
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTION DAY POLL WATCHERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that over the years there
2 has been an increase in conflicts between election day poll
3 watchers and precinct officials. Poll watchers are appointed by
4 qualified political parties not later than ten days prior to the
5 election. Many of these poll watchers do not avail themselves
6 of the poll worker training of the State. As a result, many
7 poll watchers are not informed as to the procedures at the
8 polling place, and therefore create problems in the polling
9 place on election day.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require all poll watchers to
11 be appointed not later than forty-five days prior to any
12 election, and require attendance of training and certification
13 prior to serving as poll watchers on election day.

14 SECTION 2. Section 11-77, Hawaii Revised Statutes is
15 amended as follows:

16 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

17 "(a) Each qualified political party shall be entitled to
18 appoint no more than one watcher in each precinct and absentee



1 polling place in which the candidates of such party are on the
2 ballot. Each party shall submit its list of watchers not later
3 than 4:30 p.m., on the [~~tenth~~] forty-fifth day prior to any
4 election to the chief election officer or the clerk in county
5 elections. All watchers shall serve without expense to the
6 State or county. All watchers so appointed shall be registered
7 voters. No person shall serve as a watcher unless that person
8 has received instruction, and has been certified by the
9 authorized instructor to that affect. No person shall serve as
10 a watcher who could not qualify to serve as a precinct official
11 under section 11-72(3)."

12 2. By amending subsections (d) and (e) to read:

13 "(d) The watcher shall call the attention of the
14 chairperson to any violations of the election laws that the
15 watcher observes. After the chairperson's attention is called
16 to the violation the chairperson shall make an attempt to
17 correct such violation. If the chairperson fails to correct the
18 violation, the watcher may appeal to the chief election officer
19 or the clerk of the county[-] in county elections.

20 (e) The watcher shall be permitted to observe the
21 operations of the absentee polling place. Any violation of the
22 election laws shall be reported to the county clerk."



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Calvin K. Y. Boy

BY REQUEST

JAN 22 2007



Report Title:

Election Day Poll Watchers

Description:

Requires each county to submit its list of poll watchers not later than 4:30 p.m. on the forty-fifth day prior to any election. Requires anyone serving as a poll watcher to receive instruction and certification from authorized instructor.

