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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. The legislature finds that the trend in Hawaii  
2 has been toward increased mail-in voting. The 2014 Hawaii  
3 primary election was the first election in which more ballots  
4 were voted early than were cast on primary election day. Fifty-  
5 six per cent of Hawaii voters chose to vote early during the  
6 2014 primary, with approximately eighty-three per cent of these  
7 early voters doing so by mail-in absentee ballot.

8           The legislature further finds that Hawaii's conversion to  
9 elections by mail would significantly reduce the logistical  
10 issues related to conducting elections. The legislature  
11 concludes that an incremental implementation of an election by  
12 mail voting system is the best approach for the State to  
13 transition to elections by mail.

14           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15           (1) Require counties with a population of fewer than one  
16               hundred thousand to implement elections by mail  
17               beginning with the 2018 primary election. Require



1 counties with a population of fewer than five hundred  
2 thousand to implement elections by mail beginning with  
3 the 2020 primary election. Require all elections to  
4 be conducted by mail in accordance with this title  
5 beginning with the 2022 primary election;

6 (2) Provide places of deposit for personal delivery of  
7 mail-in ballots and a limited number of voter service  
8 centers that would remain open on the day of election  
9 to receive personal delivery of absentee, permanent  
10 absentee, and mail-in ballots, accommodate voters with  
11 special needs, and provide other services; and

12 (3) Appropriate funds for the implementation and  
13 administration of the election by mail program.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
15 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read  
16 as follows:

17 "PART . ELECTIONS BY MAIL

18 §11-A Elections eligible to be conducted by mail.

19 Counties with a population of fewer than one hundred thousand,  
20 beginning with the 2018 primary election, shall implement  
21 elections by mail. Counties with a population of fewer than



1 five hundred thousand, beginning with the 2020 primary election,  
2 shall implement elections by mail. Beginning with the 2022  
3 primary election, all elections shall be conducted by mail in  
4 accordance with this title; provided further that any person  
5 registered to vote in a county that has not yet implemented  
6 elections by mail under this part may request an absentee ballot  
7 or permanent absentee ballot in accordance with section 15-4, in  
8 lieu of receiving an election by mail ballot package pursuant to  
9 this part, and absentee ballot-only elections may continue to be  
10 conducted pursuant to section 15-4(b).

11 **§11-B Procedures for conducting elections by mail. (a)**

12 Ballot packages for elections by mail shall include:

- 13 (1) An official ballot;
- 14 (2) A pre-paid postage return identification envelope;
- 15 (3) A secrecy envelope; and
- 16 (4) Instructions.

17 (b) To the extent practicable, the county clerk shall mail  
18 a ballot package by nonforwardable mail to each registered voter  
19 in the county no earlier than eighteen days and no later than  
20 fourteen days before the date of an election. Nothing in this  
21 part shall be construed to change the responsibilities of the



1 chief election officer under chapter 15D with respect to uniform  
2 military and overseas voters.

3 (c) The chief election officer shall determine and provide  
4 for voter service centers and places of deposit pursuant to this  
5 part and section 11-92.1.

6 §11-C Public notice of mailing. Public notice of the date  
7 or dates that ballot packages are mailed shall be given by the  
8 chief election officer and all county election officers in the  
9 manner prescribed in section 1-28.5 when all the packages have  
10 been mailed or made available to voters.

11 §11-D Ballot instructions; ballot return. (a) After  
12 receipt of the ballot package, to cast a valid vote, the voter  
13 shall comply with the instructions included in the ballot  
14 package. The instructions shall include directions for:

- 15 (1) Marking the ballot;
- 16 (2) Inserting the marked ballot in the secrecy envelope;
- 17 (3) Inserting the secrecy envelope with the marked ballot  
18 in the return identification envelope; and
- 19 (4) Signing the return identification envelope before  
20 mailing or delivering the return identification



1 envelope containing the secrecy envelope with the  
2 marked ballot.

3 (b) The instructions shall include information on election  
4 fraud and voter fraud, as provided in sections 19-3(5) and 19-  
5 3.5, and notice that violation of either section may subject the  
6 voter, upon conviction, to imprisonment, a fine, or both.

7 (c) To cast a valid ballot, the voter shall return the  
8 marked ballot in the return identification envelope containing  
9 the secrecy envelope with the marked ballot:

10 (1) By mail so that the return identification envelope is  
11 received at the office of the clerk no later than the  
12 time provided in section 11-131 on the date of the  
13 election;

14 (2) By personal delivery to any place of deposit no later  
15 than 6:00 p.m. on the day preceding the date of the  
16 election; or

17 (3) By personal delivery to any voter service center no  
18 later than the time provided in section 11-131 on the  
19 date of the election.

