

**ACT 302**

H.B. NO. 1177

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation for a Totally Electronic Voting System.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's current voting system is reliable; however, there are several factors that make it important to consider a totally electronic voting system at this time. The present system is labor-intensive, requiring hundreds of election workers to process and tabulate ballots, and it requires an inordinate amount of technical support. It has also become increasingly expensive to print the number of ballots required in each election, and with the rapidly changing technology occurring in the computer industry, the system will

become increasingly obsolete and expensive to maintain and operate.

A temporary advisory committee on electronic voting systems was convened in 1989 at the request of the legislature to do the following:

- (1) Evaluate totally electronic voting systems for use by the State of Hawaii;
- (2) Make recommendations regarding the selection of a vendor to supply an electronic voting system; and
- (3) Make recommendations regarding standards the State should adopt pertaining to the use of a totally electronic voting system.

The committee, having met and researched the feasibility of an electronic voting system, made the following recommendations:

- (1) Hawaii should replace its current voting system with a totally electronic voting system to be used in the 1992 elections;
- (2) The committee should continue its investigation and evaluation of electronic voting systems prior to recommending selection of a vendor; and
- (3) The standards adopted by the State should comply with state election laws and, to the extent possible, should be consistent with the voluntary standards established by the Federal Election Commission.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to the office of the lieutenant governor to replace the current voting system with a new, totally electronic voting system.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1991-1992, for costs related to the acquisition of a totally electronic voting system, including the hiring of necessary staff exempt from the provisions of chapters 76, 77, and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the lieutenant governor for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. As provided by Act 174, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, the selection and negotiation process shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 103, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The temporary advisory committee on electronic voting systems is further authorized to negotiate a contract with an election system vendor and to terminate negotiations at any time when it is in the best interests of the State.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1991.

(Approved June 26, 1991.)