
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO BROADCAST MORE LEGISLATIVE
PROCEEDINGS AND POST THEM ON THE LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE.

1 WHEREAS, transparency promotes accountability and provides
2 information for citizens about what their government is doing on
3 their behalf; and
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5 WHEREAS, transparency is government's obligation to share
6 information with citizens, while providing the people the
7 opportunity to tell their elected officials what they think of a
8 particular piece of legislation, before it comes up for a vote;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, a more transparent government begins with public
12 engagement which enhances the government's effectiveness and
13 improves the quality of its decisions; and
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15 WHEREAS, without the ability to watch legislative hearings
16 and floor sessions, a huge segment of our population is excluded
17 from observing the legislative process; and
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19 WHEREAS, with fewer newspapers and TV news outlets in our
20 state, there is reduced news coverage pertaining to the
21 legislature, making citizens further removed from the
22 legislative process; and
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24 WHEREAS, the legislature has the opportunity to address the
25 lack of transparency and public participation by using the
26 technology we have at our disposal today through video,
27 webcasting, and audio transmission to the public; and
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29 WHEREAS, for our democracy to work properly, citizens are
30 making every effort to stay more closely informed and engaged
31 than ever before to engage in and become more involved in the
32 political processes; and



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WHEREAS, anyone that has the capability to view or monitor government proceedings can easily keep informed and be able to voice their approval or objection via email or post on a website or blog a link to a precise segment of a particular hearing or floor session; and

WHEREAS, broadcasting hearings and floor sessions will allow all interested citizens and stakeholders to evaluate, scrutinize, or support their elected officials' work at their discretion; and

WHEREAS, although the House of Representatives and Senate broadcasts selected hearings to the public, only the Senate makes the broadcast available on-demand on the legislature's website; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the legislature is requested to broadcast video or transmit audio of committee hearings and floor sessions to the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the video or audio transmission be made available on the legislature's website for future viewing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate President, and the respective leaders of the House and Senate Majority caucuses.

OFFERED BY:

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