

FEB 14 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO ESTABLISH A TASK
FORCE TO REVIEW HAWAII'S CURRENT VOTER EDUCATION SYSTEM AND
PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, a successful democracy engages most of its
2 eligible citizens in voting; and

3
4 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii's 2018 general election
5 was only 39.3 percent; and

6
7 WHEREAS, of those persons in Hawaii registered to vote in
8 the November 2018 election, only 52.7 percent voted; and

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10 WHEREAS, insufficient voter education is a significant
11 factor that contributes to poor citizen engagement in Hawaii;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, it is important that voter education be balanced,
15 politically nonpartisan, and available to all citizens; and

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17 WHEREAS, an appropriate voter education program should
18 provide accurate information in everyday language explaining all
19 ballot measures; and

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21 WHEREAS, an appropriate voter education program should also
22 accommodate bilingual voters, disabled voters, and voters who
23 are voting for the first time; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the State is best situated to provide appropriate
26 voter education to voters at the time they vote; and

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28 WHEREAS, the voter education initiatives and experiences of
29 other states and jurisdictions may be applicable and relevant to
30 Hawaii; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Reference
4 Bureau is requested to establish a task force to review Hawaii's
5 current voter education system and propose improvements,
6 including recommendations on costs, best practices, and the
7 design of future voter education systems; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the composition of the task
10 force is requested to be as follows:
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- 12 (1) The Chief Election Officer, or the Chief Election
13 Officer's designee;
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- 15 (2) The clerk of each county, or each clerk's respective
16 designee;
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- 18 (3) One appointee of the President of the Senate;
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- 20 (4) One appointee of the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives;
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- 23 (5) One appointee of the Minority Leader of the Senate;
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- 25 (6) One appointee of the Minority Leader of the House of
26 Representatives;
- 27
- 28 (7) One political scientist appointed by the Board of
29 Regents of the University of Hawaii; and
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- 31 (8) Three advocates of voter education, to be appointed by
32 the Executive Director of Common Cause Hawaii,
33 President of League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and
34 President of Associated Students of the University of
35 Hawaii, respectively; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the task force
38 shall be elected by a two-third vote of the task force members;
39 and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
42 submit a preliminary report to the Legislature no later than



1 twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2020,
 2 and a final report, including any recommended legislation, to
 3 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
 4 of the Regular Session of 2021; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 8 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader
 9 of the Senate, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives,
 10 Chief Election Officer, Clerk of each county, Board of Regents
 11 of the University of Hawaii, Executive Director of Common Cause
 12 Hawaii, President of League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and
 13 President of Associated Students of the University of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

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