HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024 STATE OF HAWAII H.B. NO. **1704**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTION INTEGRITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that free and fair 2 elections are the backbone of a functioning democratic process. Concern about voter fraud and doubt in the local election system 3 is on the rise in Hawaii. While the legislature has implemented 4 5 some changes to improve election integrity, there are easily 6 adopted modifications that would further strengthen public 7 confidence in government and the accuracy of election results. 8 The purpose of this Act is to bolster election integrity in 9 the state of Hawaii by requiring evidence of United States 10 citizenship to verify the accuracy of voter rolls, installing 11 24-hour video surveillance camera on ballot boxes, opening more 12 voter service centers on election days in Hawaii, and requiring 13 ballots only be mailed when requested by the voter.

14 SECTION 2. Section 11-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 15 amended to read as follows:

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"PART II. REGISTRATION



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1 **§11-11 Registration.** (a) A person who registers as 2 required by law shall be entitled to vote at any election 3 provided that the person shall have attained the age of eighteen 4 at the time of that election. The county clerk shall be 5 responsible for voter registration in the respective counties 6 and the keeping of the general register and precinct lists 7 within the county. 8 (b) Except for the mailing of sample ballots, a county 9 clerk who mails an item to any voter shall send the mailing by 10 non-forwardable first class mail marked with the statement 11 required by the postmaster to receive an address correction 12 notification. If the item is returned undelivered, the county 13 clerk shall send a follow-up notice to that voter within three 14 weeks of receipt of the returned notice. The county clerk shall 15 send the follow up notice to the address that appears in the 16 general county register or to the forwarding address provided by 17 the United States Postal Service. The follow-up notice shall 18 include an appropriate internet address for revising voter 19 registration information or a registration form and shall state 20 that if the voter does not complete and return a new 21 registration form with current information to the county clerk



1	or make changes to the voter's registration information that is
2	maintained online within thirty-five days, the voter's
3	registration status shall be changed from active to inactive.
4	(c) If the voter provides the county recorder with a new
5	registration form or otherwise revises the voter's information,
6	the county clerk shall change the general register to reflect
7	the changes indicated on the new registration. If the voter
8	indicates a new residence address outside of the county, the
9	county clerk shall forward the voter registration form or
10	revised information to the county clerk of the county in which
11	the voter's address is located. If the voter provides a new
12	permanent address that is located outside this state, the county
13	clerk shall cancel the elector's registration.
14	(d) The county clerk shall maintain on the inactive voter
15	list the names of electors who have been removed from the
16	general register pursuant to subsection (b) or (f) of this
17	section for a period of four years or through the date of the
18	second general election for federal office following the date of
19	the notice from the county clerk that is sent pursuant to
20	subsection (f) of this section.



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1	(e) On notice that a government agency has changed the	
2	name of any street, route number, post office box number, or	
3	other address designation, the county clerk shall revise the	
4	registration records and shall send a new verification of	
5	registration notice to the electors whose records were changed.	
6	(f) On the first day of each month, the county clerk shall	
7	use the change of address information supplied by the postal	
8	service through its licensees to identify registrants whose	
9	addresses may have changed. If it appears from the information	
10	provided by the postal service that a registrant has moved to a	
11	different residence address in the same county, the county clerk	
12	shall change the registration records to reflect the new address	
13	and shall send the registrant a notice of the change by	
14	forwardable mail and a postage prepaid preaddressed return form	
15	or an appropriate internet address for revising voter	
16	registration information. If the registrant fails to revise the	
17	information or return the form postmarked not later than thirty-	
18	five days after the mailing of the notice, the voter's	
19	registration status shall be changed from active to inactive.	
20	If the notice sent by the clerk is not returned, the registrant	
21	shall be required to provide affirmation or confirmation of the	



1	registrant	's address in order to vote. If the registrant does
2	<u>not vote i</u>	n an election during the period after the date of the
3	notice from	m the clerk through the date of the second general
4	election f	or federal office following the date of that notice,
5	the regist	rant's name shall be removed from the list of active
6	voters. I	f the registrant has changed residence to a new
7	county, the	e county clerk shall provide information on how the
8	registrant	can continue to be eligible to vote.
9	<u>(g)</u>	The county clerk shall reject any application for
10	registratio	on that is not accompanied by satisfactory evidence of
11	United Stat	tes citizenship. Satisfactory evidence of citizenship
12	shall inclu	ude any of the following:
13	<u>(1)</u>	The number of the applicant's driver's license or
14	<u>1</u>	nonoperating identification license issued after
15	<u>(</u>	October 1, 1996 by the department of transportation or
16	<u>-</u>	equivalent governmental agency of another state within
17	<u>t</u>	the United States if the agency indicates on the
18		applicant's driver license or nonoperating
19	-	identification license that the person has provided
20	s	satisfactory proof of United States citizenship;



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1	(2)	A legible photocopy of the applicant's birth
2		certificate that verifies citizenship to the
3		satisfaction of the county clerk;
4	(3)	A legible photocopy of pertinent pages of the
5		applicant's United States passport identifying the
6		applicant and the applicant's passport number or
7		presentation to the county clerk of the applicant's
8		United States passport;
9	(4)	A presentation to the county clerk of the applicant's
10		United States naturalization documents or the number
11		of the certificate of naturalization. If only the
12		number of the certificate of naturalization is
13		provided, the applicant shall not be included in the
14		registration rolls until the number of the certificate
15		of naturalization is verified with the United States
16		immigration and naturalization service by the county
17		<u>clerk;</u>
18	(5)	Other documents or methods of proof that are
19		established pursuant to the immigration reform and
20		control act of 1986; or



