
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii once boasted
2 the highest voter participation in the country during the early
3 years of statehood, however, Hawaii's voter turnout has been the
4 lowest in the country for the past three presidential elections,
5 and it continues to fall. The 2008 presidential election had a
6 forty-nine per cent turnout that dropped to 42.5 per cent in the
7 2016 presidential election.

8 The legislature further finds that the minimum voting age
9 was lowered from twenty to eighteen years of age in 1971. Since
10 then, young people have been given more responsibility in the
11 labor workforce, paying of taxes, and driving a car, all before
12 the right to vote. If the minimum voter age is lowered to
13 sixteen years of age, it may increase voter turnout, provide
14 young citizens with an influential voice in the political
15 process, and establish lifelong engaged voters.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a working group
17 within the office of elections to study whether or not the



1 minimum voting age in the State should be lowered to sixteen
2 years and to submit a report to the legislature.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The office of elections shall establish a
4 working group to conduct a study on the implications of lowering
5 the minimum voting age in Hawaii from eighteen years old to
6 sixteen years old. The working group shall:

- 7 (1) Identify the pros and cons of a lowered voting age;
- 8 (2) Examine the experiences of countries, states, and
9 municipalities that have lowered the minimum voting
10 age to sixteen years old;
- 11 (3) Determine whether the lowered voting age should apply
12 to all elections conducted in the State or only to
13 certain elections; and
- 14 (4) Recommend processes, if any, on lowering the minimum
15 voting age in Hawaii to sixteen years old.

16 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
17 members:

- 18 (1) The chief election officer, who shall serve as the
19 chair;
- 20 (2) The dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law,
21 University of Hawaii; and



1 (3) The superintendent of education.

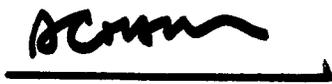
2 (c) The chair of the working group shall invite student
3 representatives from public and private schools in the State.

4 SECTION 3. The working group shall submit a report on the
5 study, including the working group's findings, recommendations,
6 and proposed legislation, if necessary, to the legislature no
7 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
8 session of 2018.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 25 2017



H.B. NO. 1576

Report Title:

Voting Age; Elections

Description:

Establishes a working group to study implications of lowering the voting age to sixteen years old.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

