



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

September 30, 2014

To: Elections Commission

From: Scott T. Nago
Chief Election Officer

Re: STATUS OF OPERATIONS

Since our last meeting on August 22, 2014, the Office of Elections has focused on post-election matters related to the Primary Election and preparations for the General Election.

Primary Election - Post-Election Matters

The Office of Elections processed payroll for over 3,000 election day volunteers who worked in the Primary Election. The stipends for these volunteers ranged from \$85 to \$175, depending on the position. Additionally, we have held debriefing sessions with various groups of election officials to learn from their experiences and are working on targeted areas to improve.

Preparations for the General Election

We continue to prepare for the General Election. We have addressed a dispute regarding the wording of a ballot title for a County of Maui proposed voter initiative that threatened the timely printing and mailing of ballots. This issue was ultimately resolved. We are also addressing the lava flow that may impact voters in the County of Hawaii. Preliminary plans have been made, but they will depend largely on how the lava flow progresses and related emergency measures taken by federal, state, and county agencies.

1. General Preparations

The precinct operations staff is focused on recruiting and training replacements for those who worked in the Primary Election but are not available to work in the General Election. Regarding precinct official recruitment, which

makes up the bulk of our election day volunteers, we are over 90% filled and on track to be fully staffed by election day. Staff is also replenishing the precinct cans and supply boxes for the polling places.

2. Ballot Printing and Testing of the Voting System

Upon the conclusion of the Primary Election, and the resolution of any election contests filed with the Supreme Court, staff works with the voting system vendor to design the ballot. The ballot design and layout ensures that all ballots contain the correct contests and is visually correct, as well as establishes a database for the vote counting system to read the voting positions associated with each candidate contest and ballot question.

The proofs of the ballots were finalized and sent to the vendor on September 8, 2014. The printing vendor was to expedite the printing of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots, so they could be directly sent to the counties. The counties would then mail the ballots to military and overseas voters by September 19, 2014, which is the last date permissible under the federal law (i.e. no later than the forty fifth day prior to the election).

Shortly after approving the ballots, production was disrupted when the Circuit Court in the County of Maui issued a temporary restraining order to stop any printing of the County of Maui ballots and initially scheduled a follow-up hearing on September 17, 2014. The temporary restraining order was in relation to a court case concerning the appropriateness of the ballot title of a proposed voter initiative. Given the short time frame to print ballots for the UOCAVA voters, we worked with the vendor and the County of Maui to ensure that all technical requirements and safeguards were in place if the Court ordered the ballot to be changed. Ultimately, an expedited hearing was held on September 15, 2014 and the Court dissolved the temporary restraining order at that time. UOCAVA ballots were printed and transmitted to voters by the deadline.

We are currently working with the counties to ensure that the remaining absentee mail ballots are shipped to their contracted mailing houses. The absentee ballots are scheduled to be mailed out during the first two weeks of October. Absentee walk, reserve, and election day ballots will be delivered to the Office of Elections, where they will be inventoried, secured, and shipped to the counties. Oahu reserve and election day ballots will remain with the Office of Elections.

Before any ballot is cast on a voting machine, the machines are tested by official observers. The tests are conducted in all four counties to ensure that all

components are functioning properly, that the programming is correct, and that the ballots are read accurately. Once the tests are completed, the State with the official observers secure and lock the voting devices, which each contain a memory card that will store the electronic record of each voted ballot. These machines will then be deployed to the appropriate polling places. The observers' tests are scheduled for October 4, 2014 on Oahu, and October 7 through 9 on the neighbor islands.

3. Lava Flow in the County of Hawaii

We are in contact with the County of Hawaii and discussed options if the voters in lower Puna are impacted by the lava flow. We are exploring consolidating polling places on election day depending on the path of the lava. The County of Hawaii established an absentee walk site in closer proximity to the affected voters. Additionally, the County of Hawaii mailed an absentee ballot application to all registered voters in lower Puna, so as to permit them to utilize an absentee mail ballot, if that is an option that they wish to exercise at this time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or 1-800-442-VOTE (8683).