HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING AN INCREASE IN THE STIPEND AMOUNTS OF ELECTION DAY OFFICIALS.

WHEREAS, each election, volunteers dedicate their time to Hawaii's elections process by serving as election day officials; and

WHEREAS, election day officials are integral to ensuring that elections in the State are conducted fairly and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, election day officials are recruited to assist voters, provide operational support, and ensure the integrity of the voting process and serve in various capacities as:

1. Control center operators who respond to telephone inquiries and requests from polling places using a computer-based call center system;
2. Counting center officials who process, tabulate, and disseminate election results;
3. Delivery/collection officials who deliver ballots and election supplies to polling places on election morning, and collect voted ballots and election supplies after the polls have closed on election day;
4. Election information services officials who respond to general inquiries from the public and forward special circumstances to appropriate officials;
5. Facility officials, who set up election equipment at polling places on election eve, provide access to polling places on election day, and disassemble and
store the election equipment after the polls close on
election day;

(6) Precinct officials who assist voters at polling places
while ensuring the integrity of the voting process; and

(7) Precinct troubleshooters who monitor the polling
places to ensure officials are following standard
operating procedures and replenish supplies as
necessary; and

WHEREAS, election day officials are compensated according
to a stipend schedule that is approved by the Chief Election
Officer; and

WHEREAS, stipends per election for election day officials
are based on their position, for example, an election
information services official is paid a stipend of $85, a
counting center official is paid a stipend in the range of $85
to $95, and most precinct officials are paid a stipend of $85
but the stipend ranges from $5 to $175, depending on the scope
of responsibilities and other factors; and

WHEREAS, the stipend amount per election varies based on
workloads and time differentials or at the Chief Election
Officer's discretion, and election expenses are paid out of
appropriations made by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, to serve as an election day official, one must
commit to a 60- to 90-minute training session that occurs before
the election day; and

WHEREAS, our State relies on a dedicated pool of election
day officials who begin work on election day at 5:30 a.m. in
time for the polls to open at 7 a.m., and work past 6 p.m., when
the polls close; and

WHEREAS, some polling places are understaffed because not
enough election day officials can be recruited; and
WHEREAS, the stipend amounts for election day officials have not increased since 2006, and increasing the stipend amounts will enable greater retention and recruitment of election day officials, thereby supporting a sustained level of service to voters in the State; and

WHEREAS, the scope of responsibilities of election day officials, the length of their work day on election day, and the shortage of volunteers serving as election day officials merit an increase in the stipends of election day officials; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Office of Elections, in consultation with the Legislature, is urged to increase the amounts of the stipends of election day officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Election Officer is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2019 regarding its recommendations for increasing the amounts of the stipends for election day officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii and the Chief Election Officer.

OFFERED BY: [Signatures]