

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL FROM WITHIN THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO TEMPORARILY SERVE AS THE ACTING CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY.

1 WHEREAS, free, fair, and certified elections are the  
2 foundation of a transparent and functioning democracy; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, article IV, section 3, of the Hawaii  
5 State Constitution, requires the Legislature to provide for a  
6 Chief Election Officer of the State, whose role is to supervise  
7 state elections and perform related duties as provided by law;  
8 and  
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10 WHEREAS, section 11-155, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires  
11 the Chief Election Officer to compile, certify, and release the  
12 election results in state elections; and  
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14 WHEREAS, if a vacancy were to occur without a clear interim  
15 successor, there would be no one authorized to compile, certify,  
16 and release the results of state elections, undermining public  
17 trust, creating legal ambiguity, and potentially  
18 disenfranchising voters across the State; and  
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20 WHEREAS, without a designated backup to the Chief Election  
21 Officer, the State risks facing a significant disruption in  
22 election administration authority at a critical moment in its  
23 electoral process; and  
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25 WHEREAS, at a time when election integrity is being  
26 challenged nationwide, the State must ensure continuity,  
27 clarity, and stability in its election administration; now,  
28 therefore,  
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
32 that the Governor is requested to appoint an individual from  
33 within the Office of Elections to temporarily serve as the  
34 acting Chief Election Officer in the event of a vacancy in the  
35 following order of succession:



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- (1) The supervisor of election support services to the extent available to serve, and if not, then;
- (2) The general counsel to the extent available to serve, and if not, then;
- (3) The supervisor of counting center operations to the extent available to serve, and if not, then;
- (4) The supervisor of ballot operations to the extent available to serve, and if not, then; and
- (5) The supervisor of voter services to the extent available to serve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chief Election Officer.

OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.