
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§11- Digital voter information guide. (a) The office
5 of elections shall prepare, and post on its website, a digital
6 voter information guide. The digital voter information guide
7 shall be posted on the office of election's website in a screen
8 reader-accessible format for voters with special needs who are
9 unable to read standard print due to disability. The office of
10 elections shall provide a translation of the digital voter
11 information guide in Olelo Hawaii on its website. The office of
12 elections shall print and mail a physical copy of the digital
13 voter information guide to any voter upon request. The digital
14 voter information guide shall include:

15 (1) A photograph and short statement of less than one
16 hundred fifty words for each candidate running for
17 public office, to be prepared by the candidate;



1 provided that the office of elections may uniformly
2 limit the number of words for the candidate statement
3 by applicable public office;

4 (2) A clear and concise explanation drafted by the
5 department of the attorney general of each state
6 constitutional amendment that will be proposed to
7 voters in the next general election; and

8 (3) A clear and concise explanation, drafted by the
9 appropriate county corporation counsel, for each
10 proposed county charter amendment, proposed
11 initiative, and proposed referendum issue.

12 (b) The office of elections shall prepare and mail with
13 each ballot for a primary election a notice to voters that a
14 digital voter information guide is available on the office of
15 elections website. The notice shall be sent by email to all
16 voters with special needs who have registered to receive
17 alternate format ballots.

18 (c) Information made available over the Internet pursuant
19 to this section shall meet or exceed the most current, ratified
20 standards under section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of
21 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended, and the Web Content



1 Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 adopted by the World Wide
2 Consortium for accessibility."

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2024-2025 for the office of elections to prepare and mail a
8 notice to voters that a digital voter information guide may be
9 found on the office of elections website.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
11 elections for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

14

INTRODUCED BY: Gene Aie

JAN 25 2023



H.B. NO. 1476

Report Title:

Digital Voter Information Guide; Ballot; Office of Elections;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide. Requires the Office of Elections to post the guide on its website in compliance with certain accessibility standards. Requires the Office of Elections to mail each ballot with a notice that states a voter information guide may be found on its website. Appropriates funds.

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