voting method which sets
4 us apart from the rest of the nation will again be reconsidered;
5 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 members of the Thirty-
10 Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
11 2027, are requested to amend the internal rules of both chambers
12 to eliminate the formal vote option of "with reservations"; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Chief Clerk and
15 House Chief Clerk are to send copies of this Resolution upon
16 official certification of the 2026 general election results to
17 all duly elected members of the Legislature; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Chief Clerk and
20 House Chief Clerk are to also send copies of this Resolution to
21 the 12 members of the Hawaii State Senate whose terms continue
22 into the Thirty-Fourth Legislature at this same time; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Senate Chief Clerk
26 and the House Chief Clerk.
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OFFERED BY: 

