

GOV. MSG. NO. 1274

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

June 30, 2015

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 30, 2015, the following bill was signed into law:

HB15 HD1 SD1 CD1

RELATING TO ELECTIONS
ACT 173 (15)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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RECEIVED
THE SENATE
CLERK'S OFFICE
STATE OF HAWAII

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

3 "(g) The chief election officer [~~may be removed by the~~
4 ~~elections commission at any time for good cause.~~] is an at-will
5 employee. The elections commission shall provide written
6 notification of any removal and state the reason for the
7 removal."

8 SECTION 2. Section 11-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "[~~f~~]**§11-7.5**[~~f~~] **Duties of the elections commission.** The
11 duties of the elections commission are to:

- 12 (1) Hold public hearings;
- 13 (2) Investigate and hold hearings for receiving evidence
14 of any violations and complaints;
- 15 (3) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91;
- 16 (4) Employ, without regard to chapter 76, a full-time
17 chief election officer, pursuant to section 11-1.6;

18 [and]



1 (5) Conduct a performance evaluation of the chief election
2 officer within two months after the date a general
3 election is certified;

4 (6) Hold a public hearing on the performance of the chief
5 election officer and consider the information gathered
6 at the hearing in deliberations on the chief election
7 officer's reappointment; and

8 [~~5~~] (7) Advise the chief election officer on matters
9 relating to elections."

10 SECTION 3. Section 15-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

12 "(a) Immediately upon receipt of a request for absentee
13 ballot within the time limit specified in section 15-4, the
14 clerk shall examine the records to ascertain whether [~~or not~~]
15 the voter is lawfully entitled to vote as requested. [~~As seen~~
16 ~~as the printed official ballots are available,~~] If the clerk
17 ascertains that the voter is lawfully entitled to vote as
18 requested, no earlier than thirty days before the election, the
19 clerk shall mail in a forwarding envelope, or deliver in person
20 if the voter appears at the office of the clerk, an official
21 ballot and other materials prescribed in section 15-6, except



1 that an incapacitated voter may send a representative to obtain
 2 the voter's ballots pursuant to the rules [~~promulgated~~] adopted
 3 by the chief election officer[. ~~All requests received upon the~~
 4 ~~last day specified in section 15-4 for receipt shall be mailed~~
 5 ~~to the voter requesting the same as soon as reasonably~~
 6 ~~practicable, but in no event later than twenty four hours after~~
 7 ~~receipt thereof.]; provided that official ballots and other
 8 materials prescribed in section 15-6 shall be mailed or
 9 delivered:~~


10 (1) To uniform military and overseas voters pursuant to
 11 section 15D-9; and

12 (2) No later than twenty-four hours after receipt of the
 13 request for absentee ballot for requests received on
 14 the last day specified in section 15-4."

15 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 30 day of JUN, 2015



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII