



GOV. MSG. NO. 1341

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 6, 2021, the following bill was signed into law:

SB0548 SD1 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.  
**ACT 213 (21)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 136, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 2019, required all elections statewide to be  
3 conducted by mail beginning with the 2020 primary election.

4       The purpose of this Act is to:

- 5       (1) Amend the State's election laws to clarify and improve  
6             the administration of elections by mail;
- 7       (2) Establish voters with special needs advisory  
8             committees;
- 9       (3) Require the department of public safety and Hawaii  
10            paroling authority to inform individuals on parole or  
11            probation of their right to vote and provide them with  
12            information on how to register and vote; and
- 13       (4) Require the office of elections and the county clerks  
14            to make a determination, as soon as practicable, of  
15            the optimal number and placement of voter service  
16            centers.



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

4 "§11- Minimum number of precincts. Beginning with the  
5 2022 primary election, there shall be a minimum of four  
6 precincts in each district; provided that each inhabited island  
7 with at least one hundred residents shall include at least one  
8 precinct.

9 §11- Statewide voters with special needs advisory  
10 committee. (a) There is established a statewide voters with  
11 special needs advisory committee within the office of elections  
12 for administrative purposes. The purpose of the advisory  
13 committee is to ensure equal and independent access to voter  
14 registration, casting of ballots, and all other office of  
15 elections services.

16 (b) The advisory committee shall consist of five members  
17 appointed by the governor based on recommendations from  
18 organizations within the State that are comprised of a majority  
19 of officers and members who are persons with physical  
20 disabilities including visual impairment. Each member shall  
21 identify as a voter with special needs arising from physical



1 disabilities including visual and hearing impairments that  
2 require an accommodation to vote. The terms of advisory  
3 committee members shall be four years; provided that initial  
4 terms shall be one, two, three, or four years to ensure  
5 staggered rotation of members.

6 (c) The advisory committee shall meet at least annually to  
7 review election procedures, services, and technology and access  
8 to information, and shall make recommendations to the office of  
9 elections on at least an annual basis. The advisory committee  
10 may meet and subsequently make recommendations at additional  
11 times as determined by a majority of the members.

12 §11- County voters with special needs advisory  
13 committees. (a) Each county shall establish a county voters  
14 with special needs advisory committee. The purpose of the  
15 advisory committee shall be to ensure equal and independent  
16 access to voter registration, casting of ballots, and all other  
17 county elections division services.

18 (b) Each advisory committee shall consist of five members  
19 appointed by the mayor of each respective county based on  
20 recommendations from organizations within the county that are  
21 comprised of a majority of officers and members who are persons



1 with physical disabilities including visual impairment. Each  
2 member shall identify as a voter with special needs arising from  
3 physical disabilities including visual and hearing impairments  
4 which require an accommodation to vote. The terms of advisory  
5 committee members shall be four years; provided that initial  
6 terms shall be one, two, three, or four years to ensure  
7 staggered rotation of members.

8 (c) Each advisory committee shall meet at least annually  
9 to review election procedures, services, and technology and  
10 access to information, and shall make recommendations to the  
11 office of elections on at least an annual basis. The advisory  
12 committees may meet and subsequently make recommendations at  
13 additional times as determined by a majority of the members."

14 SECTION 3. Chapter 353C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§353C- Eligible voter notification. The department  
18 shall notify individuals on parole or probation of their  
19 eligibility to vote and provide them with information on how to  
20 register and vote."



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

3 1. By adding four new definitions to be appropriately  
4 inserted and to read:

5 "Ballot summary" means a complete record of ballot  
6 selections that is verified by the voter.

7 "Closing hour of voting" means 7:00 p.m. Hawaii Standard  
8 Time on election day.

9 "Precinct" means the smallest political subdivision  
10 established by law.

11 "Provisional ballot" means a ballot and any accompanying  
12 materials issued to a voter that are segregated for review and  
13 subsequent determination of validity, in accordance with  
14 eligibility criteria and other requirements of law."

15 2. By amending the definition of "ballot" to read:

16 "Ballot" means a ballot, including an absentee ballot,  
17 that is a written or printed, or partly written and partly  
18 printed paper or papers containing the names of persons to be  
19 voted for, the office to be filled, and the questions or issues  
20 to be voted on. "Ballot" includes [a]:



1       (1) A ballot summary reflecting a complete record of the  
2       ballot selections made by a voter utilizing an HTML  
3       ballot or similar accessible ballot that produces a  
4       ballot summary;

5       (2) A voter verifiable paper audit trail in the event  
6       there is a discrepancy between a voting machine's  
7       electronic record of the voted ballot and the voter  
8       verifiable paper audit trail; and

9       (3) A ballot used in an election by mail pursuant to part  
10       VIIA, including a ballot approved for electronic  
11       transmission. A ballot may consist of one or more  
12       cards or pieces of paper, or one face of a card or  
13       piece of paper, or a portion of the face of a card or  
14       piece of paper, depending on the number of offices,  
15       candidates to be elected thereto, questions or issues  
16       to be voted on, and the voting system in use."

17       3. By amending the definition of "district" to read:

18        "District" means, unless otherwise specified, the district  
19 of political representation [~~with the fewest eligible voters in~~  
20 ~~a particular election.~~] associated with a state representative."



1 SECTION 5. Section 11-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Any person qualified to and desiring to register as a  
4 voter in any county shall make and subscribe to an application  
5 in the form of an affidavit.

6 The affidavit shall contain the following information:

7 (1) Name;

8 (2) The applicant's Hawaii driver's license number or  
9 Hawaii state identification card number; provided  
10 that:

11 (A) If no driver's license or identification card has  
12 been issued to the applicant, the last four  
13 digits of the applicant's social security number;  
14 and

15 (B) If no social security number has been issued to  
16 the applicant, an election official or county  
17 clerk shall assign the applicant a unique  
18 identification number for voter registration  
19 purposes and enroll the applicant in the State's  
20 computerized voter registration list, if any;

21 (3) Date of birth;



- 1 (4) Residence, including mailing address;
- 2 (5) That the residence stated in the affidavit is not
- 3 simply because of the person's presence in the State,
- 4 but that the residence was acquired with the intent to
- 5 make Hawaii the person's legal residence with all the
- 6 accompanying obligations therein; ~~and~~
- 7 (6) That the person is a citizen[-]; and
- 8 (7) A statement, if the applicant is unable to read
- 9 standard print due to disability, acknowledging that
- 10 fact and requesting an electronic ballot be sent to
- 11 the applicant's email address.

12 ~~[An application to register to vote shall include a space~~

13 ~~to request a permanent absentee ballot.]"~~

14 SECTION 6. Section 11-15.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

15 amended to read as follows:

16 "§11-15.2 ~~[Late registration.]~~ Same day in-person

17 registration. (a) Notwithstanding the closing of the general

18 county register pursuant to section 11-24, a person who is

19 ~~[eligible to vote but is]~~ not registered to vote may register by

20 appearing in person at any voter service center on or before



1 election day~~[,]~~ or register electronically pursuant to  
2 section 11-15.3.

