
HOUSE 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,
29

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



H.R. NO. 156

1 Session of 2015, that the Chief Election Officer is requested to
2 convene a working group to:

3

4 (1) Consider the feasibility of lowering the voting age to
5 sixteen years of age; and

6

7 (2) Develop a pilot program; and

8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Election Officer is
10 requested to serve as chair of the working group and to invite
11 the following or their designee to serve as members of the
12 working group:

13

14 (1) The Superintendent of Education;

15

16 (2) A Senator appointed by the Senate President;

17

18 (3) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by
19 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

20

21 (4) A representative of Common Cause Hawaii; and

22

23 (5) Other members, as deemed appropriate by the Chief
24 Election Officer; and

25

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

31

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

36

37

38

Colin H. ...
B. ...
Jakobi ...

OFFERED BY: *Claw*

Richard ...
Joe ...
...