20 §11-E Replacement ballots. (a) A voter may obtain a  
21 replacement ballot if the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, or



1 lost. Replacement ballots shall be provided to a voter who  
2 completes and signs a replacement ballot request form. The  
3 replacement ballot request form shall include information that  
4 allows the clerk to verify the registration of the voter and  
5 ensure that another ballot has not been returned by the voter.

6 (b) Upon receipt of the replacement ballot request form,  
7 the clerk shall:

8 (1) Verify the registration of the voter and ensure that  
9 another ballot has not been returned by the voter;

10 (2) Note on the list of registered voters that the voter  
11 has requested a replacement ballot;

12 (3) Mark the return identification envelope as containing  
13 a replacement ballot; and

14 (4) Issue the replacement ballot package by mail or by  
15 making the ballot package available for pick-up by the  
16 voter.

17 (c) Voters requesting a replacement ballot shall return  
18 the return identification envelope containing the secrecy  
19 envelope with the marked replacement ballot by mail or by  
20 personal delivery to a place of deposit no later than 6:00 p.m.  
21 on the day preceding the date of the election or by personal



1 delivery to a voter service center no later than the time  
2 provided in section 11-131 on the date of the election.

3 §11-F Deficient return identification envelopes. If:

4 (1) A return identification envelope is returned with an  
5 unsigned affirmation;

6 (2) The affirmation signature does not match a reference  
7 signature image in the voter registration files; or

8 (3) A return identification envelope contains another  
9 signature discrepancy that would invalidate the  
10 counting of the ballot,

11 the clerk shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the voter by  
12 first class postal mail, telephone, or electronic mail to inform  
13 the voter of a procedure to correct the deficiency. The voter  
14 shall have five business days after the date of the election to  
15 cure the deficiency using the procedure. Counting of ballots  
16 and disclosure of results may proceed during the five-day  
17 period. An inability by the clerk to contact any voters under  
18 this section shall not be grounds for contest for cause under  
19 section 11-172.

20 §11-G Electronic transmission under certain circumstances.

21 If:



1           (1) A ballot package is not received by a voter within  
2           five days of an election;

3           (2) A voter otherwise requires a replacement ballot within  
4           five days of an election;

5           (3) A voter requires a replacement ballot within five days  
6           of an election; or

7           (4) A voter would otherwise not be able to return the  
8           voter's properly issued ballot by the close of the  
9           polls,

10 the voter may request that a ballot be forwarded by electronic  
11 transmission. Upon receipt of such a request and confirmation  
12 that proper application was made, the clerk may transmit the  
13 appropriate ballot, together with a form containing the  
14 affirmations and information required by section 15-6, and a  
15 form containing a waiver of the right to secrecy under section  
16 11-137. The voter may return the voted replacement ballot and  
17 executed forms by electronic transmission, mail, or deposit at a  
18 place of deposit or voter service center; provided that the  
19 ballot and forms are received by the issuing clerk no later than  
20 the close of the polls on election day. Upon receipt, the clerk  
21 shall verify compliance with the requirements of this part;





1 provided that if the voter returns multiple voted ballots for  
2 the same election, the clerk shall prepare for counting only the  
3 first ballot returned that is not spoiled.

4       **§11-H Counting of mail-in ballots.** Counting may begin no  
5 sooner than the tenth day before the election. In the presence  
6 of official observers, counting center employees may start to  
7 count the ballots; provided that any tabulation of the number of  
8 votes cast for a candidate or question appearing on the ballot,  
9 including a counting center printout or other disclosure, shall  
10 be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to the public  
11 until voting for the election has concluded. All handling and  
12 counting of election by mail ballots shall be according to  
13 procedures established by the chief election officer.

14       **§11-I Voter service centers; places of deposit.** (a)  
15 Beginning on January 1 of the year in which election by mail is  
16 scheduled to be implemented in a county pursuant to this part,  
17 the respective clerk, after consultation with the chief election  
18 officer, shall designate at least one location in the county to  
19 serve as a voter service center. The office of the clerk of  
20 each respective county may serve as a voter service center, as  
21 may any other locations that the clerk determines will serve the



1 particular needs of the county's voters. Section 11-21 relating  
2 to changes and transfers of registration shall apply to each  
3 voter service center as though it were the precinct at which a  
4 person's name properly appears on the list of registered voters.

