
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. This shall be known and may be cited as "The
2 Hawaii Student Vote For Our Future Act".

3 SECTION 2. The legislature recognizes that civic
4 participation is fundamental to a healthy democracy and that
5 young adults aged eighteen to twenty-four represent a growing
6 portion of Hawaii's electorate. However, the legislature finds
7 that, according to the United States Census Bureau, fewer than
8 forty per cent of young adults participated in state elections
9 from 2014 to 2024. The legislature notes that section 11-12,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, reduces barriers to voter registration
11 by permitting who are at least seventeen years of age to
12 register to vote if they will be eighteen years of age by the
13 date of the next election. The same law also permits
14 individuals who are at least sixteen years of age but who will
15 not be eighteen years of age by the date of the next election to
16 preregister to vote, so that they may be automatically
17 registered to vote when they reach age eighteen.



1 The legislature further finds that voting at a young age
2 creates and empowers lifelong voters. Data shows that after an
3 individual votes once, the individual often becomes a habitual
4 voter. However, the legislature also recognizes that young
5 people are the least likely to vote. Data shows that this lack
6 of participation is primarily the result of informational and
7 time barriers, which have pronounced effects on youth from
8 low-income backgrounds, who are twice as likely to miss
9 registration deadlines or run out of time. By making
10 information on voter preregistration and registration more
11 accessible for persons sixteen years of age and older, the State
12 can empower a new generation of lifelong voters. The
13 legislature believes that public schools, including charter
14 schools, are excellent venues for preregistering and registering
15 students to vote, since schools already require participation in
16 a democracy and civics class for graduation, and therefore have
17 the foundation to help increase civic engagement.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase voter
19 participation and encourage civic engagement in Hawaii's public
20 schools by ensuring students receive nonpartisan information on



1 how to properly preregister or register to vote before reaching
2 voting age.

3 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding two new sections to part II, subpart C, to be
5 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

6 "§302A- Voter registration and preregistration
7 education. (a) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, each
8 student enrolled in a public high school shall receive
9 information on voter preregistration and registration
10 procedures. The manner in which information shall be provided
11 shall be at the discretion of the administrative body of a each
12 respective department school or charter school and may include
13 information disseminated through in-class instruction, an
14 existing educational or enrichment program, or other appropriate
15 means. The information provided shall include, at minimum:
16 (1) Voting eligibility information and guidance published
17 by the office of elections;
18 (2) Procedures for properly completing and submitting a
19 voter registration application to the Hawaii online
20 voter registration system, the appropriate county
21 clerk, or through other lawful means;



1 (3) Information on opportunities to register to vote; and

2 (4) Information on opportunities for students sixteen

3 years of age or older to volunteer at a voter service

4 center, including information on how to sign up

5 through the office of elections website.

6 (b) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, voter

7 registration and preregistration materials shall be made

8 available to students in each public high school and shall

9 include, at minimum:

10 (1) Paper copies of voter registration and preregistration

11 application forms; and

12 (2) Resources describing accessible voting options and

13 accommodations available to students who require

14 assistance to vote due to a disability, visual or

15 hearing impairment, or inability to read or write.

16 (c) If a student, or a student's parent or legal guardian,

17 requests a voter registration application or information, the

18 student's school shall either provide a paper copy of a voter

19 registration application or refer the requestor to the Hawaii

20 online voter registration system.



1 (d) To implement this section, the department and
2 commission may enter into one or more contracts with nonprofit
3 organizations with demonstrated experience in providing
4 nonpartisan civic educational resources; provided that any
5 contracted nonprofit organization's fulfillment of its
6 obligations shall be strictly monitored and reviewed by either
7 the department or the commission, as applicable.

8 **§302A- High school voter registration and**
9 **preregistration week.** Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year,
10 the last two full weeks in September of each year shall be
11 designated as "high school voter registration and
12 preregistration weeks". During these weeks, public high school
13 students shall be invited to participate in activities related
14 to registering and preregistering to vote. The activities shall
15 be designed to:

- 16 (1) Raise civic awareness among high school students;
17 (2) Encourage eligible students aged sixteen or seventeen
18 to preregister or register to vote, as applicable; and
19 (3) Include, to the extent available, state or county
20 election employees or officials who can preregister
21 and register students and school personnel on public



1 school campuses. Registration events shall be held in
2 areas reasonably accessible to all students, as
3 designated by the administrative body of the school."

4 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6
INTRODUCED BY: _____

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JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2531

Report Title:

DOE; Student Voter Preregistration or Registration; Department Schools; Charter Schools

Description:

Ensures Department of Education and charter school students receive nonpartisan information, before reaching voting age, on how to properly preregister or register 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.