3 (b) The clerk shall designate a registration clerk~~[, who~~  
4 ~~may be an election official,]~~ at each voter service center~~[,~~

5 ~~(c) The registration clerk]~~ who shall process applications  
6 for any person ~~[not registered to vote]~~ who submits a signed  
7 affidavit in accordance with section 11-15, which shall include  
8 a sworn affirmation:

9 (1) Of the person's qualification to vote;

10 (2) Acknowledging that the person has not voted and will  
11 not attempt to vote again in that election, and has  
12 not cast and will not cast any absentee ballot  
13 pursuant to chapter 15 in that election; and

14 (3) Acknowledging that providing false information may  
15 result in a class C felony, punishable by a fine not  
16 exceeding ~~[\$1,000]~~ \$10,000 or imprisonment not  
17 exceeding five years, or both.

18 ~~[(d)]~~ (c) The registration clerk may accept, as prima  
19 facie evidence, the allegation of the person in the application  
20 regarding the person's residence in accordance with  
21 section 11-15(b), unless the allegation is contested by a



1 qualified voter. The registration clerk may demand that the  
2 person furnish substantiating evidence to the other allegations  
3 of the person's application in accordance with section 11-15(b).  
4 If additional time or information is required to validate an  
5 application, the applicant shall be provided a provisional  
6 ballot.

7 ~~[(e) Registration may be challenged in accordance with~~  
8 ~~section 11-25.~~

9 ~~[(f) Notwithstanding subsection (a), registration pursuant~~  
10 ~~to this section may also be used by a person who is registered~~  
11 ~~to vote but whose name cannot be found on the county register.~~

12 ~~[(g) The clerk of each county shall add persons who~~  
13 ~~properly register under this section to the respective general~~  
14 ~~county register. Within thirty days of registration, the clerk~~  
15 ~~shall mail to the person a notice including the person's name,~~  
16 ~~current street address, district, and date of registration. A~~  
17 ~~notice mailed pursuant to this subsection shall serve as prima~~  
18 ~~facie evidence that the person is a registered voter as of the~~  
19 ~~date of registration.] "~~

20 SECTION 7. Section 11-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:



1           "§11-17 Removal of names from register, when;  
2 reregistration. (a) The clerk, [~~no later than 4:30 p.m. on the~~  
3 ~~sixtieth day~~] after every general election, shall remove the  
4 [~~name~~] names of [~~any~~] registered [~~voter~~] voters who were  
5 identified as having an outdated or undeliverable address who  
6 did not vote in [~~that general election, and also did not vote in~~  
7 ~~the primary election preceding that general election, and also~~  
8 ~~did not vote in the previous general election, and also did not~~  
9 ~~vote in the primary election preceding that general election,~~  
10 ~~and also did not vote in the regularly scheduled special~~  
11 ~~elections held in conjunction with those primary and general~~  
12 ~~elections, if any,] all elections held during the two previous  
13 federal election cycles with the exception of[+  
14           (1) ~~Those who submitted written requests for absentee~~  
15           ~~ballots as provided in section 15-4; or~~  
16           (2) ~~Anyone~~] anyone who preregistered pursuant to  
17           section 11-12(b) .  
18 [If a person voted, at least once, in any of the above mentioned  
19 elections, the person's name shall remain on the list of  
20 registered voters.] For this purpose, "vote" means the  
21 depositing of the ballot in the ballot box regardless of whether~~



1 the ballot is blank or later rejected for any reason. In the  
2 case of voting machines, "vote" means the voter has activated  
3 the proper mechanism and fed the ballot into the machine. In  
4 the case of an election by mail pursuant to part VIIA, "vote"  
5 means the voter has returned the ballot to the chief election  
6 officer or clerk by the United States Postal Service, by  
7 personal delivery of the ballot to a place of deposit or voter  
8 service center, or by electronic transmission under certain  
9 circumstances pursuant to part VIIA.

10 (b) [The] Before removal as noted in subsection (a), the  
11 clerk shall ~~[also] identify [or remove the name of any]~~  
12 registered voter ~~[if the clerk, after]~~ names from a postal  
13 database containing outdated or undeliverable addresses or by  
14 mailing a notice or other correspondence, properly addressed,  
15 ~~[with postage prepaid, receives the notice or other~~  
16 ~~correspondence as return mail with]~~ and receiving a postal  
17 notation that the notice or other correspondence was not  
18 deliverable. ~~[On election day, any person identified or removed~~  
19 ~~shall have the person's name corrected or restored in the~~  
20 ~~register and shall be allowed to vote if the person completes an~~



1 ~~affidavit or other form prescribed by the chief election officer~~  
2 ~~affirming that the person:~~

3 ~~(1) Claims the person's legal residence at the address~~  
4 ~~listed on the register;~~

5 ~~(2) Changed the person's legal residence after the closing~~  
6 ~~of the register for that election; or~~

7 ~~(3) Moved to a new residence within the same district as~~  
8 ~~the person's residence as listed on the register.]~~

9 (c) Upon identification of names of registered voters as  
10 prescribed in subsection (b), the clerk shall conduct any  
11 notification mailings as required by applicable federal law.

12 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) The clerk may also remove the name of any  
13 registered voter, if the voter so desires and properly notifies  
14 the clerk pursuant to the procedures established by the chief  
15 election officer.

16 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Any person whose name has been removed from the  
17 register ~~[, at any time prior to the closing of the register, as~~  
18 ~~provided in section 11-24,]~~ may have that person's name restored  
19 in the register by presenting oneself to the clerk and  
20 reregistering pursuant to section 11-15, or by making  
21 application by mail or otherwise pursuant to procedures



1 established by the clerk. The clerk shall require satisfactory  
2 evidence to establish the identity of the applicant. The names  
3 of all those persons shall be reentered in the register."

4 SECTION 8. Section 11-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by amending subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

6 "(c) Any person whose name appears on the registered  
7 voters list whose residence has changed since the last election,  
8 and whom the clerk has not transferred under section 11-20, may  
9 apply on a form prescribed by the chief election officer on the  
10 day of the election for transfer of registration to the  
11 [~~district~~] precinct of the new residence. Any person so  
12 transferring voter registration shall be immediately added to  
13 the register of the new [~~district.~~] precinct.

14 (d) Where a person was incorrectly placed on a list of  
15 voters of a [~~district~~] precinct in which the person does not  
16 actually reside, the person may correct the registration."

17 SECTION 9. Section 11-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19 "(a) The clerk shall correct the register if at any time  
20 it shall be manifest to the clerk that the name of a person  
21 registered has been accidentally misspelled, or that the person



1 has been misnamed therein, or that the person has been  
2 accidentally registered under the wrong [~~district,~~] precinct, or  
3 that the person was accidentally removed pursuant to  
4 section 11-17(a), or that the name of the person should be  
5 corrected or restored pursuant to section 11-17(b)."