5 (b) Voter service centers shall be open from the tenth day  
6 preceding the day of the election through the day of the  
7 election and at the same times statewide, except as may be  
8 provided in section 11-92.3 or by the chief election officer  
9 through administrative rules.

10 (c) Each voter service center shall provide the services  
11 specified in section 11-1 under the definition of "voter service  
12 center".

13 (d) The county clerks may also designate and provide for  
14 places of deposit if locations and apparatus for the purposes  
15 specified in this part can be securely maintained throughout the  
16 period of use for each election.

17 **§11-J Election expenses and responsibilities for elections**  
18 **by mail.** (a) Election expenses in an election by mail shall be  
19 as follows:

20 (1) Expenses related to elections by mail involving both  
21 state and county offices, or involving both federal



1 and county offices, unrelated to voter registration,  
2 shall be divided in half between the State and the  
3 counties. Each county shall pay a proration of  
4 expenses as a proportion of the registered voters at  
5 the time of the general election. The counties shall  
6 separately be responsible for expenses associated with  
7 voter registration;

8 (2) All expenses for county elections by mail, which do  
9 not involve state or federal offices, shall be borne  
10 by the county and paid out of appropriations as may be  
11 made by the council; and

12 (3) All expenses for state or federal elections by mail,  
13 which do not involve county offices, shall be borne by  
14 the State and paid out of appropriations as may be  
15 made by the legislature. Expenses attributable to  
16 registration of voters by the clerk for state or  
17 federal elections that do not involve county offices  
18 shall be borne by the State and paid out of  
19 appropriations as may be made by the legislature.

20 (b) Election responsibilities for elections by mail shall  
21 be as follows:



1           (1) For elections by mail involving both state and county  
2           offices, or involving both federal and county offices:

3           (A) The counties shall be responsible for voter  
4           registration, absentee voting, and the mailing  
5           and receipt of ballots;

6           (B) The State shall be responsible for the printing  
7           and counting of ballots;

8           (C) The State and counties may otherwise agree to the  
9           delegation of these responsibilities to each  
10          other; and

11          (D) Any responsibilities not specified in this  
12          paragraph may be assigned to the counties or the  
13          State by the chief election officer;

14          (2) For elections by mail involving only county offices,  
15          the respective county shall be solely responsible; and

16          (3) For elections by mail involving only state or federal  
17          offices:

18          (A) The counties shall be responsible for voter  
19          registration and absentee voting;

20          (B) The State shall be responsible for the printing,  
21          mailing, receipt, and counting of ballots; and



1 (C) Any responsibilities not specified in this  
2 paragraph may be assigned to the counties or the  
3 State by the chief election officer."

4 SECTION 3. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
5 by adding a new section to part X to be appropriately designated  
6 and to read as follows:

7 "§11- Postponed elections; disclosure of voting results.  
8 Whenever the conduct of an election within any precinct has been  
9 postponed:

10 (1) By the chief election officer or clerk in county  
11 elections because of a natural disaster pursuant to  
12 section 11-92.3; or  
13 (2) By the governor during a state of emergency pursuant  
14 to section 127A-13(a)(9),  
15 the printout by the counting center computer or other disclosure  
16 of the number of votes cast for each candidate or question  
17 appearing on the ballot for the postponed election, from any  
18 precinct whether or not designated for postponement, including  
19 votes cast by absentee ballot or in an election by mail pursuant  
20 to part , shall not be disclosed to the public until voting  
21 for the postponed election has concluded. For candidates or



1 questions not appearing on the ballot for the postponed  
2 election, the chief election officer or clerk in county  
3 elections may postpone the printout or other disclosure of the  
4 number of votes cast until voting for the postponed election has  
5 concluded."

6 SECTION 4. Section 8-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "§8-1 Holidays designated. The following days of each  
9 year are set apart and established as state holidays:

10 The first day in January, New Year's Day;

11 The third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
12 Day;

13 The third Monday in February, Presidents' Day;

14 The twenty-sixth day in March, Prince Jonah Kuhio  
15 Kalanianaʻole Day;

16 The Friday preceding Easter Sunday, Good Friday;

17 The last Monday in May, Memorial Day;

18 The eleventh day in June, King Kamehameha I Day;

19 The fourth day in July, Independence Day;

20 The third Friday in August, Statehood Day;

21 The first Monday in September, Labor Day;



1 The eleventh day in November, Veterans' Day;  
2 The fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day;  
3 The twenty-fifth day in December, Christmas Day;  
4 ~~[All]~~ Limited to individuals who, by necessity or  
5 requirement, vote in an election by mail at an absentee polling  
6 place, all election days, except primary and special election  
7 days, in the county wherein the election is held;  
8 Any day designated by proclamation by the President of the  
9 United States or by the governor as a holiday."

