

JAN 22 2021

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the age  
2           qualification to vote in any federal, state, or local election  
3           is eighteen years of age. However, there are individuals whose  
4           dates of birth fall between the primary and general elections  
5           and therefore, due to current age restrictions, are unable to  
6           participate in state and local primary elections, which  
7           determine the ballot for the general elections in which they  
8           will later be eligible to vote. Granting voting rights to these  
9           individuals to participate in the voting process for state and  
10          local elections may improve voter turnout among youths and  
11          better educate youths about the democratic process.

12          The purpose of this Act is to allow an individual who is  
13          seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or  
14          before the next state or local general election to register and  
15          vote at the state or local primary election immediately  
16          preceding that state or local general election.



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

3 "§11-11 Registration. A person who registers as required  
4 by law shall be entitled to vote at any federal election  
5 provided that the person shall have attained the age of eighteen  
6 at the time of that election. A person who registers as  
7 required by law shall be entitled to vote at any state or local  
8 election if the person will attain the age of eighteen by the  
9 date of that election; provided that a person who is seventeen  
10 years of age but will attain the age of eighteen by the date of  
11 the next state or local general election shall be entitled to  
12 vote beginning with the state or local primary election  
13 immediately preceding the state or local general election by  
14 which the person will attain the age of eighteen years. The  
15 county clerk shall be responsible for voter registration in the  
16 respective counties and the keeping of the general register and  
17 precinct lists within the county."

18 SECTION 3. Section 11-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "§11-12 Age; place of registering. (a) Every person who  
21 has reached the age of eighteen years or who is seventeen years



1 of age and will be eighteen years of age by the date of the next  
2 federal election, and is otherwise qualified to register may do  
3 so for that election. Every person who has reached the age of  
4 eighteen years or who is seventeen years of age but will be  
5 eighteen years of age by the date of the next state or local  
6 election, and is otherwise qualified to register may do so for  
7 that election and the state or local primary election  
8 immediately preceding that election. The person shall then be  
9 listed upon the appropriate county general register and precinct  
10 list. No person shall register or vote in any other precinct  
11 than that in which the person resides except as provided in  
12 section 11-21.

13 (b) A person who is otherwise qualified to register and is  
14 at least sixteen years of age but will not be eighteen years of  
15 age by the date of the next election may preregister upon  
16 satisfactory proof of age and shall be automatically registered  
17 upon reaching age eighteen[-] for federal elections or age  
18 seventeen for certain state or local primary elections in  
19 accordance with subsection (a)."

20 SECTION 4. Section 11-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:



1           "§11-14.5 Residence address; confidentiality. (a) If a  
2 life threatening circumstance exists to:  
3           (1) A law enforcement person;  
4           (2) The law enforcement person's family; or  
5           (3) Persons otherwise determined by the clerk of the  
6           county in which the person is registered,  
7 that person may apply to the county clerk in writing to keep  
8 confidential the information relating to the residence address  
9 and telephone number contained in the affidavit of registration  
10 of that person, or any list or register prepared therefrom.  
11           (b) If the disclosure of the residence address or  
12 telephone number of a person would result in an unwarranted  
13 invasion of personal privacy or expose the person or a member of  
14 the person's family to risk of bodily harm, the person may apply  
15 to the chief election officer or county clerk to keep  
16 confidential the person's residence address and telephone number  
17 contained in the person's affidavit of registration, or any list  
18 or register prepared therefrom.  
19           (c) In accordance with procedures and rules adopted by the  
20 chief election officer or county clerk to protect personal  
21 privacy, the chief election officer or county clerk shall not



1 disclose the residence address or telephone number of a person  
2 who is under the age of eighteen and is registered to vote at  
3 any federal, state, or local election.

4 [~~e~~] (d) Upon good cause shown, the clerk shall determine  
5 whether to grant confidentiality in accordance with rules  
6 established by the chief election officer, and that decision  
7 shall be final.

8 [~~d~~] (e) If the voter registration of a person covered by  
9 this section is challenged, the clerk shall release the  
10 residence address of that person to the challenger pursuant to  
11 rules established by the chief election officer. If an appeal  
12 is taken relating to the challenge, the residence address shall  
13 also be released to the appropriate appellate body."

14 SECTION 5. Section 11-15.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "~~{}~~§11-15.5~~{}~~ **Duties of all state agencies; voter**  
17 **registration.** Each state agency that deals with the public  
18 shall make available to each member of the public who:

19 (1) Will be at least eighteen years of age [~~or older~~] by  
20 the date of the next federal election; or



1       (2) Is seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years  
2           of age by the date of the next state or local general  
3           election,

4 an application in the form of an affidavit for voter  
5 registration pursuant to section 11-15. The application shall  
6 be available by mail or in person depending on the manner in  
7 which the agency's services are requested by the person. The  
8 form of the application may be identical to that described and  
9 found in public telephone directories."

10       SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12       SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon ratification of  
13 a constitutional amendment allowing individuals who are  
14 seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or  
15 before the date of the next state or local general election to  
16 register and vote in the state or local primary election  
17 immediately preceding that state or local general election.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 550

**Report Title:**

State and Local Elections; Voter Registration; Voter Age

**Description:**

Allows an individual who is seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or before the next state or local general election to register and vote at the state or local primary election immediately preceding that state or local general election. Takes effect upon ratification of an appropriate constitutional amendment.

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

