
SENATE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, civic participation is fundamental to a healthy
2 democracy and young adults aged eighteen to twenty-four
3 represent a growing portion of the State's electorate; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau,
6 fewer than forty percent 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 youth participation is primarily the
14 result 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,
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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 is urged to provide information
32 to students on how to preregister to vote before reaching voting
33 age; and



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

- (1) Voting eligibility information and guidance published by the Office of Elections;
- (2) Procedures for properly completing and submitting a voter registration application to the State's online voter registration system, the appropriate County Clerk, or through other lawful means;
- (3) Information on opportunities to register to vote; and
- (4) Information on opportunities for students sixteen years of age or older to volunteer at a voter service center, including information on how to sign up through the Office of Elections website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to make available paper copies of voter registration and preregistration application forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to make available resources describing accessible voting options and accommodations to students who require assistance to vote due to a disability, visual or hearing impairment, or inability to read or write; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to designate the last two full weeks in September of each year as "high school voter registration and preregistration weeks", and include activities to:

- (1) Raise civic awareness among high school students;
- (2) Encourage eligible students ages sixteen or seventeen to preregister or register to vote; and
- (3) Facilitate interactions with state or county election employees or officials who can preregister and



1 register students at school campuses, to the extent
2 available; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
6 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Chief Election
7 Officer.

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