6 SECTION 10. Section 11-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "**§11-23 Changing register; striking names of disqualified**  
9 **voters.** [~~(a)~~] Whenever the clerk receives from the department  
10 of health or any informing agency, information of the death,  
11 loss of voting rights of a person sentenced for a felony as  
12 provided in section 831-2, adjudication as an incapacitated  
13 person under the provisions of chapter 560, loss of citizenship,  
14 or any other disqualification to vote, [~~of any person registered~~  
15 ~~to vote in that county, or who the clerk has reason to believe~~  
16 ~~may be registered to vote therein, the clerk shall thereupon~~  
17 ~~make such investigation as may be necessary to prove or disprove~~  
18 ~~the information, giving the person concerned, if available,~~  
19 ~~notice and an opportunity to be heard. If after the~~  
20 ~~investigation the clerk finds that the person is dead, or~~  
21 ~~incapacitated to the extent that the person lacks sufficient~~



1 ~~understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible~~  
2 ~~decisions concerning voting, or has lost voting rights pursuant~~  
3 ~~to section 831-2, or has lost citizenship, or is disqualified~~  
4 ~~for any other reason to vote, the clerk shall remove the name of~~  
5 ~~the person from the register.~~

6 ~~(b) The clerk shall make and keep an index of all~~  
7 ~~information furnished to the clerk under any requirements of law~~  
8 ~~concerning any of the matters in this section. Whenever any~~  
9 ~~person applies to register as a voter, the clerk shall, before~~  
10 ~~registering the person, consult the index for the purpose of~~  
11 ~~ascertaining whether or not the person is in any manner~~  
12 ~~disqualified to vote.] the clerk may accept the reported~~  
13 ~~information as prima facie evidence to maintain and update the~~  
14 ~~general register. Any person whose name is removed from the~~  
15 ~~register of voters under this section may reregister to vote or~~  
16 ~~appeal in the manner provided by sections 11-26 and 11-51, and~~  
17 ~~[such] the proceedings shall be had upon the appeal as in other~~  
18 ~~appeals under these sections."~~

19 SECTION 11. Section 11-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read as follows:



1           "§11-24 Closing register. (a) At 4:30 p.m. on the  
2   ~~[thirtieth]~~ tenth day ~~[prior to]~~ before each ~~[primary, special~~  
3   ~~primary, or special]~~ election, but if the day is a Saturday,  
4   Sunday, or holiday then at 4:30 p.m. on the first working day  
5   immediately thereafter, the general county register shall be  
6   closed to registration for persons seeking to vote ~~[at the~~  
7   ~~primary, special primary, or special election]~~ and remain closed  
8   to registration until after the election, subject to change only  
9   as provided in sections 11-15.2, 11-21(c), 11-22, 11-25, 11-26,  
10   and this section.

11           (b) Notwithstanding the ~~[closing of the register for~~  
12   ~~registration to vote at the primary or special primary election,~~  
13   ~~the register shall remain open for the registration of persons~~  
14   ~~seeking to vote at the general or special general election,~~  
15   ~~until 4:30 p.m. on the thirtieth day prior to the general or~~  
16   ~~special general election, but if the day is a Saturday, Sunday,~~  
17   ~~or holiday then at 4:30 p.m. on the first working day~~  
18   ~~immediately thereafter, at the end of which period the general~~  
19   ~~county register shall be closed to registration and remain~~  
20   ~~closed until after the general or special general election next~~  
21   ~~following, subject to change only as provided in~~



1 ~~sections 11-21(e), 11-22, 11-25, and 11-26.]~~ time of closing the  
2 general county registrar under subsection (a), the clerk may  
3 accept an application submitted on the tenth day if it was  
4 received electronically through the online voter registration  
5 system in accordance with section 11-15.3 or received as part of  
6 a driver's licensing transaction or from another designated  
7 voter registration agency under the National Voter Registration  
8 Act of 1993. The clerk shall also accept an application that is  
9 postmarked before or on the tenth day before the election."

10 SECTION 12. Section 11-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

12 "(a) Any registered voter may challenge the right of a  
13 person to be or to remain registered as a voter in any precinct  
14 for any cause not previously decided by the board of  
15 registration or the supreme court in respect to the same person.  
16 The challenge shall be in writing, setting forth the grounds  
17 upon which it is based, and be signed by the person making the  
18 challenge. The challenge shall be delivered to the clerk who  
19 shall immediately serve notice thereof on the person challenged.  
20 The clerk shall, as soon as possible, investigate and rule on  
21 the challenge."



1 SECTION 13. Section 11-26, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended as follows:

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

4 "(a) In cases where the clerk, or [~~precinct~~] voter service  
5 center officials, rules on a challenge on election day, the  
6 person ruled against may appeal from the ruling to the board of  
7 registration of the person's county for review under part III.  
8 The appeal shall be brought before the challenger and challenged  
9 party leave the [~~polling place~~] voter service center. If an  
10 appeal is brought, both the challenger and the challenged voter  
11 may be parties to the appeal."

12 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

13 "(c) If the appeal is sustained, the board shall  
14 immediately certify that finding to the clerk, who shall  
15 thereupon alter the register to correspond to the findings of  
16 the board, and when necessary, the clerk shall notify the  
17 [~~precinct~~] voter service center officials of the change in the  
18 register."

19 SECTION 14. Section 11-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read as follows:



1       "**§11-91 Proclamation.** [~~Not~~] No later than 4:30 p.m. on  
2 the tenth day [~~prior to~~] before the close of filing in elections  
3 involving state offices, the chief election officer shall issue  
4 an election proclamation. In elections involving only county  
5 offices the clerk shall issue the proclamation. In elections  
6 involving both state and county offices the proclamation may be  
7 issued jointly.

8       The proclamation shall contain a statement of the [~~time and~~  
9 ~~places where, and the~~] purposes for which[~~7~~] the election is to  
10 be held, and a designation of the offices and the terms thereof  
11 for which candidates are to be nominated or elected. It may  
12 also contain any other relevant matter including an offer of  
13 rewards for the detection and conviction of offenders against  
14 the election laws. The chief election officer or clerk shall  
15 cause the election proclamation to be published at least once in  
16 a newspaper of general circulation and [~~not~~] no later than on  
17 the tenth day [~~prior to~~] before the close of filing."

18       SECTION 15. Section 11-92.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20       "**§11-92.1 Election proclamation; establishment of a new**  
21 **precinct; voter service centers and places of deposit; changes**



1 to [~~district~~] precinct boundaries. (a) The [~~chief election~~  
2 ~~officer~~] clerk shall issue a proclamation listing all voter  
3 service centers and places of deposit, including the days each  
4 voter service center and place of deposit is open and the hours  
5 of operations and location of each voter service center and  
6 place of deposit, as may have been determined by the clerk as of  
7 the proclamation date[-] and whenever a new precinct is  
8 established in any representative district. The clerk shall  
9 make arrangements for the rental or erection of suitable shelter  
10 for the establishment of a voter service center whenever public  
11 buildings are not available and shall cause these voter service  
12 centers to be equipped with the necessary facilities for  
13 lighting, ventilation, and equipment needed for elections on any  
14 island. This proclamation may be issued jointly with the  
15 proclamation required in section 11-91.

16 (b) No change shall be made in the boundaries of any  
17 [~~district~~] precinct later than 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day before  
18 the close of filing for an election.

19 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), and pursuant to  
20 section 15-2.5, the clerk is not required to establish voter



1 service centers for [~~districts~~] precincts affected by natural  
2 disasters, as provided in section 15-2.5."

3 SECTION 16. Section 11-92.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§11-92.3 Natural disasters; postponement; consolidation  
6 of [~~districts,~~] precincts; special elections. (a) In the event  
7 of a flood, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, high wind,  
8 or other natural disaster, occurring before an election where  
9 the extent of damage caused is such that the ability of voters,  
10 in any precinct, district, or county, to exercise their right to  
11 vote is substantially impaired, the chief election officer or  
12 clerk in the case of county elections may postpone the  
13 conducting of an election in the affected [~~area~~] precinct,  
14 district, or county for no more than twenty-one days; provided  
15 that any postponement shall not affect the conduct of the  
16 election, tabulation, or distribution of results for those  
17 precincts, districts, or counties not designated for  
18 postponement. The chief election officer or clerk in the case  
19 of county elections shall give notice of the postponement by  
20 whatever possible news or broadcast media are available.



