
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A VOTER
PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE ON VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER
TURNOUT IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's voter turnout percentage has
2 significantly declined since statehood in 1959, when voter
3 turnout stood at ninety-four percent of registered voters; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawaii presently ranks among the bottom of the
6 fifty states in the percentage of registered voters who turn out
7 to vote; and
8

9 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii stood at thirty-seven
10 percent in the 2008 primary election and sixty-six percent in
11 the 2008 general election; and
12

13 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii stood at forty-three
14 percent in the 2010 primary election and fifty-six percent in
15 the 2010 general election; and
16

17 WHEREAS, voter participation is the hallmark of an
18 effective democracy; and
19

20 WHEREAS, diminishing voter participation rates mean that
21 fewer people are involved in the selection of elected officials
22 and this threatens to undermine the strength of a representative
23 form of government; and
24

25 WHEREAS, innovative efforts have been undertaken in other
26 states to successfully reduce barriers to voting and encourage
27 voter participation; now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2012, that the Lieutenant Governor is requested to convene a
32 voter participation task force to:
33



- 1 (1) Study voter participation rates in Hawaii, including
2 voter turnout among registered voters and all eligible
3 voters;
4
- 5 (2) Review existing laws and practices regarding voter
6 registration in Hawaii, including requirements for
7 community groups conducting voter registration drives,
8 and identify barriers to voting;
9
- 10 (3) Analyze ways to improve Hawaii's voter registration
11 and voter turnout, including voter modernization
12 efforts to potentially improve voter participation
13 including but not limited to election day
14 registration, online registration, universal or
15 automatic voter registration, voting by mail, voter
16 registration drives, and shortening the thirty-day
17 deadline for voter registration, and assess the
18 feasibility of implementing those efforts in Hawaii;
19 and
20
- 21 (4) Study best practices or innovations in other states
22 that have resulted in improved voter participation and
23 the feasibility of implementing those practices in
24 Hawaii; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter participation task
27 force include:

- 28
- 29 (1) One representative of the Office of Elections;
30
- 31 (2) One representative of each of the offices of the City
32 Clerk for the City and County of Honolulu and the
33 County Clerk for the County of Kauai, County of Maui,
34 and County of Hawaii;
35
- 36 (3) One representative of the University of Hawaii
37 political science or public administration department,
38 to be selected by the President of the Senate;
39
- 40 (4) One representative of the University of Hawaii
41 political science or public administration department,
42 to be selected by the Speaker of the House of
43 Representatives;
44



1 (5) Two representatives, one to be selected by the
2 President of the Senate and one to be selected by the
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, each from a
4 separate nonpartisan public interest group that works
5 on voting and elections issues; and
6

7 (6) Two members representing young eligible voters to be
8 selected by the President of the Associated Students
9 of the University of Hawaii; and
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all members of the task force
12 shall be registered voters in the State of Hawaii; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lieutenant Governor convene
15 the first meeting of the task force no later than July 1, 2012;
16 and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a
19 preliminary report on its activities no later than twenty days
20 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter participation task
23 force report its findings and recommendations, including
24 proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than
25 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
26 2014; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter registration task
29 force and the Lieutenant Governor be available to provide
30 testimony to the Legislature on measures and for informational
31 briefings; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voter participation task
34 force cease to exist on the day of the adjournment of the
35 Regular Session of 2014; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor, Chief
39 Election Officer, City Clerk of Honolulu, Kauai County Clerk,
40 Maui County Clerk, Hawaii County Clerk, President of the
41 University of Hawaii System, Chair of the Department of
42 Political Science at the University of Hawaii, Chair of the
43 Department of Public Administration at the University of Hawaii,



1 and President of the Associated Students of the University of
2 Hawaii.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY: ~~Don D.C. Smith~~

Kelley
Tom Brown
Chris
Chris

Julia A. Bule
Hakshorn
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]