

JAN 23 2008

---

---

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CLERK OF EACH COUNTY TO MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN  
A TIMELY MANNER TO PROMOTE INFORMED VOTING.

1           WHEREAS, in 2006, voter turnout in Hawaii plummeted to a  
2 new low of fifty-three per cent of registered voters; and  
3

4           WHEREAS, voting by absentee ballot is becoming increasingly  
5 popular, with thirty-four per cent of the voter turnout  
6 comprised of absentee voters either by walk-in or mail; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, in the interest of bolstering the electoral  
9 process, the absentee voting process should be convenient and  
10 should promote informed voting; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the absentee ballot should be delivered to each  
13 absentee voter at the appropriate time to allow the voter time  
14 to research and receive information on all the candidates and  
15 ballot questions; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, in recent elections, absentee ballots have been  
18 delivered more than one month before the election, which may be  
19 too early to allow voters to access important information that  
20 may become available closer to the date of the elections; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, when absentee voters receive their ballots too  
23 early, there is a chance that the ballots may be set aside for a  
24 long period of time, thereby increasing the chance that it will  
25 be misplaced or forgotten; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, when absentee voters cast their ballot far in  
28 advance of the election, those voters may be voting based on a  
29 different set of information than those who vote closer to the  
30 election or on the day of the election; and  
31



# S.C.R. NO. 13

1           WHEREAS, absentee voters who are traveling or otherwise out  
2 of State may need their ballots a month early, but those in  
3 State may need it only ten days before; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, absentee voters should be able to choose when they  
6 receive their ballots so that they may have the appropriate  
7 amount of time to be a more informed voter; now, therefore,  
8

9           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the respective clerks  
12 of each county are requested to revise the absentee ballot  
13 request forms to allow absentee voters to choose the timing of  
14 the mailing of their ballot, whether early (such as thirty days  
15 prior to election day) or closer to the elections (such as ten  
16 days prior to election day); and  
17

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of each county is  
19 requested to include a return postage prepaid envelope with each  
20 ballot mailed to an absentee voter, such that the mailed  
21 distribution and return of absentee ballots shall be at no cost  
22 to the voter; and  
23

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of each county  
26 of the State and the Chief Election Officer.  
27  
28  
29

OFFERED BY: *Shiranne Chun Oalaneland*