1 (b) In the event the chief election officer or the clerk  
2 in a county election determines that the number of candidates or  
3 issues on the ballot in a special, special primary, or special  
4 general election does not require the full number of established  
5 [~~districts,~~] precincts, the [~~districts]~~ precincts may be  
6 consolidated for the purposes of the special, special primary,  
7 or special general election into a small number of special,  
8 special primary, or special general election [~~districts,~~]  
9 precincts.

10 A special, special primary, or special general election  
11 [~~district]~~ precinct shall be considered the same as an  
12 established [~~district]~~ precinct for all purposes. No later than  
13 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day before the special, special primary,  
14 or special general election, the chief election officer or the  
15 clerk shall give public notice, in the area in which the  
16 special, special primary, or special general election is to be  
17 held, of the special, special primary, or special general  
18 election [~~districts,~~] precincts."

19 SECTION 17. Section 11-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read as follows:



1            "[+]§11-101[+] Elections eligible to be conducted by mail.  
2 Beginning with the 2020 primary election, all elections shall be  
3 conducted by mail in accordance with this title. A voter in an  
4 election conducted by mail shall not be precluded from voting by  
5 absentee ballot under chapter 15 or 15D, if the voter complies  
6 with the applicable requirements."

7            SECTION 18. Section 11-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

9            "(b) To the extent practicable, the clerk shall mail a  
10 ballot package by non-forwardable mail to each registered voter  
11 in the county so as to enable voters to receive the ballot  
12 package [~~approximately~~] at least eighteen days before the  
13 election[-]; provided that the State and counties shall not be  
14 liable if the ballot package is received fewer than eighteen  
15 days before the election. The clerk shall continue mailing  
16 ballot packages to voters who register to vote no later than ten  
17 days before the date of the election and to voters who update  
18 their voter registration address no later than [~~fourteen~~] seven  
19 days before the date of the election[-] and who have not yet  
20 voted; provided that the clerk may continue mailing ballot  
21 packages beyond the deadlines established by this subsection if



1 the clerk determines that there is reasonable time for a voter  
2 to receive and submit the ballot package before the election.

3 In determining the initial mailing date of the ballot packages,  
4 the clerk shall consider the mailing place of origin and the  
5 most recent postal service delivery standards. The clerk shall  
6 not mail a ballot package to any voter in the county register  
7 who is identified as having an outdated or non-deliverable  
8 mailing address. Nothing in this part shall be construed to  
9 change the responsibilities of the clerk or chief election  
10 officer under chapter 15 with respect to voters requesting to  
11 vote by absentee ballot or chapter 15D with respect to uniform  
12 military and overseas voters."

13 SECTION 19. Section 11-104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended as follows:

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

16 "(a) After a voter receives a ballot package, the voter  
17 shall comply with the instructions included in the ballot  
18 package in order to cast a valid vote. The instructions shall  
19 include directions for:

20 (1) Marking the ballot;



1 (2) Inserting the marked ballot in the secrecy envelope or  
2 secrecy sleeve;

3 (3) Inserting the secrecy envelope or secrecy sleeve with  
4 the marked ballot in the return identification  
5 envelope; and

6 (4) Signing the affirmation on the return identification  
7 envelope before mailing or delivering the return  
8 identification envelope containing the secrecy  
9 envelope or secrecy sleeve with the marked ballot.

10 The affirmation shall consist of a statement to be  
11 subscribed to by the voter that affirms the fact that  
12 the voter is the person voting and that the voter's  
13 employer or agent of the employer, agent of the  
14 voter's labor union, or any candidate listed on the  
15 ballot did not assist the voter, as described in  
16 section 11-139, along with the instruction that the  
17 voter's ballot will be valid only if the affirmation  
18 statement is signed."

19 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

20 "(c) To cast a valid ballot, the voter shall return the  
21 return identification envelope containing the optional secrecy



1 envelope or secrecy sleeve with the marked ballot[+] in any  
2 manner:

3 (1) [~~By mail or~~] So that the return identification  
4 envelope is received [~~at the office of~~] by the clerk  
5 or the clerk's designee no later than the closing  
6 [~~time provided in section 11 131 on the date of the~~  
7 ~~election,~~] hour of voting; provided that anyone who is  
8 standing in line at the closing hour of voting with  
9 the intent of returning a ballot shall be permitted to  
10 do so;

11 (2) [~~By personal delivery at~~] To any place of deposit no  
12 later than [~~7:00 p.m. on the date of the election,~~]  
13 the closing hour of voting; provided that [any voter]  
14 anyone who is standing in line at a place of deposit  
15 at [7:00 p.m. on the date of the election] the closing  
16 hour of voting with the intent of returning a ballot  
17 [~~and casting a vote~~] shall be [~~allowed to vote,~~]  
18 permitted to do so; or

19 (3) [~~By personal delivery to~~] To any voter service center  
20 no later than the closing [~~time provided in~~  
21 ~~section 11 131 on the date of the election,~~] hour of



1           voting; provided that ~~[any voter]~~ anyone who is  
2           standing in line at a voter service center at the  
3           closing ~~[time provided in section 11-131 on the date~~  
4           ~~of the election]~~ hour of voting with the intent of  
5           returning a ballot ~~[and casting a vote]~~ shall be  
6           ~~[allowed to vote.]~~ permitted to do so."

7           SECTION 20. Section 11-105, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8           amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

9           "(b) Upon receipt of a completed replacement ballot  
10          application form~~[r]~~ or request, the clerk shall:

- 11           (1) Verify the registration of the voter and ensure that  
12           another ballot has not been returned by the voter;  
13           (2) Record that the voter has requested a replacement  
14           ballot;  
15           (3) Mark the return identification envelope as containing  
16           a replacement ballot; and  
17           (4) Issue the replacement ballot package by mail or make  
18           the ballot package available for pick-up by the voter.

19           (c) Voters who obtain a replacement ballot shall return  
20          the return identification envelope containing ~~[the secrecy~~  
21          ~~envelope or secrecy sleeve with]~~ the marked replacement ballot [+]



- 1       ~~(1) By mail so that the return identification envelope is~~  
2       ~~received at the office of the clerk no later than the~~  
3       ~~closing time provided in section 11-131 on the date of~~  
4       ~~the election;~~
- 5       ~~(2) By personal delivery to any place of deposit no later~~  
6       ~~than 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election; provided~~  
7       ~~that any voter who is standing in line at a place of~~  
8       ~~deposit at 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election with~~  
9       ~~the intent of returning a ballot and casting a vote~~  
10       ~~shall be allowed to vote; or~~
- 11       ~~(3) By personal delivery to any voter service center no~~  
12       ~~later than the closing time provided in section 11-131~~  
13       ~~on the date of the election; provided that any voter~~  
14       ~~who is standing in line at a voter service center at~~  
15       ~~the closing time provided in section 11-131 on the~~  
16       ~~date of the election with the intent of returning a~~  
17       ~~ballot and casting a vote shall be allowed to vote.]~~  
18       ~~in the same manner as provided in section 11-104(c).~~"

19       SECTION 21. Section 11-106, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20       amended to read as follows:



1 "[+]§11-106[+] Deficient return identification envelopes.