10 SECTION 5. Section 11-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 1. By adding four new definitions to be appropriately  
13 inserted and to read:

14 "Electronic transmission" means the transmission of a  
15 blank or voted ballot by facsimile or electronic mail delivery,  
16 or the use of an online absentee ballot delivery and return  
17 system, which may include the ability to mark the ballot.

18 "Place of deposit" means a site designated pursuant to  
19 section 11-I for the purpose of receiving return identification  
20 envelopes in an election conducted by mail pursuant to part .



1 "Poll" or "polling place" means an office or other suitable  
2 facility designated by the respective clerks for the conduct of  
3 voting. Beginning on January 1, 2018, the term "poll" or  
4 "polling place" shall include a voter service center in a county  
5 where elections by mail has been implemented.

6 "Voter service center" means a location established  
7 pursuant to section 11-I to serve all of the following purposes:

- 8 (1) Receive return envelopes for absentee and permanent  
9 absentee ballots pursuant to chapter 15;  
10 (2) Receive return identification envelopes in an election  
11 by mail pursuant to part \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
12 (3) Provide voting machine services for persons with  
13 disabilities pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of  
14 2002 (Public Law 107-252), as amended, and any other  
15 federal or state law relating to persons with  
16 disabilities;  
17 (4) Assist with voter registration services as provided by  
18 law; and  
19 (5) Any other purposes the chief election officer may deem  
20 necessary in the event of a natural disaster or other  
21 exigent circumstances occurring prior to an election."





1           2. By amending the definitions of "ballot" and "voting  
2 system" to read:

3           "Ballot" [7] means a ballot, including an absentee ballot,  
4 that is a written or printed, or partly written and partly  
5 printed paper or papers, containing the names of persons to be  
6 voted for, the office to be filled, and the questions or issues  
7 to be voted on. "Ballot" includes a ballot used in an election  
8 by mail pursuant to part . A ballot may consist of one or  
9 more cards or pieces of paper, or one face of a card or piece of  
10 paper, or a portion of the face of a card or piece of paper,  
11 depending on the number of offices, candidates to be elected  
12 thereto, questions or issues to be voted on, and the voting  
13 system in use. It shall also include the face of the mechanical  
14 voting machine when arranged with cardboard or other material  
15 within the ballot frames, containing the names of the candidates  
16 and questions to be voted on.

17           "Voting system" [7] means the use of paper ballots,  
18 electronic [~~ballot cards,~~] transmission, voting machines,  
19 elections by mail pursuant to part , absentee voting pursuant  
20 to chapter 15, or any system by which votes are cast and  
21 counted."



1 SECTION 6. Section 11-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§11-4 Rules [~~and regulations~~]. The chief election  
4 officer may make, amend, and repeal [~~such~~] rules [~~and~~  
5 ~~regulations~~] governing elections held under this title, election  
6 procedures, and the selection, establishment, use, and operation  
7 of all voting systems now in use or to be adopted in the State,  
8 and all other similar matters relating thereto as in the chief  
9 election officer's judgment shall be necessary to carry out this  
10 title.

11 In making, amending, and repealing rules [~~and regulations~~]  
12 for voters who cannot vote [~~at the polls~~] in person or receive  
13 or return ballots by mail, and all other voters, the chief  
14 election officer shall provide for voting by [~~such~~] these  
15 persons in [~~such~~] a manner as to [~~insure~~] ensure secrecy of the  
16 ballot and to preclude tampering with the ballots of these  
17 voters and other election frauds. [~~Such~~] The rules [~~and~~  
18 ~~regulations~~], when adopted in conformity with chapter 91 and  
19 upon approval by the governor, shall have the force and effect  
20 of law."



1 SECTION 7. Section 11-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) The clerk, not later than 4:30 p.m. on the sixtieth  
4 day after every general election, shall remove the name of any  
5 registered voter who did not vote in that general election, and  
6 also did not vote in the primary election preceding that general  
7 election, and also did not vote in the previous general  
8 election, and also did not vote in the primary election  
9 preceding that general election, and also did not vote in the  
10 regularly scheduled special elections held in conjunction with  
11 those primary and general elections, if any, with the exception  
12 of:

13 (1) Those who submitted written requests for absentee  
14 ballots as provided in section 15-4; or

15 (2) Anyone who preregistered pursuant to section 11-12(b).

