

# STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

SCOTT T. NAGO CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER 802 LEHUA AVENUE PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782 www.hawaii.gov/elections

September 9, 2015

To:

**Elections Commission** 

From:

Scott T. Nago

Chief Election Officer

Re:

Status of Operations

The Office of Elections launched online voter registration on August 3, 2015. Additionally, the office continues to prepare for the 2016 Elections.

#### Online Voter Registration

The following are the numbers of transactions on the online voter registration system as of September 8, 2015. We are incorporating the online voter registration into our election year media campaign.

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### Preparations for the 2016 Elections

We have reviewed various aspects of the election process as part of our standard assessment and evaluation to ensure that all procedures are relevant, efficient, and current. The review begins after every election as the office conducts debriefs with the various stakeholders - election day officials, trainers, county officials, and various vendors. Changes and improvements are made to the procedures based on these debriefs. A meeting with the counties is scheduled for September 28, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to go over the revised procedure manuals and standard operating procedures for ballot operations, counting center operations, and precinct operations.

We are in the process of securing 233 polling places for the 2016 Elections. A request has been sent to each facility to serve as a polling place on election day. To date, we have received confirmation from 132 polling places. In cases where facilities are not available, or may become unavailable, the office locates a suitable alternative facility. Location, parking, handicap accessibility, and size of facility are taken into account when establishing new polling places.

#### Voter Outreach

The office continues to have a presence at community events for the disabled, senior citizens, students, and new citizens. We provide registration and voter education services at events such as naturalization ceremonies, new school year events for local colleges, and various fairs and festivals.

## Staffing Changes

We have selected an applicant to fill the secretary position. We have also completed the administrative process of establishing a new information technology position that was authorized by the Legislature last session. This position will be filled no earlier than January 4, 2016, as legislative funding for the position does not begin until the second half of the fiscal year.

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In the coming months, the Office of Elections is preparing for candidate filing. A training for elections staff is scheduled for December 1, 2015. The first day candidates can file for office is February 1, 2016. The deadline to file for office is June 7, 2016.

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