

MAR 16 2026

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO  
STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR TO REACHING  
VOTING AGE.

1 WHEREAS, civic participation is fundamental to a healthy  
2 democracy and that young adults aged eighteen to twenty-four  
3 represent a growing portion of Hawaii's electorate; and  
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5 WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau,  
6 fewer than forty per cent of young adults participated in state  
7 elections from 2014 to 2024; and  
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9 WHEREAS, voting at a young age creates and empowers  
10 lifelong voters, as data shows that after an individual votes  
11 once, the individual often becomes a habitual voter; and  
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13 WHEREAS, this lack of participation is primarily the result  
14 of informational and time barriers, which have pronounced  
15 effects on youth from low-income backgrounds, who are twice as  
16 likely to miss registration deadlines or run out of time; and  
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18 WHEREAS, by making information on voter preregistration and  
19 registration more accessible for people sixteen years of age and  
20 older, the State can empower a new generation of lifelong  
21 voters; and  
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23 WHEREAS, public schools, including charter schools, are  
24 excellent venues for preregistering and registering students to  
25 vote, since schools already require participation in a democracy  
26 and civics class for graduation, and therefore have the  
27 foundation to help increase civic engagement; now, therefore,  
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
31 that the Department of Education provide information to students  
32 on how to preregister to vote prior to reaching voting age; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
2 urged to provide specific information regarding:

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4 (1) Voting eligibility information and guidance published  
5 by the office of elections;

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7 (2) Procedures for properly completing and submitting a  
8 voter registration application to the Hawaii online  
9 voter registration system, the appropriate county  
10 clerk, or through other lawful means;

11  
12 (3) Information on opportunities to register to vote; and

13  
14 (4) Information on opportunities for students sixteen  
15 years of age or older to volunteer at a voter service  
16 center, including information on how to sign up  
17 through the office of elections website; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
20 make available paper copies of voter registration and  
21 preregistration application forms; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
24 make available resources describing accessible voting options  
25 and accommodations to students who require assistance to vote  
26 due to a disability, visual or hearing impairment, or inability  
27 to read or write; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
30 designate the last two full weeks in September of each year as  
31 "high school voter registration and preregistration weeks",  
32 which shall include activities to:

33  
34 (1) Raise civic awareness among high school students;

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36 (2) Encourage eligible students ages sixteen or seventeen  
37 to preregister or register to vote; and

38  
39 (3) Include, to the extent available, state or county  
40 election employees or officials who can preregister  
41 and register students at school personnel campuses;  
42 and



S.R. NO. 99

1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education.  
4  
5  
6

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chen', written over a horizontal line.