

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The office of elections shall develop and
2 implement a vote-by-mail pilot program that shall:

3 (1) Apply to all elections, as defined under section
4 11-302, Hawaii Revised Statutes, held in the State in
5 2016;

6 (2) Confine the vote-by-mail pilot program to one state
7 representative district within each county as
8 determined pursuant to subsection (b); provided that
9 the office of elections shall make one or more walk-in
10 polling places available for pilot program voters who
11 the office of elections determines are unable to vote
12 by mail because of the absence of a permanent mailing
13 address or any other reason that the office of
14 elections deems appropriate;

15 (3) Require that vote-by-mail ballots be received by the
16 close of the polls on election day to ensure that the
17 ballots are counted; and



1 (4) Provide voter education materials relating to the
2 pilot program to voters who are eligible for the pilot
3 program.

4 (b) Within each county, the office of elections shall
5 implement the pilot program in the state representative district
6 that the office of elections determines to have the lowest voter
7 turnout of all state representative districts within the county
8 for the two most recent general elections; provided that if more
9 than one state representative district qualifies under this
10 subsection, the office of elections shall select the state
11 representative district it deems to be the most suitable for the
12 purposes of this Act. For purposes of this subsection, "voter
13 turnout" means the percentage of all registered voters within a
14 state representative district who vote in a given election.

15 (c) Upon the designation of state representative districts
16 for the pilot program pursuant to subsection (b), but not later
17 than July 1, 2016, the office of elections shall submit a
18 preliminary report to the legislature that includes:

19 (1) Identification of the state representative districts
20 designated by the office of elections for the pilot



1 program, including a description of the method used to
2 select the districts;

3 (2) The current status of implementation of the pilot
4 program; and

5 (3) A brief description of any operational problems or
6 legal impediments that have affected or are
7 anticipated to affect implementation of the pilot
8 program.

9 (d) Upon the conclusion of the 2016 general election, but
10 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
11 session of 2017, the office of elections shall submit a report
12 to the legislature that includes:

13 (1) Voter demographics, turnout, and other statistical
14 information, as deemed necessary by the chief election
15 officer, to accurately assess the efficacy of the
16 pilot program for each designated state representative
17 district;

18 (2) Efforts made by the office of elections to promote and
19 provide voter education about the pilot program and
20 the cost of those efforts;



(3) The effect, if any, of the pilot program on increasing or decreasing voter turnout;

(4) Any operational problems or legal impediments that arose and affected the implementation or operation of the pilot program;

(5) The actual cost of implementing the pilot program, including postage costs;

(6) A recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be made permanent on a limited or statewide basis and, if recommended to be made permanent, any proposed statutory revisions necessary to effectuate the mail-in voting program; and

(7) An estimate of the cost, including postage costs, to continue the pilot program permanently on a limited or statewide basis.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the implementation of a vote-by-mail pilot program in one state representative district within each county.



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

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015, and
4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 255

Report Title:

Voting; Vote-by-mail Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the office of elections to establish a vote-by-mail pilot program for the 2016 elections in one state representative district within each county. Requires the office of elections to submit a written report to the legislature before and after the 2016 elections regarding the status, implementation, and results of the pilot program. Appropriates funds for the implementation of the pilot program.

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