16 If a person voted, at least once, in any of the above-mentioned  
17 elections, the person's name shall remain on the list of  
18 registered voters. For this purpose, "vote" means the  
19 depositing of the ballot in the ballot box regardless of whether  
20 the ballot is blank or later rejected for any reason. In the  
21 case of voting machines, "vote" means the voter has activated



1 the proper mechanism and fed the vote into the machine. In the  
2 case of an election by mail pursuant to part \_\_\_\_\_, "vote" means  
3 the voter has returned the ballot to the chief election officer  
4 or clerk by the United States Postal Service or by delivering  
5 the ballot to a place of deposit or voter service center."

6 SECTION 8. Section 11-92.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as  
8 follows:

9 "§11-92.1 Election proclamation; ~~[establishment of a new~~  
10 ~~precinct.]~~ places of deposit; voter service centers. (a) The  
11 chief election officer shall issue a proclamation ~~[whenever a~~  
12 ~~new precinct is established in any representative district.]~~  
13 listing all polling places and, in counties where elections by  
14 mail have been implemented pursuant to part \_\_\_\_\_, places of  
15 deposit, and voter service centers. Places of deposit may be  
16 open as soon as election by mail ballot packets are made  
17 available to voters. The chief election officer shall provide a  
18 suitable polling place for each precinct~~[-]~~ in counties where  
19 elections by mail have not been implemented. Beginning on  
20 January 1, 2018, voter service centers shall be made available  
21 pursuant to section 11-I in a county where elections by mail



1 have been implemented. Schools, recreational halls, park  
2 facilities, and other publicly owned or controlled buildings,  
3 whenever possible and convenient, shall be used as polling  
4 places[-] or, in the case of elections by mail pursuant to part  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ , as voter service centers. The chief election officer shall  
6 make arrangements for the rental or erection of suitable shelter  
7 for this purpose whenever public buildings are not available and  
8 shall cause these polling places or voter service centers to be  
9 equipped with the necessary facilities for lighting,  
10 ventilation, and equipment needed for elections on any island.  
11 This proclamation may be issued jointly with the proclamation  
12 required in section 11-91."

13 SECTION 9. Section 11-92.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as  
15 follows:

16 "§11-92.3 [~~Consolidated precincts; natural~~] Natural  
17 disasters; postponement; absentee voting [required]; elections  
18 by mail; special elections. (a) In the event of a flood,  
19 tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, high wind, or other  
20 natural disaster, occurring prior to an election, that makes a  
21 precinct or voter service center inaccessible, the chief



1 election officer or county clerk in the case of county elections  
2 may consolidate precincts or provide an alternate precinct or  
3 voter service center within a representative district[-] or  
4 county, as applicable. If the extent of damage caused by any  
5 natural disaster is such that the ability of voters, in any  
6 precinct, district, or county, to exercise their right to vote  
7 is substantially impaired, the chief election officer or county  
8 clerk in the case of county elections may [~~require~~]:

- 9       (1) Require the registered voters of the affected  
10       precinct, district, or county to vote by absentee  
11       ballot pursuant to section 15-2.5 [~~and may postpone~~]  
12       or elections by mail pursuant to part ; and  
13       (2) Postpone the conducting of an election in the affected  
14       precinct, district, or county for no more than twenty-  
15       one days; provided that any such postponement shall  
16       not affect the conduct of the election, tabulation, or  
17       distribution of results for those precincts,  
18       districts, or counties not designated for  
19       postponement.

20 The chief election officer or county clerk in the case of county  
21 elections shall give notice of the consolidation, postponement,



1 or requirement to vote by absentee ballot [~~7~~] or by mail, in the  
2 affected [~~county or~~] precinct, county, or district prior to the  
3 opening of [~~the~~] each precinct polling place by whatever  
4 possible news or broadcast media are available. Precinct  
5 officials and workers affected by any consolidation shall not  
6 forfeit their pay."