2 If:

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

5 (2) The affirmation signature does not match a reference  
6 signature image; or

7 (3) A return identification envelope contains another  
8 condition that would not allow the counting of the  
9 ballot,

10 the clerk shall make an attempt to notify the voter by first  
11 class mail, telephone, or electronic mail to inform the voter of  
12 the procedure to correct the deficiency. The voter shall have  
13 five business days after the date of the election to cure the  
14 deficiency. The chief election officer may adopt rules  
15 regarding requirements and procedures for correcting deficient  
16 return identification envelopes. The counting of ballots and  
17 disclosure of subsequent election results may continue during  
18 the time period permitted to cure a deficiency under this  
19 section. The clerk's inability to contact voters under this  
20 section shall not be grounds for a contest for cause under  
21 section 11-172. This section shall apply to all return



1 identification envelopes, including ballots utilizing the  
2 provisions of section 11-107 or chapter 15 or 15D."

3 SECTION 22. Section 11-107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 " ~~[+] §11-107 [+] Electronic transmission under certain~~  
6 ~~circumstances.~~ (a) If a ballot package is not received by a  
7 voter by the fifth day before the date of the election or a  
8 voter otherwise requires a replacement ballot within five days  
9 of an election, the voter may request that a ballot be forwarded  
10 by electronic transmission ~~[, provided that a voter with special~~  
11 ~~needs may request that a ballot be forwarded by electronic~~  
12 ~~transmission at any time]~~. Upon receipt of such a request and  
13 confirmation that ~~[proper application was made,]~~ the voter has  
14 not already voted, the clerk may transmit the appropriate  
15 ballot, ~~[together with a form containing the affirmations,]~~  
16 voting information, and a waiver of the right to secrecy under  
17 section 11-137. The waiver of the right to secrecy shall not be  
18 required if the voted ballot is returned in a signed ballot  
19 return identification envelope issued to the voter pursuant to  
20 section 11-102.



1 (b) The voter may return the completed replacement ballot  
2 and executed forms:

3 (1) By electronic transmission so that the completed  
4 replacement ballot and executed forms are received [at  
5 ~~the office of~~] by the clerk or the clerk's designee no  
6 later than the closing [~~time provided in~~  
7 ~~section 11-131 on the date of the election;~~] hour of  
8 voting; or

9 (2) [~~By mail so that the completed replacement ballot and~~  
10 ~~executed forms are received at the office of the clerk~~  
11 ~~no later than the closing time provided in~~  
12 ~~section 11-131 on the date of the election;~~

13 ~~(3) By personal delivery to any place of deposit no later~~  
14 ~~than 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election; provided~~  
15 ~~that any voter who is standing in line at a place of~~  
16 ~~deposit at 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election with~~  
17 ~~the intent of returning a ballot and casting a vote~~  
18 ~~shall be allowed to vote; or~~

19 ~~(4) By personal delivery to a voter service center no~~  
20 ~~later than the closing time provided in section 11-131~~  
21 ~~on the date of the election; provided that any voter~~



1 ~~who is standing in line at a voter service center at~~  
2 ~~the closing time provided in section 11-131 on the~~  
3 ~~date of the election with the intent of returning a~~  
4 ~~ballot and casting a vote shall be allowed to vote.]~~

5 In the same manner as provided in section 11-104(c).

6 (c) A voter with special needs may request that a ballot  
7 be forwarded by electronic transmission at any time, but no  
8 earlier than the date that the voter's initial ballot package  
9 was or would have been transmitted. Upon receipt of such a  
10 request and confirmation that the voter has not already voted,  
11 the clerk may transmit the appropriate ballot, voting  
12 information, and a means of electronic authentication that does  
13 not include the voter's hand written signature or a waiver of  
14 secrecy. The voter with special needs may return the completed  
15 ballot and executed forms by any of the methods specified in  
16 subsection (b); provided that the voter's hand written signature  
17 or a waiver of secrecy shall not be required.

18 [+e] (d) Upon receipt, the clerk shall verify compliance  
19 with the requirements of this part; provided that if the voter  
20 returns multiple voted ballots for the same election, the clerk



1 shall prepare only the first ballot returned that is not  
2 spoiled.

3 (e) The clerk may maintain a listing of voters with  
4 special needs that utilize a ballot forwarded by electronic  
5 transmission to facilitate the provision of voting services in  
6 subsequent elections."

7 SECTION 23. Section 11-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended as follows:

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

10 "(a) Ballot processing for tabulation may begin no sooner  
11 than the [~~tenth~~] eighteenth day before the election. In the  
12 presence of official observers, counting center employees may  
13 open the return identification envelopes and count the ballots;  
14 provided that any tabulation of the number of votes cast for a  
15 candidate or question appearing on the ballot, including a  
16 counting center printout or other disclosure, shall be kept  
17 confidential and shall not be disclosed to the public until  
18 after [~~7:00 p.m. on the date of the election~~] the closing hour  
19 of voting or after the last person in line at a voter service  
20 center desiring to vote at [~~7:00 p.m. on the date of the~~  
21 ~~election~~] the closing hour of voting has voted, as provided in



1 section 11-131, whichever is later. All handling and counting  
2 of ballots shall be conducted in accordance with procedures  
3 established by the chief election officer."

4 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

5 "(c) Any ballot the validity of which cannot be  
6 established upon receipt shall be retained by the clerk and  
7 shall not be commingled with ballots for which validity has been  
8 established until the validity of the ballot in question can be  
9 verified by the clerk. No ballot shall be included in an  
10 initial tabulation until the clerk has determined its validity.  
11 The clerk shall make reasonable efforts to determine the  
12 validity of ballots within seven days following an election day.  
13 No ballot shall be validated beyond the seventh day following an  
14 election."

15 SECTION 24. Section 11-109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended as follows:

17 1. By amending subsections (a) and (b) to read:

18 "(a) Voter service centers shall be established [~~at the~~  
19 ~~office of the clerk, and may be established at additional~~  
20 ~~locations within a county as may be designated by a clerk]~~ by



1 the clerks to service the particular needs of [a] each county's  
2 voters.

3 (b) [~~Voter service centers~~] In each county, a voter  
4 service center shall be open from the tenth business day  
5 preceding the day of the election during regular business hours  
6 until the [~~time provided in section 11-131 on the date of the~~  
7 ~~election~~] closing hour of voting and at the same times  
8 statewide. The clerks may operate additional voter service  
9 centers with varying days or hours of operation to service the  
10 voters of particular areas that otherwise could not support the  
11 operation of a voter service center for ten business days or the  
12 same times statewide. Anyone standing in line at a voter  
13 service center at the closing hour of voting with the intent of  
14 voting shall be permitted to do so. A person eligible to vote  
15 but who is not registered to vote standing in line at a voter  
16 service center at the closing hour of voting shall be permitted  
17 to apply under section 11-15.2 to register to vote and  
18 subsequently vote that election day. To the extent the  
19 registration clerk determines the applicant to be registered at  
20 that time, the applicant will be permitted to vote a regular  
21 ballot. If additional time is required to process the



1 application, the applicant shall be provided a provisional  
2 ballot."

