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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Voting is an essential part of democracy, as  
2 citizen participation in elections is vital to the health and  
3 well-being of a representative form of government. The  
4 legislature finds that the problems Hawaii has experienced in  
5 the past with an inadequate number of election workers during  
6 election days contributes to voter frustration and makes the  
7 voting process a negative experience for new voters.

8           Other states face similar difficulties in recruiting  
9 sufficient numbers of precinct officials. According to the  
10 Hawaii office of elections, approximately three thousand five  
11 hundred poll workers are needed statewide to run an election.  
12 Should the numbers of precinct officials continue to dwindle in  
13 future elections, Hawaii's lack of election workers may further  
14 contribute to voter apathy and indifference.

15           The legislature finds it is important to increase the  
16 number of precinct officials who are willing and available to  
17 work on election days. The purpose of this Act is to recruit



1 eligible high school students to work at election sites during  
2 election days.

3 SECTION 2. Section 11-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) In assigning the precinct officials, the following  
6 criteria shall be followed:

7 (1) The precinct officials shall be registered voters of  
8 the precinct in which they serve; but if qualified  
9 persons in the precinct or representative district are  
10 not readily available to serve, they may be chosen  
11 from without the precinct or representative district,  
12 or if qualified persons either in or without the  
13 precinct or representative district are not available  
14 to serve, the chief election officer may designate  
15 precinct officials who are not registered voters if  
16 the persons so designated are otherwise qualified and  
17 shall have attained the age of sixteen years on or  
18 before June 30, of the year of the election in which  
19 they are appointed to work; provided that,  
20 notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, a  
21 high school student who is enrolled in a civics or  
22 other appropriate instructional program approved by



1           the department of education and receives class credit  
2           for working at an election site during an election  
3           shall qualify as a precinct official;

4           (2) The chief election officer may designate more precinct  
5           officials than are needed in order to create a pool of  
6           qualified precinct officials who may be assigned to  
7           fill vacancies or to perform their duties as needed in  
8           any precinct;

9           (3) No parent, spouse, reciprocal beneficiary, child, or  
10          sibling of a candidate shall be eligible to serve as a  
11          precinct official in any precinct in which votes may  
12          be cast for the candidate; nor shall any candidate for  
13          any elective office be eligible to serve as a precinct  
14          official in the same election in which the person is a  
15          candidate. No candidate who failed to be nominated in  
16          the primary or special primary election shall be  
17          eligible to serve as a precinct official in the  
18          general election next following; and

19          (4) The chairperson of the precinct officials shall be the  
20          first named precinct official on the list prepared by  
21          the chief election officer. The remainder of the  
22          precinct officials shall be apportioned as follows:



- 1           (A) The total votes cast, except those cast for  
2           nonpartisan candidates, for all of the following  
3           offices that were on the ballot in the next  
4           preceding general election shall be divided into  
5           the total votes cast for all the candidates of  
6           each party for these offices: president and  
7           vice-president, United States senator, United  
8           States representative, governor and lieutenant  
9           governor, state senator, and state  
10          representative;
- 11          (B) If a party's proportion of votes cast exceeds  
12          fifty per cent, its share shall be one-half of  
13          the precinct officials. The remaining one-half  
14          shall be divided among the remaining parties in  
15          proportion to their respective total of votes  
16          cast for the offices set forth in subparagraph  
17          (A);
- 18          (C) In the case of the above division resulting in  
19          parties having fractional positions, a whole  
20          position shall go to the party with the larger  
21          number of votes cast; and



1 (D) Newly qualified parties may be assigned up to ten  
2 per cent of the total positions available at the  
3 discretion of the chief election officer."

4 SECTION 3. The department of education shall require, as  
5 part of a civics or other appropriate instructional course at  
6 each public high school in the State, that students who qualify  
7 to be precinct officials work as precinct officials during  
8 election days for class credit. The department shall adopt  
9 rules pursuant to chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this  
10 Act.

11 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: OL 4.2-

JAN 19 2007



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Elections; Class Credit

**Description:**

Makes high school students receiving academic credit eligible to work as precinct officials. Requires the department of education to offer class credit to eligible high school students who work as precinct officials during elections.