7 SECTION 10. Section 11-173.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 "(a) In primary and special primary election contests, and  
10 county election contests held concurrently with a regularly  
11 scheduled primary or special primary election, the complaint  
12 shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the supreme court  
13 not later than 4:30 p.m. on the [~~sixth~~] thirteenth day after a  
14 primary or special primary election, or county election contests  
15 held concurrently with a regularly scheduled primary or special  
16 primary election, and shall be accompanied by a deposit for  
17 costs of court as established by rules of the supreme court.  
18 The clerk shall issue to the defendants named in the complaint a  
19 summons to appear before the supreme court not later than 4:30  
20 p.m. on the fifth day after service thereof."



1 SECTION 11. Section 11-184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§11-184 Election expenses and responsibilities in  
4 combined state and county elections. Election expenses in  
5 elections involving both state and county offices, except for  
6 elections conducted by mail in whole or in part, shall be shared  
7 as set forth below:

- 8 (1) The State shall pay and be responsible for:
- 9 (A) Precinct officials;
  - 10 (B) Instruction of precinct officials when initiated  
11 or approved by the chief election officer;
  - 12 (C) Boards of registration;
  - 13 (D) Polling place costs other than supplies:  
14 installation rentals, ballot boxes, voting  
15 booths, custodians, telephones, and maintenance;
  - 16 (E) Other equipment such as ballot transport  
17 containers;
  - 18 (F) Temporary election employees hired to do strictly  
19 state work; and





- 1 (G) Extraordinary voter registration and voter  
2 education costs when approved by the chief  
3 election officer.
- 4 (2) The county shall pay and be responsible for:
- 5 (A) Normal voter registration, voters list  
6 maintenance, and all printing connected with  
7 voter registration, including printing of the  
8 voters list;
- 9 (B) Temporary election employees hired to do strictly  
10 county work;
- 11 (C) Maintenance of existing voting machines,  
12 including parts, freight, storage, programming,  
13 and personnel;
- 14 (D) Maintenance and storage of voting devices and  
15 other equipment; and
- 16 (E) Employees assigned to conduct absentee polling  
17 place functions.
- 18 (3) The remaining election expenses shall be divided in  
19 half between the State and the counties. Each county  
20 will pay a proration of expenses as a proportion of  
21 the registered voters at the time of the general



1 election. These expenses shall include but not be  
2 limited to:

- 3 (A) Polling place supplies;
- 4 (B) All printing, including ballots, but excluding  
5 printing connected with voter registration;
- 6 (C) Temporary election employees not including voting  
7 machine programmers doing work for both the State  
8 and county;
- 9 (D) Ballot preparation and packing; and
- 10 (E) All other costs for which the State or county are  
11 not specifically responsible relating to the  
12 operation of voting machines, electronic voting  
13 systems, and other voting systems except paper  
14 ballots to include but not be limited to real  
15 property rentals, equipment rentals, personnel,  
16 mileage, telephones, supplies, publicity,  
17 computer programming, and freight.

18 The responsibility for the above functions shall  
19 be determined by the chief election officer where the  
20 responsibility for such functions has not been  
21 assigned by the legislature.



1 Any future expenses not presently incurred under any voting  
2 system now in use or to be used shall be assigned to  
3 ~~[paragraphs]~~ paragraph (1), (2), or (3) ~~[above]~~ by the chief  
4 election officer upon agreement with the clerks or by the  
5 legislature."

6 SECTION 12. Section 15-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
8 and to read as follows:

9 "Electronic transmission" has the same meaning as in  
10 section 11-1."

11 SECTION 13. Section 15-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

13 "(e) When a registered voter requests an absentee ballot,  
14 the voter also may include an additional request to receive  
15 absentee ballots permanently. After receiving a request for  
16 permanent absentee voter status, the clerk shall mail to the  
17 voter who requested permanent absentee voter status an absentee  
18 ballot for all subsequent elections conducted in that precinct.  
19 The forwarding address for absentee ballots to be permanently  
20 mailed shall be the in-state mailing address contained in the  
21 voter's registration record. Voters who seek to have ballots



1 forwarded to another address shall apply for an absentee ballot  
2 under subsection (a). Subject to the conditions set forth under  
3 subsection (a), a permanent absentee voter or a voter in an  
4 election by mail pursuant to part        of chapter 11 may also  
5 request from the clerk that the voter's ballot be forwarded  
6 temporarily to an address other than the address registered for  
7 permanent absentee mailing or for the purposes of part        of  
8 chapter 11, either in or outside of the State, for a single  
9 election or for a primary or special primary election and the  
10 election immediately following the primary or special primary  
11 election. A voter's request under this subsection for a ballot  
12 to be forwarded temporarily shall not serve as a cancellation of  
13 the voter's permanent absentee status, as a change to the  
14 voter's permanent absentee mailing address, or as a change to a  
15 voter's registered address for an election by mail pursuant to  
16 part        of chapter 11. Upon completion of the election or  
17 elections covered by the voter's temporary request under this  
18 subsection, the clerk shall resume mailing the voter's ballots  
19 to the permanent absentee mailing address originally requested  
20 under subsection (a), or to a voter's registered address for an  
21 election by mail pursuant to part        of chapter 11."