3 2. By amending subsection (d) to read:

4 "(d) The clerks may designate and provide for places of  
5 deposit to be open [~~five business days before the election until~~  
6 ~~7:00 p.m. on the day of the election,~~] as early as the mailing  
7 of ballots by the clerks; provided that the locations and  
8 apparatus for receiving voted ballots can be securely maintained  
9 during the period of use for each election, and as may be  
10 permitted by the operational hours."

11 SECTION 25. Section 11-117, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

13 "(b) On receipt of the notice of death, withdrawal, or  
14 upon determination of disqualification, the chief election  
15 officer or the clerk shall inform the chairperson of the  
16 political party of which the person deceased, withdrawing, or  
17 disqualified was a candidate. When a candidate dies, withdraws,  
18 or is disqualified after the close of filing and the ballots  
19 have been printed, the chief election officer or the clerk may  
20 order the candidate's name stricken from the ballot or order  
21 that a notice of the death, withdrawal, or disqualification be



1 prominently posted at the appropriate [~~polling places~~] voter  
2 service centers on election day."

3 SECTION 26. Section 11-131, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§11-131 **Voter service center hours.** The hours of voting  
6 at voter service centers shall be:

7 (1) Regular business hours as prescribed in section 11-109  
8 and by the clerk; and

9 (2) On an election day, from 7:00 a.m. until [~~7:00 p.m. of~~  
10 ~~that day.~~] the closing hour of voting.

11 If, at [~~7:00 p.m. on an election day,~~] the closing hour of  
12 voting, any voter is standing in line at a voter service center  
13 with the desire of entering and voting, but due to the voter  
14 service center being overcrowded has been unable to do so, the  
15 voter shall be allowed to vote. No voter shall be permitted to  
16 enter or join the line after the prescribed hours of voting  
17 specified in this section."

18 SECTION 27. Section 11-132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) Election officials shall post in a conspicuous place,  
21 before operation of voting service centers or places of deposit,



1 a map designating an area of two hundred feet from the perimeter  
2 of any voter service center, place of deposit, and its  
3 appurtenances. Any person who remains or loiters within this  
4 specified area for the purpose of campaigning shall be guilty of  
5 a misdemeanor. For the purposes of this section, a voter  
6 service center, place of deposit, and its appurtenances shall  
7 include:

- 8 (1) The building in which a voter service center, place of  
9 deposit, or its appurtenances are located;
- 10 (2) Any parking lot adjacent to the building and routinely  
11 used for parking at that building;
- 12 (3) The routes of access between the building and any  
13 parking lot; [~~and~~]
- 14 (4) Any route of access between any public thoroughfare  
15 (right of way) and the voter service center, place of  
16 deposit, or its appurtenances, to ensure an open and  
17 accessible ingress and egress to and from the voter  
18 service center, place of deposit, or appurtenances for  
19 voters [-]; and



1       (5) Any area at a voter service center, place of deposit,  
2           or its appurtenances designated for voters waiting to  
3           vote."

4           SECTION 28. Section 11-138, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6           "**§11-138 Time allowed voters.** A voter shall be allowed to  
7 remain in the voting booth for five minutes, and having voted  
8 the voter shall at once emerge and leave the voting booth. If  
9 the voter refuses to leave when so requested by a majority of  
10 [~~precinct~~] voter service center officials after the lapse of  
11 five minutes, the voter shall be removed by the [~~precinct~~] voter  
12 service center officials."

13           SECTION 29. Section 11-153, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

15           "(c) The chief election officer or the clerk shall make a  
16 list of all [~~districts~~] precincts in which an overage or  
17 underage occurred and the amount of the overage or underage.  
18 This list shall be filed and kept as a public record in the  
19 office of the chief election officer or the clerk in county  
20 elections.



1 An election contest may be brought under part XI, if the  
2 overage or underage in any [~~district~~] precinct could affect the  
3 outcome of an election."

4 SECTION 30. Section 11-155, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "§11-155 Certification of results of election. On receipt  
7 of certified tabulations from the election officials concerned,  
8 the chief election officer, or county clerk in a county  
9 election, shall compile, certify, and release the election  
10 results by district and precinct after the expiration of the  
11 time for bringing an election contest. The certification shall  
12 be based on a comparison and reconciliation of the following:

- 13 (1) The results of the canvass of ballots conducted  
14 pursuant to chapter 16;
- 15 (2) The audit of [~~pollbooks (and related record books)~~]  
16 records and resultant overage and underage report;
- 17 (3) The audit results of the manual audit team;
- 18 [~~(4) The results of the absentee ballot reconciliation~~  
19 ~~report compiled by the clerks;~~
- 20 ~~(5)]~~ (4) The results of any mandatory recount of votes  
21 conducted pursuant to section 11-158; and



1        [~~6~~] (5) All logs, tally sheets, and other documents  
2                    generated during the election and in the canvass of  
3                    the election results.

4 A certificate of election or a certificate of results declaring  
5 the results of the election as of election day shall be issued  
6 pursuant to section 11-156; provided that in the event of an  
7 overage or underage, a list of all precincts in which an overage  
8 or underage occurred shall be attached to the certificate. The  
9 number of candidates to be elected receiving the highest number  
10 of votes in any election district shall be declared to be  
11 elected. Unless otherwise provided, the term of office shall  
12 begin or end as of the close of ~~polls~~ voter service centers on  
13 election day. The position on the question receiving the  
14 appropriate majority of the votes cast shall be reflected in a  
15 certificate of results issued pursuant to section 11-156."

16        SECTION 31. Section 11-172, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18        "**§11-172 Contests for cause; generally.** With respect to  
19 any election, any candidate, or qualified political party  
20 directly interested, or any thirty voters of any election  
21 district, may file a complaint in the supreme court. The



1 complaint shall set forth any cause or causes, such as but not  
2 limited to, provable fraud, overages, or underages, that could  
3 cause a difference in the election results. The complaint shall  
4 also set forth any reasons for reversing, correcting, or  
5 changing the decisions of the [~~precinct~~] voter service center  
6 officials or the officials at a counting center in an election  
7 using the electronic voting system. A copy of the complaint  
8 shall be delivered to the chief election officer or the clerk in  
9 the case of county elections."

10 SECTION 32. Section 11-174.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

12 "(b) In cases involving general, special general, special,  
13 or runoff elections the complaint shall be heard by the supreme  
14 court in which the complaint was filed as soon as it reasonably  
15 may be heard. On the return day, the court, upon its motion or  
16 otherwise, may direct summons to be issued to any person who may  
17 be interested in the result of the proceedings.

18 At the hearing, the court shall cause the evidence to be  
19 reduced to writing and shall give judgment, stating all findings  
20 of fact and of law. The judgment may invalidate the general,  
21 special general, special, or runoff election on the grounds that



1 a correct result cannot be ascertained because of a mistake or  
2 fraud on the part of the [~~precinct~~] voter service center  
3 officials; or decide that a certain candidate, or certain  
4 candidates, received a majority or plurality of votes cast and  
5 were elected. If the judgment should be that the general,  
6 special general, special, or runoff election was invalid, a  
7 certified copy thereof shall be filed with the governor, and the  
8 governor shall duly call a new election to be held not later  
9 than one hundred twenty days after the judgment is filed. If  
10 the court shall decide which candidate or candidates have been  
11 elected, a copy of that judgment shall be served on the chief  
12 election officer or county clerk, who shall sign and deliver to  
13 the candidate or candidates certificates of election, and the  
14 same shall be conclusive of the right of the candidate or  
15 candidates to the offices."

