



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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[www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections)

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

July 15, 2011

To: Elections Commission

From: Scott T. Nago  
Chief Election Officer

Re: STATUS OF OPERATIONS

The Office of Elections, in addition to the normal preparations for the 2012 Elections, has been focused on the following matters since the last meeting of the Elections Commission: (1) legislation, (2) reapportionment, and (3) changes in our organization chart.

Legislation

At the last meeting, the Office of Elections noted that there were five bills pending before the Governor. Since that time, the Governor has signed into law four of those bills and has vetoed the final bill.

The Governor vetoed HB 545, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 Relating to Voter Registration. The bill proposed the establishment of a secure, computerized online voter registration system, coordinated between various state and county agencies with no existing relationships or appropriation to plan, design and establish this system. In vetoing the bill, the Governor noted that “[w]hile the goal of this bill is laudable, it creates an unfunded mandate at a time when fiscal resources are scarce, and agencies are fighting to meet their existing responsibilities.” Governor’s Message No. 1341 (July 12, 2012)

The four bills signed into law are as follows:

1. Act 142 (2011) - HB 1613, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 Relating to Voting

Act 142 requires an application to register to vote in person or by mail to include a space to request a permanent absentee ballot. It removes the time limit on requesting an absentee or permanent absentee ballot to not later than 4:30

p.m. on the seventh day prior to the election. Finally, it permits the Office of Elections to continue to use its existing voter registration application forms where possible until such time as new forms are developed and printed.

2. Act 143 (2011) - HB 716, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 Relating to Elections

Act 143 revises various election deadlines to be consistent with the change in the date of the State's primary election, which occurred during the last legislative session.

3. Act 157 (2011) - HB 593 HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 Relating to Nomination Papers

Act 157 requires the inclusion of an additional certification to nomination papers that "the candidate has complied with the relevant provisions of the applicable county charter and county ordinances pertaining to elected officials."

4. Act 159 (2011) - HB 1368, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1 Relating to Elections

Act 159 establishes that a candidate who withdraws the candidate's own nomination papers prior to the close of the filing deadline will not be considered to have caused a vacancy that may be filled by a party; and it defines the term "party candidate" as it applies to the laws governing the filling of vacancies caused by the death, withdrawal, or disqualification of a candidate.

### Reapportionment

At the last meeting, the Office of Elections noted that an appropriation had been obtained to fund the operations of the Reapportionment Commission. Act 59 (2011). Subsequently, the Office of Elections finalized a contract with a vendor to provide the necessary geographic information system to support the Reapportionment Commission in the utilization of the census data. Additionally, various temporary staff positions associated with the Reapportionment Commission have been established and filled.

The Reapportionment Commission met on June 9, 2011, June 15, 2011, June 28, 2011, and July 12, 2011 to discuss various issues such as who will be included in the population base and whether they will have canoe districts (i.e. a district encompassing parts of more than one island unit).

### Reorganization

The Office of Elections completed the formalization of a reorganization of the office. Specifically, the staff associated with precinct operations within the

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Voter Services Section is now recognized as a separate section on our organization chart. The recognition of the Precinct Operations Section on the organization chart more accurately reflects the distinct duties and responsibilities associated with precinct operations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or 1-800-422-VOTE (8683).