1 SECTION 14. Section 15-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) If ~~[mailed]~~ permanent absentee ballots or ballots  
4 requested under section 15-4 are not received by ~~[the]~~ a voter  
5 within five days of an election, or if a voter requires a  
6 replacement ballot within five days of an election, or if a  
7 voter would otherwise not be able to return a properly issued  
8 ballot by the close of the polls, then a ~~[covered]~~ voter ~~[under~~  
9 ~~chapter 15D]~~ may request that absentee ballots be forwarded by  
10 ~~[facsimile-]~~ electronic transmission. Upon receipt of such a  
11 request and confirmation that proper application was made, the  
12 clerk may transmit appropriate ballots ~~[by facsimile]~~, together  
13 with a form requiring the affirmations and information required  
14 by section 15-6, and a form containing a waiver of the right to  
15 secrecy, as provided by section 11-137. The voter may return  
16 the voted ballots and executed forms by ~~[facsimile]~~ electronic  
17 transmission or mail; provided that they are received by the  
18 issuing clerk no later than the close of polls on election day.  
19 Upon receipt, the clerk shall verify compliance with the  
20 requirements of section 15-9(c) ~~[7]~~ and prepare the ballots for  
21 counting pursuant to section 15-10 ~~[7]~~; provided that if the



1 voter returns multiple voted absentee ballots for the same  
2 election, the clerk shall prepare for counting only the first  
3 absentee ballot returned that is not spoiled."

4 SECTION 15. Section 15D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "[+]§15D-3[+] Elections covered. The voting procedures in  
7 this chapter apply to:

8 (1) A general, special, or primary election for federal  
9 office;

10 (2) A general, special, or primary election for statewide  
11 or state legislative office or state ballot measure;  
12 and.

13 (3) A general, special, recall, primary, or runoff  
14 election for local government office or local ballot  
15 measure conducted under [~~section 11-91.5~~] part of  
16 chapter 11 for which absentee voting or voting by mail  
17 is available for other voters."

18 SECTION 16. Section 19-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "§19-6 Misdemeanors. The following persons shall be  
21 guilty of a misdemeanor:



- 1           (1) Any person who offers any bribe or makes any promise  
2           of gain, or with knowledge of the same permits any  
3           person to offer any bribe or make any promise of gain  
4           for the person's benefit to any voter to induce the  
5           voter to sign a nomination paper, and any person who  
6           accepts any bribe or promise of gain of any kind as  
7           consideration for signing the same, whether the bribe  
8           or promise of gain be offered or accepted before or  
9           after the signing;
- 10          (2) Any person who wilfully tears down [~~or~~], destroys, or  
11          defaces any election proclamation [~~or any~~], poster  
12          [~~or~~], notice [~~or~~], list of voters [~~or~~], visual aids,  
13          or facsimile ballot, issued or posted by authority of  
14          law;
- 15          (3) Any person printing or duplicating or causing to be  
16          printed or duplicated any ballot, conforming as to the  
17          size, weight, shape, thickness, or color to the  
18          official ballot so that it could be cast or counted as  
19          an official ballot in an election;
- 20          (4) Every person who is disorderly or creates a  
21          disturbance whereby any meeting of the precinct



1 officials or the board of registration of voters  
2 during an election is disturbed or interfered with; or  
3 whereby any person who intends to be lawfully present  
4 at any meeting or election is prevented from  
5 attending; or who causes any disturbance at any  
6 election; and every person assisting or aiding or  
7 abetting any disturbance;

8 (5) Every person who, either in person or through another,  
9 in any manner breaks up or prevents, or endeavors to  
10 break up or prevent, the holding of any meeting of the  
11 board of registration of voters, or in any manner  
12 breaks up or prevents, or endeavors to break up or  
13 prevent, the holding of any election;

14 (6) Any person, other than those designated by section  
15 11-132, who remains or loiters within the area set  
16 aside for voting as set forth in section 11-132 during  
17 the time appointed for voting;