16 SECTION 33. Section 15-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "§15-2 Who may vote by absentee ballot. Any person  
19 registered to vote may cast an absentee ballot in any election,  
20 including an election conducted by mail, in the manner provided



1 in this chapter and rules adopted by the chief election  
2 officer."

3 SECTION 34. Section 15-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending its title and subsections (a) and (b) to  
5 read as follows:

6 "§15-2.5 Voting by mail in [~~district~~] precinct affected by  
7 natural disasters. (a) If the chief election officer and clerk  
8 of a county affected as a result of a natural disaster determine  
9 that the opening of a designated voter service center will  
10 adversely affect the health and safety of voters or [~~precinct~~]  
11 voter service center officials, the chief election officer and  
12 county clerk, by written order, may require the registered  
13 voters of any [~~district~~] precinct to vote by mail as provided in  
14 part VIIA of chapter 11.

15 (b) Within thirty days after the issuance of such an  
16 order, the chief election officer and county clerk shall notify  
17 all registered voters in the affected [~~district~~] precinct of the  
18 issuance of the order."

19 SECTION 35. Section 15-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:



1           "(b) If absentee ballots requested under section 15-4 are  
2 not received by a voter within five days of an election, if a  
3 voter requires a replacement ballot within five days of an  
4 election, or if a voter would otherwise not be able to return a  
5 properly issued ballot by the close of polls, then a voter may  
6 request that absentee ballots be forwarded by electronic  
7 transmission; provided that a voter with special needs,  
8 including a disability, may request that a ballot be forwarded  
9 by electronic transmission at any time[-], but no earlier than  
10 the date that the voter's initial ballot package was or would  
11 have been transmitted. Upon receipt of such a request and  
12 confirmation that [~~proper application was made,~~] the voter has  
13 not already voted, the clerk may transmit appropriate ballots,  
14 [~~together with a form requiring the affirmations and~~] voting  
15 information required by section 15-6, and a form containing a  
16 waiver of the right to secrecy, as provided by section 11-137.  
17 The waiver of the right to secrecy shall not be required if the  
18 voted ballot is returned in a signed ballot return  
19 identification envelope issued to the voter. The voter may  
20 return the voted ballots and executed forms by electronic  
21 transmission or mail; provided that they are received by the



1 issuing clerk no later than the [~~close of polls~~] closing hour on  
2 election day[~~-~~] in accordance with section 11-131. Upon  
3 receipt, the clerk shall verify compliance with the requirements  
4 of section [~~15-9(e)~~] 15-9 and prepare the ballots for counting  
5 pursuant to section 15-10; provided that if the voter returns  
6 multiple voted absentee ballots for the same election, the clerk  
7 shall, for purposes of counting ballots, prepare only the first  
8 absentee ballot returned that is not spoiled."

9 SECTION 36. Section 15-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "§15-9 Return [~~and~~], receipt, processing, and treatment of  
12 absentee ballots. [~~(a) The return envelope shall be:~~

13 ~~(1) Mailed and must be received by the clerk issuing the~~  
14 ~~absentee ballot no later than the closing hour on~~  
15 ~~election day in accordance with section 11-131, or~~

16 ~~(2) Delivered other than by mail to the clerk issuing the~~  
17 ~~absentee ballot, or to a voter service center no later~~  
18 ~~than the closing hour on election day in accordance~~  
19 ~~with section 11-131.~~



1       ~~(b) Upon receipt of the return envelope from any person~~  
2 ~~voting under this chapter, the clerk may prepare the ballots for~~  
3 ~~counting pursuant to this section and section 15-10.~~

4       ~~(c) Before opening the return and ballot envelopes and~~  
5 ~~counting the ballots, the return envelopes shall be checked for~~  
6 ~~the following:~~

7       ~~(1) Signature on the affirmation statement;~~

8       ~~(2) Whether the signature corresponds with the absentee~~  
9 ~~request or register as prescribed in the rules adopted~~  
10 ~~by the chief election officer; and~~

11       ~~(3) Whether the person is a registered voter and has~~  
12 ~~complied with the requirements of sections 11-15~~  
13 ~~and 11-16.~~

14       ~~(d) If any requirement listed in subsection (c) is not met~~  
15 ~~or if the return or ballot envelope appears to be tampered with,~~  
16 ~~the clerk or the absentee ballot team official shall mark across~~  
17 ~~the face of the envelope "invalid" and it shall be kept in the~~  
18 ~~custody of the clerk and disposed of as prescribed for ballots~~  
19 ~~in section 11-154.] An absentee ballot shall be returned,~~  
20 ~~received, processed, and treated in the same manner as a return~~



1 identification envelope in an election by mail as provided by  
2 part VIIA of chapter 11."

3 SECTION 37. Section 15-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§15-11 Voting by absentee voter at [~~polls~~] a voter  
6 service center prohibited. Any person having voted an absentee  
7 ballot pursuant to this chapter shall not be entitled to cast a  
8 ballot at [~~the polls~~] a voter service center on election day.  
9 An absentee voter who [~~does cast~~] casts a ballot at [~~the polls~~]  
10 a voter service center shall be guilty of an election offense  
11 under section 19-3(5)."

12 SECTION 38. Section 15-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "[~~+~~]§15-13.5[~~+~~] Eligibility of voter after absentee ballot  
15 cast. The absentee ballot of any voter who was eligible to vote  
16 at the time the ballot was cast shall not be deemed invalid  
17 solely because the voter became ineligible to vote after casting  
18 the ballot. For the purposes of this section, "cast" means that  
19 the voter has:

20 (1) Deposited the absentee ballot in the mail for ballots  
21 mailed in accordance with section 15-9(a)(1);



1 (2) Delivered the absentee ballot to the appropriate  
2 county clerk or polling place in accordance with  
3 section ~~[15-9(a)(2) or (3),]~~ 15-9; or

4 (3) Completed voting in person at an absentee polling  
5 place."

6 SECTION 39. Section 15D-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "[~~f~~]**\$15D-10**[~~f~~] **Receipt of voted ballot.** A valid military-  
9 overseas ballot shall be counted if it is received by the close  
10 of the [~~polls~~] voter service center on the day of the election  
11 and meets the requirements [~~prescribed under~~] for absentee  
12 ballots pursuant to section 15-9."

13 SECTION 40. Section 16-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**\$16-23 Paper ballot; voting.** Upon receiving the ballot  
16 the voter shall proceed into one of the voting booths provided  
17 for the purpose, and shall mark the voter's ballot in the manner  
18 prescribed by section 16-22.

19 The voter shall then leave the booth and deliver the ballot  
20 to the [~~precinct~~] voter service center official in charge of the  
21 ballot boxes. The [~~precinct~~] voter service center official



1 shall be sufficiently satisfied that there is but one ballot  
2 enclosed, whereupon the ballot shall be immediately dropped into  
3 the proper box by the [~~precinct~~] voter service center official."

4 SECTION 41. Section 16-26, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "§16-26 Questionable ballots. A ballot shall be  
7 questionable if:

- 8 (1) [A] The ballot contains any mark or symbol whereby it  
9 can be identified, or any mark or symbol contrary to  
10 the provisions of law; or  
11 (2) Two or more ballots are found in the ballot box so  
12 folded together as to make it clearly evident that  
13 more than one ballot was put in by one person, the  
14 ballots shall be set aside as provided below.

