HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE FACTORS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW VOTER TURNOUT IN ELECTIONS IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, citizen participation in the electoral process is essential for a functioning, thriving democracy, where citizens actively choose the persons they believe are most suited to represent their interests in the political process; and

WHEREAS, when the electorate opts outs of their responsibility to vote, democracy declines and public confidence and support of the government is undermined; and

WHEREAS, the impetus for mail-in elections in Hawaii was largely based on data showing increased voter turnout in other states that implemented mail-in voting; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for data on the factors influencing low voter turnout in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, data on factors influencing low voter participation in Hawaii could better inform policy formation and the crafting of more successful solutions for inspiring voter participation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on the factors attributable to low voter turnout in elections in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to collaborate with the Office of Elections
and any other agencies or organizations for the purposes of this study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau and Chief Election Officer.

OFFERED BY: