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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that voter turnout in the  
2 State remains low and continues to decline. Additionally, the  
3 State has a historically low rate of registered voters.

4       The legislature further finds that voting at a young age  
5 creates and empowers life-long voters. Data shows that after an  
6 individual votes once, the individual often becomes a habitual  
7 voter. Therefore, by facilitating the ability of those sixteen  
8 years of age and older to preregister or register to vote, the  
9 State will be empowering a new generation of lifelong voters.

10       The purpose of this Act is to increase voter participation  
11 and encourage civic engagement in Hawaii's schools by  
12 establishing a process for the automatic preregistration and  
13 registration of public, charter, and private school-enrolled  
14 students who are at least sixteen years of age.

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



1        "§11-        Automatic voter preregistration and registration.

2        (a) Beginning January 1, 2026, any person who:

3            (1) Is enrolled in a public high school, public charter  
4            school, or private school;

5            (2) Is at least sixteen years of age;

6            (3) Is otherwise qualified to preregister or register to  
7            vote under this part; and

8            (4) Properly completes and submits a voter registration  
9            affidavit,

10        shall be automatically preregistered or registered to vote as  
11        provided in this section.

12        (b) Between January 1 and January 31 of each year, the  
13        superintendent of education, in collaboration with the office of  
14        elections, shall provide and may collect from each public school  
15        student who is at least sixteen years of age a voter affidavit  
16        containing the information required by section 11-15 to allow  
17        the student to preregister or register to vote or to opt out of  
18        preregistering or registering to vote. The superintendent of  
19        education may transmit the voter registration affidavit to the  
20        clerk of the county in which the applicant resides; provided  
21        that the superintendent of education shall not maintain, scan,



1 review, or copy any voter affidavit nor transmit any information  
2 maintained by the department of education.

3 (c) Between January 1 and January 31 of each year, an  
4 authorizer, as defined in section 302D-1, in collaboration with  
5 the office of elections, shall provide and may collect from each  
6 charter school student who is at least sixteen years of age a  
7 voter affidavit containing the information required by section  
8 11-15 to allow the student to preregister or register to vote or  
9 to opt out of preregistering or registering to vote. The  
10 authorizer may transmit the voter registration affidavit to the  
11 clerk of the county in which the applicant resides; provided  
12 that the authorizer shall not maintain, scan, review, or copy  
13 any voter affidavit nor transmit any information maintained by  
14 the state public charter school commission.

15 (d) Between January 1 and January 31 of each year, each  
16 private school, in collaboration with the office of elections,  
17 shall provide and may collect from each private school student  
18 who is at least sixteen years of age a voter affidavit  
19 containing the information required by section 11-15 to allow  
20 the student to preregister or register to vote or to opt out of  
21 preregistering or registering to vote. The private school may



1 transmit the voter registration affidavit to the clerk of the  
2 county in which the applicant resides; provided that the private  
3 school shall not maintain, scan, review, or copy any voter  
4 affidavit nor transmit any information maintained by the private  
5 school.

6 (e) The clerk shall determine whether the applicant is  
7 currently preregistered or registered in the general county  
8 register."

9 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart C, to be  
11 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

12 **"§302A- Automatic voter preregistration and**  
13 **registration.** The board and the superintendent, in consultation  
14 with the office of elections, may adopt policies as necessary to  
15 maximize and facilitate the preregistration and registration of  
16 qualifying students to vote as provided in section 11- ,  
17 including online and in-person options for pre-registration."

18 SECTION 4. Chapter 302C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
20 and to read as follows:



1        "§302C-        Automatic voter preregistration and  
2 registration.    Each private school, in consultation with the  
3 office of elections, may adopt policies as necessary to maximize  
4 and facilitate the preregistration and registration of  
5 qualifying students to vote as provided in section 11-        ,  
6 including online and in-person options for pre-registration."

7        SECTION 5. Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
9 and to read as follows:

10       "§302D-        Automatic voter preregistration and  
11 registration.    The commission, in consultation with the office  
12 of elections, may adopt policies as necessary to maximize and  
13 facilitate the preregistration and registration of qualifying  
14 students to vote as provided in section 11-        , including online  
15 and in-person options for pre-registration."

16        SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

17        SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

18  
INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 17 2025



# H.B. NO. 473

**Report Title:**

Automatic Voter Preregistration or Registration; DOE; State  
Public Charter School Commission; Private Schools

**Description:**

Establishes a process, beginning on January 1, 2026, for  
automatically preregistering or registering public, charter, and  
private school-enrolled students who are at least 16 years old  
to vote.

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

