

A Bill for an Act Relating to Conduct of Elections.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 11-92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 11-92 Precincts; polling places; central polling areas; special, special primary, and special general election precincts. The chief election officer shall issue a proclamation establishing one or more precincts in each representative district. No earlier than thirty days prior to the issuance of the proclamation, the chief election officer shall notify the political parties and publish a notice of his intent once in a newspaper of general circulation. The chief election officer shall provide a suitable polling place for each precinct. Publicly owned or controlled buildings shall, whenever possible and convenient, be used as polling places. The chief election officer shall make arrangements for the rental or erection of suitable shelters for this purpose whenever public buildings are not available and shall cause such polling places to be equipped with the necessary facilities for lighting, ventilation, and equipment needed for elections on any island. It shall be lawful for the chief election officer to establish a central polling area for contiguous precincts, notwithstanding district boundaries, when it is convenient and readily accessible for the voters of the precinct involved.

Before the establishment of any central polling area the chief election officer shall notify the political parties and publish a notice once in a newspaper of general circulation. The notice shall state the time and place of a hearing pursuant to chapter 91. After the hearing a regulation shall be issued establishing the central polling place.

No change shall be made in the boundaries of any precinct nor shall a central polling area be established later than 4:30 p.m. on the ninetieth day prior to an election; provided, in the event of a flood, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, high wind, or other natural disaster occurring more than five days prior to an election which makes a precinct inaccessible, the chief election officer or county clerk in the case of county elections may consolidate precincts within a representative district. The chief election officer or county clerk in the case of county elections, shall give

notice of the consolidation in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected county prior to the opening of the precinct polling place as well as by radio and other broadcast media. Precinct officials and workers affected by the consolidation shall not forfeit their pay.

In the event the chief election officer or the county clerk in a county election determines that the number of candidates or issues on the ballot in a special, special primary, or special general election does not require the full number of established precincts, such precincts may be consolidated for the purposes of the special, special primary, or special general election into a small number of special, special primary, or special general election precincts. A special, special primary, or special general election precinct shall be considered the same as an established precinct for all purposes, including precinct official requirements provided in section 11-71. Not later than 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day prior to the special, special primary, or special general election the chief election officer or the county clerk shall give public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the special, special primary, or special general election is to be held of the special, special primary, or special general election precincts and their polling places. Notices of such consolidation shall also be posted on election day at the established precinct polling place giving the location of the special, special primary, or special general election precinct polling place.”

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored.*

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 27, 1980.)

*The text has been edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5, authorizing omission of the brackets, bracketed material, and underscoring.