15 Each ballot [~~which~~] that is held to be questionable shall  
16 be endorsed on the back by [~~the chairperson of precinct~~  
17 ~~officials with the chairperson's~~] a voter service center  
18 official with the official's name or initials, and the word  
19 "questionable". All questionable ballots shall be set aside  
20 uncounted and disposed of as provided for ballots in  
21 section 11-154."



1 SECTION 42. Section 16-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§16-27 Number of blank and questionable ballots; record  
4 of. In addition to the count of the valid ballots, the  
5 [~~precinct~~] voter service center officials shall, as to each  
6 separate official ballot, also determine and record the number  
7 of totally blank ballots and the number of questionable  
8 ballots."

9 SECTION 43. Section 16-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "§16-28 Declaration of results. When the [~~precinct~~] voter  
12 service center officials have ascertained the number of votes  
13 given for each candidate they shall make public declaration of  
14 the whole number of votes cast, the names of the persons voted  
15 for, and the number of votes for each person."

16 SECTION 44. Section 19-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "§19-6 Misdemeanors. The following persons shall be  
19 guilty of a misdemeanor:

20 (1) Any person who offers any bribe or makes any promise  
21 of gain, or with knowledge of the same, permits any



1 person to offer any bribe or make any promise of gain  
2 for the person's benefit to any voter to induce the  
3 voter to sign a nomination paper, and any person who  
4 accepts any bribe or promise of gain of any kind as  
5 consideration for signing the same, whether the bribe  
6 or promise of gain be offered or accepted before or  
7 after the signing;

8 (2) Any person who wilfully tears down, destroys, or  
9 defaces any election proclamation, poster, notice,  
10 [~~list of voters, visual aids, or~~] facsimile ballot, or  
11 election signage issued or posted by authority of law;

12 (3) Any person printing or duplicating or causing to be  
13 printed or duplicated any ballot, conforming as to the  
14 size, weight, shape, thickness, or color to the  
15 official ballot so that it could be cast or counted as  
16 an official ballot in an election;

17 (4) Every person who is disorderly or creates a  
18 disturbance whereby any meeting of the board of  
19 registration of voters during an election is disturbed  
20 or interfered with; or whereby any person who intends  
21 to be lawfully present at any meeting or election is



- 1 prevented from attending; or who causes any  
2 disturbance at any election; and every person  
3 assisting or aiding or abetting any disturbance;
- 4 (5) Every person who, either in person or through another,  
5 in any manner breaks up or prevents, or endeavors to  
6 break up or prevent, the holding of any meeting of the  
7 board of registration of voters, or in any manner  
8 breaks up or prevents, or endeavors to break up or  
9 prevent, the holding of any election;
- 10 (6) Any person, other than those designated by  
11 section 11-132, who remains or loiters within the area  
12 set aside for voting as set forth in section 11-132  
13 during the time appointed for voting;
- 14 (7) Any person, including candidates carrying on any  
15 campaign activities within the area described in  
16 section 11-132 during the period of time starting one  
17 hour before voting opens and ending when voting closes  
18 for the purpose of influencing votes. Campaign  
19 activities shall include the following:



- 1 (A) Any distribution, circulation, carrying, holding,  
2 posting, or staking of campaign cards, pamphlets,  
3 posters, and other literature;
- 4 (B) The use of public address systems and other  
5 public communication media;
- 6 (C) The use of motor caravans or parades; and
- 7 (D) The use of entertainment troupes or the free  
8 distribution of goods and services;
- 9 (8) Any person who opens a return envelope containing:
- 10 (A) An absentee ballot voted under chapter 15 other  
11 than those persons authorized to do so under  
12 chapter 15; or
- 13 (B) A ballot voted by mail under part VIIA of  
14 chapter 11 other than those persons authorized to  
15 do so under part VIIA of chapter 11;
- 16 (9) Any unauthorized person found in possession of any  
17 voting machine or keys thereof; ~~and~~
- 18 (10) Any person other than the postal service or the clerk  
19 as authorized in section 11-109, who sponsors,  
20 establishes, or displays a collection receptacle for



1           the purpose of receiving voted mail ballots or ballot  
2           return envelopes in an election; and

3       ~~[(10)]~~ (11) Every person who wilfully violates or fails to  
4           obey any of the provisions of law, punishment for  
5           which is not otherwise specified in this chapter."

6           SECTION 45. Section 353-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7       amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

8           "(a) In addition to any other responsibility or duty  
9       prescribed by law for the Hawaii paroling authority, the  
10      paroling authority shall:

- 11           (1) Serve as the central paroling authority for the State;  
12           (2) In selecting individuals for parole, consider for  
13           parole all committed persons, except in cases where  
14           the penalty of life imprisonment not subject to parole  
15           has been imposed, regardless of the nature of the  
16           offense committed;  
17           (3) Determine the time at which parole shall be granted to  
18           any eligible individual as that time at which maximum  
19           benefits of the correctional institutions to the  
20           individual have been reached and the element of risk  
21           to the community is minimal;



- 1           (4) Establish rules of operation to determine conditions  
2           of parole applicable to any individual granted parole;
- 3           (5) Provide continuing custody, control, and supervision  
4           of paroled individuals;
- 5           (6) Revoke or suspend parole and provide for the  
6           authorization of return to a correctional institution  
7           for any individual who violates parole or any  
8           condition of parole when, in the opinion of the Hawaii  
9           paroling authority, the violation presents a risk to  
10          community safety or a significant deviation from any  
11          condition of parole;
- 12          (7) Discharge an individual from parole when supervision  
13          is no longer needed;
- 14          (8) Interpret the parole program to the public in order to  
15          develop a broad base of public understanding and  
16          support; ~~and~~
- 17          (9) Recommend to the legislature sound parole legislation  
18          and recommend to the governor sound parole  
19          administration~~[-]~~; and



1        (10) Notify individuals on parole of their eligibility to  
2        vote and provide them with information on how to  
3        register and vote."

4        SECTION 46. Section 11-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5        repealed.

6        [~~"§11-181 Capital equipment. The State shall pay for all~~  
7        ~~voting system capital equipment. This shall include, but not be~~  
8        ~~limited to voting machines, voting devices, and initial computer~~  
9        ~~programs."]~~

10       SECTION 47. As soon as practicable, the office of  
11       elections and the county clerks shall make a determination of  
12       the optimal number and placement of voter service centers and  
13       places of deposit. In making the determination, the office of  
14       elections and the county clerks shall consider the following  
15       factors:

- 16       (1) Proximity to public transit;
- 17       (2) Access to free parking;
- 18       (3) Traffic patterns;
- 19       (4) Proximity to communities with low rates of vehicle
- 20       ownership;



- 1 (5) Time and distance that voters must travel to reach a
- 2 voter service center or place of deposit;
- 3 (6) Proximity to population centers;
- 4 (7) Proximity to geographically isolated populations;
- 5 (8) Proximity to official language minority communities;
- 6 (9) Proximity to low-income communities;
- 7 (10) Proximity to voters having disabilities;
- 8 (11) The need for alternate voting methods for voters with
- 9 disabilities;
- 10 (12) Proximity to communities with historically low vote by
- 11 mail usage; and
- 12 (13) Proximity to communities of eligible voters who are
- 13 not registered.

14 SECTION 48. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 49. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 06 day of JUL , 2021



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: April 27, 2021  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2021.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 548, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 27, 2021  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives