
A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE II,
SECTION 1, TO EXPAND THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an
2 amendment to article II, section 1, of the Constitution of the
3 State of Hawaii to expand the right to vote.

4 The legislature finds that voter turnout remains low in
5 Hawaii, and continues to decline. In 2016, Hawaii had the
6 lowest voter turnout in the United States. Only 52.6 per cent
7 of registered Hawaii voters cast ballots in the 2018 general
8 election. This represents a sharp decline in voter turnout over
9 the years, as approximately ninety-three per cent of registered
10 voters cast ballots in Hawaii's first gubernatorial election in
11 1959.

12 The legislature further finds that voting is the
13 cornerstone of American democracy. Expanding the right to vote
14 to those sixteen years of age and older will not only increase
15 voter turnout, but will encourage civic engagement at a young
16 age.



1 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
2 be as follows:

3 "Shall voting rights for state and local elections be
4 expanded to those who are sixteen years of age or older?"

5 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is
6 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
7 underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon
9 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
10 the State of Hawaii.

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H.B. NO. 1280

Report Title:

Voting; Hawaii Constitution; Amendment

Description:

Lowers the right to vote in state and local elections to those who are sixteen years of age or older per the Hawaii Constitution.

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