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1	(6)	The applicant's Certificate of Degree of Indian or		
2		Alaska Native Blood (CDIB) number, tribal		
3		identification card number, or tribal enrollment		
4		number.		
5	<u>(h)</u>	Notwithstanding subsection (g) of this section, any		
6	person wh	o is registered in the State on the effective date of		
7	this Act	is deemed to have provided satisfactory evidence of		
8	citizensh	ip and shall not be required to resubmit evidence of		
9	citizensh	ip unless the person is changing voter registration		
10	from one county to another.			
11	<u>(i)</u>	For the purpose of this section, proof of voter		
12	registrat	ion from another state or county is not satisfactory		
13	evidence	of citizenship.		
14	<u>(j)</u>	A person who modifies voter registration records with		
15	a new res	idence ballot shall not be required to submit evidence		
16	of citize	nship. After citizenship has been demonstrated to the		
17	county cl	erk, the person is not required to resubmit		
18	satisfact	ory evidence of citizenship in that county.		
19	<u>(k)</u>	After a person has submitted satisfactory evidence of		
20	citizensh	ip, the county clerk shall indicate this information in		
21	the perso	n's permanent voter file. After two years the county		

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1 clerk may destroy all documents that were submitted as evidence 2 of citizenship." SECTION 3. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended 3 4 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to 5 read as follows: 6 "§11- Security cameras for ballot boxes. The office of 7 elections shall provide 24-hour video surveillance of each 8 ballot drop box and post a sign on or near each ballot drop box 9 indicating that the ballot drop box is under 24-hour video 10 surveillance." 11 SECTION 4. Section 11-92.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 12 amended to read as follows: 13 "§11-92.1 Election proclamation; establishment of a new 14 precinct; voter service centers and places of deposit; changes 15 to precinct boundaries. (a) The clerk shall issue a 16 proclamation listing all voter service centers and places of deposit, including the days each voter service center and place 17 18 of deposit is open and the hours of operations and location of 19 each voter service center and place of deposit, as may have been 20 determined by the clerk as of the proclamation date and whenever 21 a new precinct is established in any representative district.



1 The clerk shall make arrangements for the rental or erection of 2 suitable shelter for the establishment of a voter service center 3 whenever public buildings are not available and shall cause these voter service centers to be equipped with the necessary 4 5 facilities for lighting, ventilation, and equipment needed for 6 elections on any island. There shall be at least one voter 7 service center per precinct. This proclamation may be issued 8 jointly with the proclamation required in section 11-91. 9 (b) No change shall be made in the boundaries of any precinct later than 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day before the close 10 11 of filing for an election. 12 (C) Notwithstanding subsection (a), and pursuant to 13 section 15-2.5, the clerk is not required to establish voter 14 service centers for precincts affected by natural disasters, as 15 provided in section 15-2.5." 16 SECTION 5. Section 11-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 17 amended to read as follows: 18 "§11-102 Procedures for conducting elections by mail. (a) 19 Ballot packages for elections by mail shall include: 20 (1) An official ballot; 21 (2) A return identification envelope with postage prepaid;



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(3) A secrecy envelope or secrecy sleeve; and

2 (4) Instructions.

3 (b) To the extent practicable, the clerk shall mail a 4 ballot package by non-forwardable mail to each registered voter in the county who has requested a ballot so as to enable voters 5 6 to receive the ballot package at least eighteen days before the 7 election; provided that the State and counties shall not be 8 liable if the ballot package is received fewer than eighteen 9 days before the election. The clerk shall continue mailing 10 ballot packages to voters who register to vote no later than ten 11 days before the date of the election and to voters who update 12 their voter registration address no later than seven days before 13 the date of the election and who have not yet voted; provided 14 that the clerk may continue mailing ballot packages beyond the 15 deadlines established by this subsection if the clerk determines 16 that there is reasonable time for a voter to receive and submit 17 the ballot package before the election. In determining the 18 initial mailing date of the ballot packages, the clerk shall 19 consider the mailing place of origin and the most recent postal 20 service delivery standards. The clerk shall not mail a ballot 21 package to any voter in the county register who is identified as



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having an outdated or non-deliverable mailing address. Nothing in this part shall be construed to change the responsibilities of the clerk or chief election officer under chapter 15 with respect to voters requesting to vote by absentee ballot or chapter 15D with respect to uniform military and overseas voters.

7 (c) The exterior of the envelope containing the ballot
8 package shall include instructions on how to obtain language
9 translation services in Hawaiian and, at a minimum, the five
10 most utilized foreign languages by limited English proficient
11 persons in the State.

12 (d) The clerks shall determine and provide for voter 13 service centers and places of deposit pursuant to this part and 14 section 11-92.1."

15 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.
16 SECTION 7. If any provision of this Act, or the
17 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
18 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
19 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
20 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
21 of this Act are severable.



1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 1 8 2024



Report Title:

Minority Caucus Package; Election Integrity; Surveillance

Description:

Amends provisions in Chapter 11 to improve the integrity and accuracy of voter rolls, ballot security, increases the number of voter service centers, and requires ballots be sent by mail only upon voter request.

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