18 (7) Any person, including candidates carrying on any  
19 campaign activities within the area described in  
20 section 11-132 during the period of time starting one  
21 hour before the polling place opens and ending when





1 the polling place closes for the purpose of  
2 influencing votes. Campaign activities shall include  
3 the following:

4 (A) Any distribution, circulation, carrying, holding,  
5 posting, or staking of campaign cards, pamphlets,  
6 posters, and other literature;

7 (B) The use of public address systems and other  
8 public communication media;

9 (C) The use of motor caravans or parades; and

10 (D) The use of entertainment troupes or the free  
11 distribution of goods and services;

12 (8) Any person who opens a return envelope containing  
13 [an]:

14 (A) An absentee ballot voted under chapter 15 other  
15 than those persons authorized to do so under  
16 chapter 15; or

17 (B) A ballot voted by mail under part of chapter  
18 11 other than those persons authorized to do so  
19 under part of chapter 11;

20 (9) Any unauthorized person found in possession of any  
21 voting machine or keys thereof; and



1 (10) Every person who wilfully violates or fails to obey  
2 any of the provisions of law, punishment for which is  
3 not otherwise specified in this chapter [~~especially~~  
4 ~~provided for~~]."

5 SECTION 17. Section 11-91.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 repealed.

7 [~~§11-91.5 Federal, state, and county elections by mail.~~

8 ~~(a) Any federal, state, or county election held other than on~~  
9 ~~the date of a regularly scheduled primary or general election~~  
10 ~~may be conducted by mail.~~

11 ~~(b) The chief election officer shall determine whether a~~  
12 ~~federal or state election, other than a regularly scheduled~~  
13 ~~primary or general election, may be conducted by mail or at~~  
14 ~~polling places.~~

15 ~~(c) The county clerk shall determine whether a county~~  
16 ~~election, held other than on the date of a regularly scheduled~~  
17 ~~primary or general election, may be conducted by mail or at~~  
18 ~~polling places. An election by mail in the county shall be~~  
19 ~~under the supervision of the county clerk.~~



1 ~~(d) Any ballot cast by mail under this section shall be~~  
2 ~~subject to the provisions applicable to absentee ballots under~~  
3 ~~sections 11-139 and 15-6.~~

4 ~~(e) The chief election officer shall adopt rules pursuant~~  
5 ~~to chapter 91 to provide for uniformity in the conduct of~~  
6 ~~federal, state, and county elections by mail."]~~

7 SECTION 18. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
10 purpose of implementing and administering elections by mail,  
11 including voter education and public awareness programs.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
13 elections for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 19. No later than twenty days prior to the  
15 convening of each regular session of the legislature, from 2017  
16 until 2023, the office of elections shall submit a report to the  
17 legislature that includes:

- 18 (1) The office's progress in implementing this Act;
- 19 (2) The office's proposals for working with the county  
20 clerks to eventually merge permanent absentee voter  
21 registration lists with non-absentee voter



- 1 registration lists used for the purposes of
- 2 implementing this Act;
- 3 (3) Any additional resources the office may require to
- 4 implement this Act;
- 5 (4) Any difficulties encountered;
- 6 (5) Specific steps taken and recommendations necessary to
- 7 prevent fraud and ensure the integrity of the election
- 8 process; and
- 9 (6) Any other findings and recommendations, including any
- 10 proposed legislation necessary to clarify and make
- 11 consistent chapters 11, 12, 15, and 15D, Hawaii
- 12 Revised Statutes, in light of the transition to
- 13 statewide elections by mail.

14 SECTION 20. In codifying the new sections added by section  
15 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
16 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
17 the new sections in this Act.

18 SECTION 21. If any provision of this Act, or the  
19 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
20 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
21 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the



1 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
2 of this Act are severable.

3 SECTION 22. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 23. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2076;  
6 provided that section 4 shall take effect on January 1, 2022;  
7 and provided that section 17 shall take effect on the date of  
8 the 2020 primary election.



**Report Title:**

Elections by Mail; Election Expenses; Election Day State  
Holiday; Appropriation

**Description:**

Incrementally phases in elections by mail for the entire State by the 2022 primary election. Assigns responsibilities between the State and counties for expenses related to mail elections for federal, state, and county offices. Specifies the requirements for the distribution, voting, and tabulation of absentee, permanent absentee, and mail in ballots, including specifications for voter service centers to receive the personal delivery of ballots and to accommodate voters with special needs. Repeals the Election Day state holiday. Makes an appropriation. (SB2496 HD1)

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

