

ACT 71

S.B. NO. 1695

A Bill for an Act Relating to Precinct Officials and Other Election Day Officials.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§11-5 Employees. (a) The chief election officer may employ a permanent staff, subject to [the provisions of] chapters 76 and 77, to supervise state elections; maximize registration of eligible voters throughout the State; maintain data concerning registered voters, elections, apportionment, and districting; and to perform other duties as prescribed by law. The chief election officer or county clerk may employ precinct officials and other election employees as the chief election officer or county clerk may find necessary, none of whom shall be subject to [the provisions of] chapters 76 and 77.

(b) Notwithstanding chapters 103 and 103D, the chief election officer may contract with community organizations, school booster clubs, and nonprofit organizations for the provision and compensation of precinct officials and other election related personnel, services, and activities; provided that to be eligible to enter into a contract, the organization or club shall have received a tax clearance certificate from the department of taxation.”

SECTION 2. Section 11-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§11-72 Precinct officials; submission of names and assignment; vacancies. (a) All qualified political parties shall submit names for precinct officials to the chief election officer not later than 4:30 p.m. on the [ninetieth] sixtieth day prior to the close of filing for any primary, special primary, or special election. All precinct officials shall be able to read and write the English language. If any party fails to submit the required names by the above deadline, [the chief election officer may fill the positions with available qualified persons.] or names sufficient to fill the

positions to which it would be entitled, assignment of positions to which the party would otherwise be entitled pursuant to subsection (b), may be made without regard to party affiliation.

(b) In assigning the precinct officials the following criteria shall be followed:

- (1) The precinct officials shall be registered voters of the precinct in which they serve; but if qualified persons in the precinct or representative district are not readily available to serve, they may be chosen from without the precinct or representative district, or if qualified persons either in or without the precinct or representative district are not available to serve, the chief election officer may designate precinct officials who are not registered voters if the persons so designated are otherwise qualified and shall have attained the age of sixteen years on or before June 30, of the year of the election in which they are appointed to work.
- (2) The chief election officer may designate more precinct officials than are needed in order to create a pool of qualified precinct officials who may be assigned to fill vacancies or to perform such duties as needed in any precinct.
- (3) No parent, spouse, child, or sibling of a candidate shall be eligible to serve as a precinct official in any precinct in which votes may be cast for the candidate; nor shall any candidate for any elective office be eligible to serve as a precinct official in the same election in which the person is a candidate. No candidate who failed to be nominated in the primary or special primary election shall be eligible to serve as a precinct official in the general election next following.
- (4) The chairperson of the precinct officials shall be of the same party as the governor and shall be the first named precinct official on the list prepared by the chief election officer. The remainder of the precinct officials shall be apportioned as follows:
 - (A) The total votes cast, except those cast for nonpartisan candidates, for all of the following offices which were on the ballot in the next preceding general election shall be divided into the total votes cast for all the candidates of each party for such offices: president and vice-president, United States senator, United States representative, governor and lieutenant governor, state senator, and state representative.
 - (B) In the event that a party's proportion of votes cast exceeds fifty per cent, its share shall be one-half of the precinct officials. The remaining one-half shall be divided among the remaining parties in proportion to their respective total of votes cast for the offices set forth in subparagraph (A).
 - (C) In the case of the above division resulting in parties having fractional positions a whole position shall go to the party with the larger number of votes cast.
 - (D) Newly qualified parties may be assigned up to ten per cent of the total positions available at the discretion of the chief election officer.

(c) In the recruitment and placement of precinct officials, any or all of the requirements of subsection (b) may be waived by the chief election officer if it is determined that minority language assistance or other special needs warrant such waiver, except as provided in subsection (b)(3).

(d) In case of inability, failure, or refusal of any person so assigned to serve as a precinct official, the chief election officer shall[, so far as reasonably practicable,] appoint a person to fill the vacancy [from the same party as that of the person to

be replaced. In case of doubt as to the party affiliation of a precinct official, the chief election officer shall use first, the party membership list; and second, the person's word for the person's party affiliation].”

