
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

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

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

4 "§11- Digital voter information guide. (a) The office
5 of elections shall:

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

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

13 (3) Provide printed copies of the digital voter
14 information guide to all public libraries for viewing
15 by the public.

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



- 1 (1) A photograph and short statement of less than one
2 hundred fifty words for each candidate running for
3 public office, to be prepared by the candidate;
4 provided that the office of elections may uniformly
5 limit the number of words for the candidate statement
6 by applicable public office;
- 7 (2) The explanation drafted by the department of the
8 attorney general of each state constitutional
9 amendment that will be proposed to voters in the next
10 general election pursuant to section 11-118.5(b);
11 provided that the department of the attorney general
12 shall transmit the materials required by this
13 paragraph to the office of elections no later than
14 seventy-five days before the general election;
- 15 (3) A clear and concise explanation, drafted by the
16 appropriate county corporation counsel, for each
17 proposed county charter amendment, proposed
18 initiative, and proposed referendum issue; provided
19 that the respective corporation counsel shall:
- 20 (A) Translate the explanation into Olelo Hawaii and
21 any other languages required under the federal



1 Voting Rights Act, as specified by the office of
2 elections; and

3 (B) Transmit the materials required by this paragraph
4 to the office of elections no later than
5 seventy-five days before the general election;
6 and

7 (4) Information regarding mailing deadlines, drop box
8 locations, same day voter registration, accessible
9 voting locations, and opening hours of voter service
10 centers.

11 (c) The office of elections shall prepare and mail with
12 each ballot for a primary election a notice to voters that a
13 digital voter information guide is available on the office of
14 elections website. The notice shall be sent by email to all
15 voters with special needs who have registered to receive
16 alternate format ballots.

17 (d) Information made available over the Internet pursuant
18 to this section shall meet or exceed the most current, ratified
19 standards under section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of
20 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended, and the Web Content



1 Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 adopted by the World Wide Web
2 Consortium for accessibility."

3 SECTION 2. Section 11-118.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

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

6 (1) In consultation with the legislative reference bureau,
7 ~~[shall]~~ prepare a statement in English and ~~[Hawaiian]~~
8 Olelo Hawaii for each proposed constitutional
9 amendment in language that is clear and that indicates
10 the purpose, limitations, and effects of the proposed
11 amendment~~[- The attorney general shall distribute];~~

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

15 (3) Distribute each statement, including the translations,
16 to the state office of elections pursuant to
17 section 11- (b) and all county clerks for further
18 distribution.

19 The office of elections and county clerks shall make the
20 statement available to the public at all polling places in the



1 State and on [~~a website operated by~~] the office of elections[~~+~~]
2 website pursuant to section 11- ."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2024-2025 for the office of elections to prepare and mail a
8 notice to voters that a digital voter information guide may be
9 found on the office of elections website.

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

12 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

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

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 translate explanations of ballot questions into certain languages for purposes of the digital voter information guide. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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