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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO  
CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO  
SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND TO DEVELOP A PILOT PROGRAM.

1       WHEREAS, Hawaii's current voting age is eighteen years of  
2 age; and

3  
4       WHEREAS, minors in Hawaii may begin working at fourteen  
5 years of age, making them eligible to pay taxes; and

6  
7       WHEREAS, many of these teenagers have a desire to be  
8 involved in the political process and exercise their rights as  
9 citizens; and

10  
11       WHEREAS, reducing the voting age would increase public  
12 involvement in the political process; and

13  
14       WHEREAS, many teenagers, upon reaching eighteen years of  
15 age, leave for college where there is often little support,  
16 encouragement, or instruction to begin voting; and

17  
18       WHEREAS, reducing the voting age to sixteen years of age  
19 would guarantee high school students at least one opportunity to  
20 vote prior to graduation and allow voting and civic engagement  
21 to be built into educational curricula with adequate  
22 protections; and

23  
24       WHEREAS, once people begin voting, their likelihood of  
25 continuing to vote is much higher, meaning that high rates of  
26 voting in high school would lead to an increase in civic  
27 participation and voter turnout among all age groups in the long  
28 run; now, therefore,



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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 2 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 3 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Chief Election  
 4 Officer is requested to convene a working group to:

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- 6 (1) Consider the feasibility of lowering the voting age to  
 7 sixteen years of age; and  
 8
- 9 (2) Develop a pilot program; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Election Officer is  
 12 requested to serve as chair of the working group and to invite  
 13 the following or their designee to serve as members of the  
 14 working group:

- 15
- 16 (1) The Superintendent of Education;  
 17
- 18 (2) A Senator appointed by the Senate President;  
 19
- 20 (3) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
 21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;  
 22
- 23 (4) A representative of Common Cause Hawaii; and  
 24
- 25 (5) Other members, as deemed appropriate by the Chief  
 26 Election Officer; and  
 27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 29 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
 30 including any proposed pilot program details and proposed  
 31 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
 32 to the convening of the regular session of 2016; and  
 33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Election  
 36 Officer, Superintendent of Education, and Chair of the Board of  
 37 Common Cause Hawaii.  
 38

39 *Cheung H. Au*  
 40 *Brenda K. Kuan*  
*Johanna G. ...*

OFFERED BY:

*[Signature]*  
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*Richard ...*



*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

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*Guthrie Thelen*

MAR 13 2015

