
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
5 C.D. 1, and this Act will cause the state general fund
6 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by
7 \$1,063,938,615 or 11.0 per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2023-2024 in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, and this
10 Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
11 expenditure ceiling are that:

12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and

14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
17 by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§11- Digital voter information guide. (a) The office
2 of elections shall:

3 (1) Prepare a digital voter information guide, which shall
4 be posted on the office of elections website in a
5 screen reader-accessible format for voters with
6 special needs who are unable to read standard print
7 due to disability;

8 (2) Provide a translation of the digital voter information
9 guide in Olelo Hawaii on its website; and

10 (3) Provide printed copies of the digital voter
11 information guide to all public libraries for viewing
12 by the public.

13 (b) The digital voter information guide shall include:

14 (1) A photograph and short statement of less than one
15 hundred fifty words for each candidate running for
16 public office, to be prepared by the candidate;
17 provided that the office of elections may uniformly
18 limit the number of words for the candidate statement
19 by applicable public office;

20 (2) The explanation drafted by the department of the
21 attorney general of each state constitutional



1 amendment that will be proposed to voters in the next
2 general election pursuant to section 11-118.5(b);
3 provided that the department of the attorney general
4 shall transmit the materials required by this
5 paragraph to the office of elections no later than
6 seventy-five days before the general election;

7 (3) A clear and concise explanation, drafted by the
8 appropriate county corporation counsel, for each
9 proposed county charter amendment, proposed
10 initiative, and proposed referendum issue; provided
11 that the respective corporation counsel shall:

12 (A) Translate the explanation into Olelo Hawaii and
13 any other languages required under the federal
14 Voting Rights Act, as specified by the office of
15 elections; and

16 (B) Transmit the materials required by this paragraph
17 to the office of elections no later than
18 seventy-five days before the general election;
19 and

20 (4) Information regarding mailing deadlines, places of
21 deposit locations, same day voter registration,



1 accessible voting locations, and opening hours of
2 voter service centers.

3 (c) The office of elections shall prepare and mail with
4 each ballot for a primary election a notice to voters that a
5 digital voter information guide is available on the office of
6 elections website. The notice shall be sent by electronic mail
7 to all voters with special needs who have registered to receive
8 alternate format ballots.

9 (d) Information made available over the Internet pursuant
10 to this section shall meet or exceed the most current, ratified
11 standards under section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of
12 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended, and the Web Content
13 Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 adopted by the World Wide Web
14 Consortium for accessibility."

15 SECTION 3. Section 11-118.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

17 "(b) The attorney general~~[, in]~~ shall:

18 (1) In consultation with the legislative reference bureau,
19 [shall] prepare a statement in English and [Hawaiian]
20 Olelo Hawaii for each proposed constitutional
21 amendment in language that is clear and that indicates



1 the purpose, limitations, and effects of the proposed
2 amendment [~~. The attorney general shall distribute~~];

3 (2) Translate the statement into other languages required
4 under the federal Voting Rights Act, as specified by
5 the office of elections; and

6 (3) Distribute each statement, including the translations,
7 to the state office of elections pursuant to
8 section 11- (b) and all county clerks for further
9 distribution.

10 The office of elections and county clerks shall make the
11 statement available to the public at all polling places in the
12 State and on [~~a website operated by~~] the office of elections[~~-~~]
13 website pursuant to section 11- ."

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$171,248 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the
17 office of elections to prepare and mail a notice to voters that
18 a digital voter information guide may be found on the office of
19 elections website.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
21 elections for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

Digital Voter Information Guide; Ballot; Office of Elections; AG; Counties; Corporation Counsel; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide; post the guide on its website in compliance with certain accessibility standards; and mail each ballot with a notice that states a voter information guide may be found on its website. Requires the Attorney General and county corporation counsels to draft explanations of proposed constitutional or charter amendment ballot questions and translate them into certain languages for purposes of the digital voter information guide. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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

