

MAR 17 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING STATEWIDE NEWS MEDIA AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS TO INCREASE
COVERAGE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES.

1 WHEREAS, active participation by an informed electorate is
2 essential to the preservation of democracy; and
3

4 WHEREAS, according to data reported by the United States
5 Census Bureau, voter participation in Hawaii is among the lowest
6 in the nation, reaching its lowest point in 2004 when Hawaii had
7 the lowest participation rate in the nation; and
8

9 WHEREAS, according to the Pacific Business News, Hawaii's
10 voter turnout rate for the 2008 general election was 65.9 per
11 cent, representing a decrease in electoral participation since
12 the prior presidential election year; and
13

14 WHEREAS, a robust and active local news media plays an
15 important role in informing citizens about the workings of their
16 government; and
17

18 WHEREAS, according to a recent study by the University of
19 Delaware, news media consolidation over the last decade has
20 resulted in decreased coverage of local news; and
21

22 WHEREAS, television stations and newspapers in this State
23 have laid off experienced staff, including reporters, editors,
24 and producers, over the past year and have either not hired
25 replacements or have hired replacements with little to no
26 experience, thus negatively impacting the stations' and
27 newspapers' ability to produce high-quality news reporting; and
28

29 WHEREAS, many of the local issues that face reduced
30 coverage involve state and local governmental matters; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the citizens of Hawaii deserve the opportunity to
33 become informed about their state and local governments so that



1 they can fully participate in the political process; now,
2 therefore,

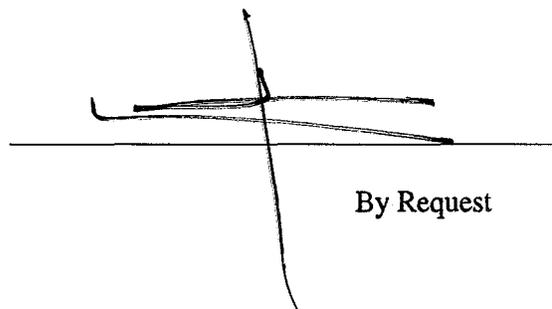
3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that members of the press,
7 including reporters, writers, editors, and support staff of
8 television, radio, print, and electronic media are encouraged to
9 make free, fair, and thorough coverage of state and local
10 government issues a priority in their work; and

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that management and ownership
13 interests of Hawaii's media outlets are encouraged to provide
14 balanced, accurate, and comprehensive coverage of state and
15 local government and policy issues to ensure an informed and
16 engaged citizenry; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the
20 State of Hawaii, the Mayors of the respective counties, the
21 presiding officer of each county council, and major media
22 outlets throughout the State of Hawaii.

23
24
25

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature is written over a horizontal line. The signature is a cursive-style name that is partially obscured by a vertical line drawn through it. The vertical line extends above and below the horizontal line.

By Request

