
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 public trust in
2 elections is foundational to representative government.
3 Transparent maintenance of voter registration rolls, auditable
4 election processes, and secure chain-of-custody procedures are
5 essential to ensuring confidence in electoral outcomes.

6 The legislature notes that the State is subject to federal
7 election law requirements, including the Help America Vote Act
8 of 2002 and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, which
9 require states to maintain accurate, centralized voter
10 registration systems and to conduct voter list maintenance in
11 accordance with federal safeguards and due process protections.

12 The legislature also notes that the chief election officer
13 is entrusted with serving the public interest and administering
14 elections in accordance with the will of the people as expressed
15 through law, under the oversight and authority of the elections
16 commission.



1 The legislature recognizes that, although the State
2 conducts elections in compliance with federal and state laws,
3 gaps remain in the State's election processes, in terms of voter
4 registration roll accountability, routine audit practices,
5 uniform chain-of-custody standards, and clearly defined
6 accountability mechanisms.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to strengthen
8 election integrity in a manner consistent with federal law by:

- 9 (1) Requiring accountability for voter registration roll
10 maintenance;
- 11 (2) Requiring routine and transparent election audits;
- 12 (3) Establishing uniform chain-of-custody standards for
13 ballots and election materials;
- 14 (4) Reinforcing the chief election officer's
15 accountability to the elections commission and to the
16 public trust; and
- 17 (5) Increasing transparency while protecting lawful
18 voters' access and privacy.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
20 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
21 as follows:



1 "PART

ELECTION INTEGRITY

3 **§11-A Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the
4 context requires otherwise:

5 "Audit" means a post-election examination of voter
6 registration rolls, ballots, tabulation systems, and
7 chain-of-custody documentation to verify the election results'
8 accuracy, completeness, and compliance with applicable law.

9 "Chain of custody" means the documented, continuous
10 control, transfer, handling, storage, and security of ballots,
11 election equipment, and election materials from creation through
12 final certification.

13 "Election materials" means ballots, ballot envelopes,
14 tabulation media, memory devices, seals, logs, and any records
15 related to holding an election.

16 "Independent auditor" means a qualified individual or
17 entity having no financial, political, or operational
18 affiliation with the office of elections or any county election
19 office within the previous five years.

20 **§11-B Centralized voter registration system.** The office
21 of elections shall:



7 **\$11-C Voter registration rolls; accountability.** (a) The
8 office of elections and the chief election officer shall be
9 responsible for ensuring the accuracy, maintenance, and
10 integrity of the State's centralized voter registration system,
11 regardless of any administrative delegation to the county
12 clerks.

13 (b) All voter registration roll maintenance activities,
14 including activities relating to notice, timing, and due
15 process, shall be conducted in compliance with the National
16 Voter Registration Act of 1993.

17 (c) The office of elections shall:

18 (1) On a quarterly basis, reconcile the statewide voter
19 registration system against death records, review
20 voter address records, and check for duplicate



10 (d) County clerks shall provide to the office of elections
11 any requested data, records, and cooperation necessary for the
12 administration of this part.

13 **§11-D Post-election audits; requirements.** (a) The office
14 of elections shall conduct a post-election audit following each
15 primary and general election.

16 (b) Each post-election audit shall, at minimum:

17 (1) Verify and reconcile voter registration rolls;

18 (2) Reconcile ballots issued, cast, counted, and rejected;

19 (3) Review vote tabulation processes;

20 (4) Examine chain-of-custody documentation; and



1 (5) Review compliance with the Help America Vote Act of
2 2002, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, and
3 any other applicable federal and state laws.

4 (c) Each post-election audit shall be conducted by an
5 independent auditor selected pursuant to chapter 103D.

6 (d) Within ninety days of the certification of each
7 election, the corresponding audit report for that election shall
8 be completed and transmitted to the elections commission.