SECTION 3. Section 11-76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) Electronic ballot and voting machine elections. Precinct officials[, other than the chairman and voter assistance official, shall be paid \$75 for each election. The voter assistance official shall be paid \$80 for each election. The chairperson of the precinct officials for each precinct shall be paid \$85 for each election for a single-unit precinct and \$15 more per unit for larger precincts. Alternate precinct officials who are trained and certified and who remain available but do not work in either the primary or general election shall be compensated \$5.] and related election day nonprofit groups or employees shall be compensated pursuant to a schedule established by the chief election officer. The schedule shall be contained in rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91.”

SECTION 4. Section 237-24.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“**§237-24.7 Additional amounts not taxable.** In addition to the amounts not taxable under section 237-24, this chapter shall not apply to:

- (1) Amounts received by the operator of a hotel from the owner of the hotel in amounts equal to and which are disbursed by the operator for employee wages, salaries, payroll taxes, insurance premiums, and benefits, including retirement, vacation, sick pay, and health benefits. As used in this paragraph:

“Employee” means employees directly engaged in the day to day operation of the hotel and employed by the operator.

“Hotel” means an operation licensed under section 445-92.

“Operator” means any person who, pursuant to a written contract with the owner of a hotel, operates or manages the hotel for the owner.

“Owner” means the fee owner or lessee under a recorded lease of a hotel;

- (2) Amounts received by the operator of a county transportation system operated under an operating contract with a political subdivision, where the political subdivision is the owner of the county transportation system. As used in this paragraph:

“County transportation system” means a mass transit system of motorized buses providing regularly scheduled transportation within a county.

“Operating contract” or “contract” means a contract to operate and manage a political subdivision's county transportation system, which provides that:

- (A) The political subdivision shall exercise substantial control over all aspects of the operator's operation;
- (B) The political subdivision controls the development of transit policy, service planning, routes, and fares; and
- (C) The operator develops in advance a draft budget in the same format as prescribed for agencies of the political subdivision. The budget must be subject to the same constraints and controls regarding the lawful expenditure of public funds as any public

sector agency, and deviations from the budget must be subject to approval by the appropriate political subdivision officials involved in the budgetary process.

“Operator” means any person who, pursuant to an operating contract with a political subdivision, operates or manages a county transportation system.

“Owner” means a political subdivision that owns or is the lessee of all the properties and facilities of the county transportation system (including buses, real estate, parking garages, fuel pumps, maintenance equipment, office supplies, etc.), and that owns all revenues derived therefrom;

- (3) Surcharge taxes on rental motor vehicles imposed by chapter 251 and passed on and collected by persons holding certificates of registration under that chapter;
- (4) Amounts received by the operator of orchard properties from the owner of the orchard property in amounts equal to and which are disbursed by the operator for employee wages, salaries, payroll taxes, insurance premiums, and benefits, including retirement, vacation, sick pay, and health benefits. As used in this paragraph:

“Employee” means an employee directly engaged in the day to day operations of the orchard properties and employed by the operator.

“Operator” means a producer who, pursuant to a written contract with the owner of the orchard property, operates or manages the orchard property for the owner where the property contains an area sufficient to make the undertaking economically feasible.

“Orchard property” means any real property that is used to raise trees with a production life cycle of fifteen years or more producing fruits or nuts having a normal period of development from the initial planting to the first commercially saleable harvest of not less than three years.

“Owner” means a fee owner or lessee under a recorded lease of orchard property; [and]

- (5) Taxes on nursing facility income imposed by chapter 346E and passed on and collected by operators of nursing facilities[.];
- (6) Amounts received under property and casualty insurance policies for damage or loss of inventory used in the conduct of a trade or business located within the State or a portion thereof that is declared a natural disaster area by the governor pursuant to section 209-2[.]; and
- (7) Amounts received as compensation by community organizations, school booster clubs, and nonprofit organizations under a contract with the chief election officer for the provision and compensation of precinct officials and other election related personnel, services, and activities, pursuant to section 11-5.”

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 25, 1995.)