

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that during the 2024  
2 general election there were 860,868 registered voters statewide.  
3 Of these registered voters, 522,236 cast a ballot, with 39,158  
4 using a voter service center as opposed to engaging in the mail-  
5 in voting system. When compared to 2020, 36.2% more Hawaii  
6 voters opted to vote in-person in 2024, showcasing the most  
7 accurate demand for voter service centers since the mail-in  
8 voting system debuted.

9           The legislature further finds it took many Hawaii voters  
10 hours to cast their vote in-person on election day in November  
11 2024, with some waiting in lines for as long as six hours. In  
12 Honolulu County, just two voter service centers were open for  
13 in-person same-day voting, servicing 562,606 registered voters.  
14 In Hawaii County, two voter service centers were open relative  
15 to 135,077 registered voters. In Maui County, four voter service  
16 centers were open for 115,009 registered voters. And in Kauai



1 County, just one voter service center serviced 48,176 registered  
2 voters.

3 While mail-in voting is the most vastly utilized voting  
4 method, it is just as important to continue to offer in-person  
5 same-day voting options that are geographically accessible and  
6 capable of servicing our growing registered voting populations.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate the  
8 required number of in-person same-day voter service centers to  
9 provide for convenient and expedient access to voters as they  
10 fulfill their constitutional right.

11 SECTION 2. Section 11-109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 " **§11-109 Voter service centers; places of deposit.** (a)  
14 Voter service centers shall be established by the clerks to  
15 service the particular needs of each county's voters.

16 (b) In each county, a voter service center shall be open  
17 from the tenth business day preceding the day of the election  
18 during regular business hours until the closing hour of voting  
19 and at the same times statewide. The clerks may operate  
20 additional voter service centers with varying days or hours of  
21 operation to service the voters of particular areas that



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1 otherwise could not support the operation of a voter service  
2 center for ten business days or the same times statewide, with  
3 the number of voter service centers open the day of the general  
4 election to equal or surpass one voter service center for every  
5 20,000 registered voters, or portion thereof, in counties with a  
6 population of 500,000 or less. In counties with a population  
7 greater than 500,000, voter service centers open the day of the  
8 general election must equal or surpass one voter service center  
9 for every 50,000 registered voters, or portion thereof. Voter  
10 service center locations shall be equitably distributed across  
11 the county and consider variables including proximity to public  
12 transportation, availability of parking, geographic features  
13 that affect access and convenience, access for voters with  
14 disabilities, and the location of population centers. Anyone  
15 standing in line at a voter service center at the closing hour  
16 of voting with the intent of voting shall be permitted to do so.  
17 A person eligible to vote but who is not registered to vote  
18 standing in line at a voter service center at the closing hour  
19 of voting shall be permitted to apply under section 11-15.2 to  
20 register to vote and subsequently vote that election day. To  
21 the extent the registration clerk determines the applicant to be



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1 registered at that time, the applicant will be permitted to vote  
2 a regular ballot. If additional time is required to process the  
3 application, the applicant shall be provided a provisional  
4 ballot.

5 (c) Each voter service center shall provide the services  
6 specified in section 11-1 under the definition of "voter service  
7 center".

8 (d) The clerks may designate and provide for places of  
9 deposit to be open as early as the mailing of ballots by the  
10 clerks; provided that the locations and apparatus for receiving  
11 voted ballots can be securely maintained during the period of  
12 use for each election, and as may be permitted by the  
13 operational hours."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 2821

**Report Title:**

Elections; Voter Service Centers

**Description:**

Requires a minimum number of voter service centers open the day of the general election.

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

SB SMO 2026-06