12 **§11-E Chain-of-custody standards.** (a) The office of
13 elections shall adopt uniform, statewide chain-of-custody
14 standards applicable to all elections. The standards, at a
15 minimum, shall require:

16 (1) Written custody logs for each transfer of election
17 materials;

18 (2) Dual-control procedures requiring at least two
19 authorized individuals for handling or transferring
20 election materials;

21 (3) Secure storage utilizing tamper-evident seals;



1 (4) Time-stamped documentation for all custody changes;

2 and

3 (5) Retention of election records in accordance with
4 title 52 United State Code section 20701 and all other
5 applicable federal laws.

6 (b) Any breach, loss, or discrepancy involving election
7 materials shall be documented and reported to the elections
8 commission within twenty-four hours of discovery.

9 **§11-F Public access.** The office of elections shall
10 maintain a publicly accessible website that contains:

11 (1) Post-election audit reports;

12 (2) Chain-of-custody standards;

13 (3) Annual voter registration roll accountability
14 summaries; and

15 (4) Procedures for public observation of audits and
16 recounts.

17 **§11-G Compliance with federal election law.** (a) All
18 actions taken pursuant to this part shall be implemented in a
19 manner consistent with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the
20 National Voter Registration Act of 1993, and any other
21 applicable federal election law.



- (b) Nothing in this part shall be construed to:
 - (1) Prohibit lawful voter registration activities that are protected or required by federal law;
 - (2) Authorize the removal of eligible voters from voter registration rolls in violation of federal law; or
 - (3) Limit lawful voter access guaranteed by federal law.

§11-H Accountability of the chief election officer. (a)

8 The chief election officer shall administer elections in
9 accordance with state and federal law and under the oversight
10 and authority of the elections commission, consistent with the
11 public trust placed in the office of elections.

12 (b) The chief election officer shall:

13 (1) Provide timely, complete, and accurate information to

14 the elections commission regarding voter registration

15 roll maintenance, audits, and chain-of-custody

16 compliance;

17 (2) Implement directives, policies, and corrective actions

18 adopted by the elections commission;

19 (3) Appear before the elections commission upon request to

20 address matters concerning election integrity,

21 transparency, or compliance; and



1 (4) Ensure that the administrations of elections reflects
2 the intent of the legislature and the rights of the
3 electorate.

4 (c) Failure to comply with this part or with directives of
5 the elections commission may constitute grounds for corrective
6 action, formal findings of noncompliance, or further action as
7 authorized by this title.

8 **§11-I Elections commission; authority.** The elections
9 commission may review compliance with this part and may require
10 corrective measures where deficiencies are identified.

11 **§11-J Supremacy of this part; limitation.** (a) No state
12 law, administrative rule, regulation, or policy shall contradict
13 this part. In the case of a conflict, this part shall prevail.

14 (b) This part shall not be construed to:

15 (1) Create a private cause of action;

16 (2) Limit any existing legal remedy otherwise provided by
17 law, except to the extent the legal remedy conflicts
18 with this part as described in subsection (a);

19 (3) Permit partisan interference in election

20 administration or diminish the independence of the
21 elections commission; or



1 (4) Authorize the disclosure of confidential or personally
2 identifiable voter information.

3 **§11-K Rules.** The elections commission may adopt rules
4 pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this part."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
8 the administration of the statutory part established pursuant to
9 section 2 of this Act.

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

12 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section
13 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
14 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
15 the new sections in this Act.

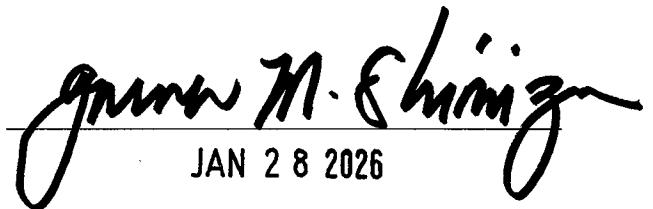
16 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
18 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

3

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2511

Report Title:

Elections Commission; Chief Election Officer; Voter Registration Roll Integrity; Administration; Appropriation

Description:

Requires voter registration roll maintenance and election audits. Establishes uniform chain-of-custody standards for ballots and election materials. Appropriates moneys.

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