



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 435
RELATING TO VOTING**

January 30, 2025

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 435. This bill requires the Office of Elections to include a notice to voters that a digital and print voter information guide is available. The notice is required to be in thirty-two-point font and enclosed as a separate insert with each ballot. Additionally, the Office of Elections is required to maintain a notice on its website providing certain information about the voter information guide. Finally, the Office of Elections is required to make the digital voter information guide available to the public no later than twenty-one days before the primary election and no later than fifty days before the general election.

We believe an informed electorate, such as through the production and distribution of the current voter guide, is important for the health of our democracy. Our voter education campaign and materials, as it relates to the digital voter guide, included messages referencing the voter guide on our website. As for our website itself, it included messaging about the availability of the voter guide. We also developed an interactive tool that allowed a voter to type in their residence address to personalize the voter guide, so it included the contests and ballot questions associated with the corresponding District/Precinct assignment of the voter. Additionally, the voter guide was distributed for viewing at public libraries statewide. We will revisit our approach on the website to see if we can improve on encouraging website visitors to access the voter guide.

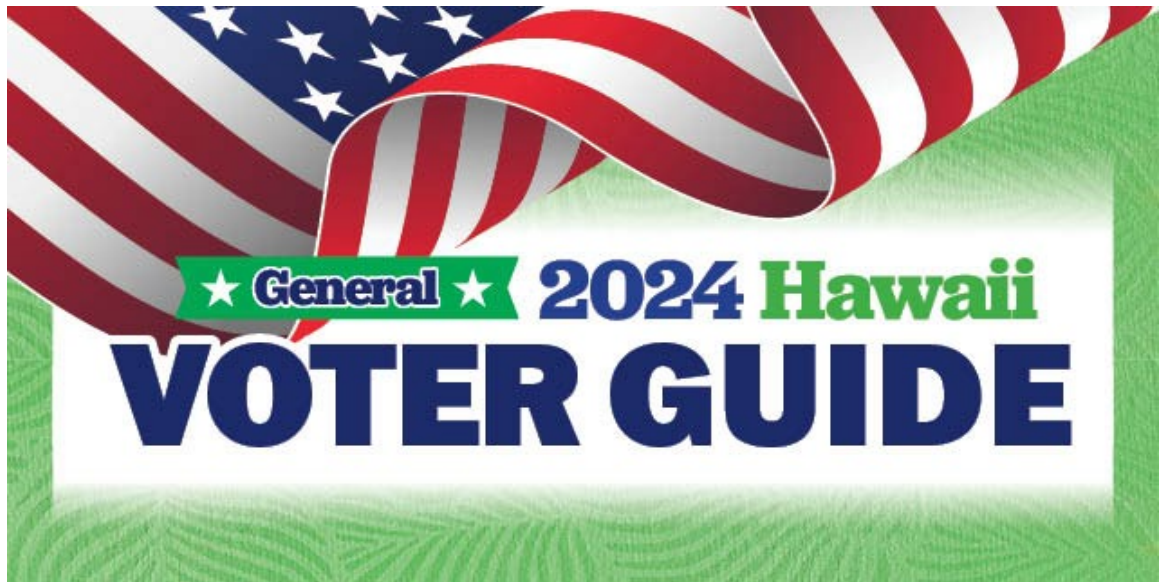


Figure 1: 2024 General Election website banner

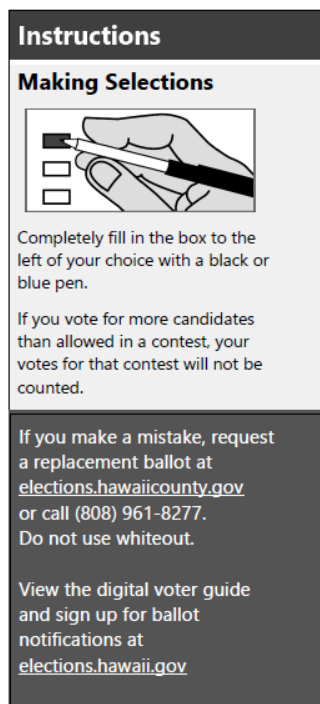


Figure 2: 2024 General Election ballot instructions

We would ask that this bill provide an appropriation of \$90,000 to address the changes proposed by this bill to print and insert an additional instruction sheet into each mail ballot packet.

| | Primary | General | Total |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Printed Instructions | 30,000 | 30,000 | 60,000 |
| Inserting Instructions | 15,000 | 15,000 | 30,000 |
| Total | \$45,000 | \$45,000 | \$90,000 |

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill
No. 435.



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Thursday, January 30, 2025, 9:15 a.m., Room 016 & Videoconference

SB 435 — RELATING TO VOTING

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 435, which requires enhanced notice to voters that a digital voter guide is available on the Office of Elections website.

Including deadlines for completion of each step in preparation for this additional notice is a good idea. We hope the Office of Elections will testify on this measure so that we know whether the deadlines described in the bill are possible. For example, preparing translation of all ballots to the languages set under the National Voter Registration Act, is very important but time-consuming.

The League supports informed voting, and we were very pleased with the debut of this voter guide last year. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.