



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

April 13, 2023

To: Elections Commission

From: Scott T. Nago
Chief Election Officer

Re: Status of Operations

The Office of Elections has been tracking and providing testimony for the 2023 legislative session, as well as applying for new federal funds.

LEGISLATION

At this point in the session, two bills from our legislative package made it successfully through the hearing process.

HB 130, Relating to Validation of Ballots

This bill was proposed by our office to align the deadline by which voters had to cure any deficiency with their return envelope with the deadline for the county clerks to validate ballots for consistency. Specifically, HRS § 11-106 provided that voters had five business days after the election to cure their ballots. In practice, the intervening Statehood Day holiday for the Primary Election, and Veterans' Day holiday for the General Election, resulted in the time available for voters to cure their ballot with the county clerk to be up to nine calendar days after the election. This did not line up with the deadline in HRS § 11-108(c) of seven days (i.e., calendar days) after the election for the county clerks to complete the validation process. The bill was signed into law on March 31, 2023, as Act 7, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. Now, the deadline in both statutes is five business days after the election.

SB 179, Relating to Advisory Committees

This bill renames the statewide and county advisory committees associated with equal and independent access to voter registration, casting of ballots, and other elections services. Essentially, the prior names for these committees included the words, "special needs advisory

committee,” and those words have been replaced with the words, “elections accessibility needs advisory committee.” It was enrolled to the Governor on March 31, 2023 for his consideration.

Our office continues to follow and submit testimony on other election related measures including SB 1005, which establishes presidential preference primary elections. This bill has passed with various amendments in both the House and Senate with any further changes being considered in conference.

The bills that do not pass this Legislative Session may be considered during the 2024 Legislative Session.

2023 HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT GRANT

Our office applied and was recently approved for an award of \$1,000,000 in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds. As a condition of the award, our office will provide a 20% match of \$200,000. We have worked with the Legislature to include this amount in our biennial state budget. The \$1,000,000 in federal funds and the \$200,000 in state general funds are required to be used toward the purposes of HAVA. The funds have been earmarked toward improvements to the statewide voter registration system, which is required by Section 303 of HAVA.

2024 ELECTIONS

As we prepare for the 2024 Elections, here are some key dates and deadlines:

February 1, 2024	Candidate filing begins
June 4, 2024	Candidate filing closes
July 23, 2024	Primary Election mail ballot packets delivered
July 29, 2024	Voter service centers open
August 10, 2024	Primary Election Day, voting closes at 7:00 PM
August 19, 2024	Primary Election deadline for voters to cure a deficient return envelope
October 18, 2024	General Election mail ballot packets delivered
October 22, 2024	Voter service centers open

November 5, 2024	General Election Day, voting closes at 7:00 PM
November 13, 2024	General Election deadline for voters to cure a deficient return envelope

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

§11-1.6 Appointment of the chief election officer; requirements; term; restrictions; salary; reappointment; removal. (a) The chief election officer shall be appointed by the elections commission, without regard to chapter 76. The appointment shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the senate. In the event of a vacancy, the elections commission shall meet expeditiously to select and appoint a new chief election officer to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

(b) The person appointed to be chief election officer shall be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State, and a registered voter of the State.

(c) The chief election officer shall serve for a term of four years. The term shall begin on February 1 following the appointment.

(d) The chief election officer shall devote full time to the duties of the office and shall hold no other public office during the individual's term of office. Except for exercising the right to vote, the individual shall not support, advocate, or aid in the election or defeat of any candidate for public office. The chief election officer shall refrain from financial and business dealings that tend to reflect adversely on the individual's impartiality, interfere with the proper performance of election duties, or exploit the individual's position. Subject to the requirements above, the individual may hold and manage investments, including real estate, and engage in other remunerative activity, but shall not serve as an officer, director, manager, advisor, or employee of any business.

(e) The chief election officer shall be paid a salary not to exceed eighty-seven per cent of the salary of the director of human resources development.

(f) The chief election officer may petition the elections commission for reappointment. The elections commission may reappoint an incumbent chief election officer based on the performance of the chief election officer. The elections commission may authorize the chief election officer to hold office until a successor is appointed.

(g) The chief election officer is an at-will employee. The elections commission shall provide written notification of any removal and state the reason for the removal. [L Sp 1995, c 27, pt of §2, §15; am L 1999, c 141, §§3, 6; am L 2000, c 253, §150; am L 2002, c 16, §1; am L 2003, c 117, §1; am L 2004, c 57, §9; am L 2005, c 226, §2; am L 2015, c 173, §1]

The chief election officer shall be paid a salary not to exceed eighty-seven per cent of the salary of the director of human resources development. HRS §11-1.6(e).

$170,784 \times 0.87 = \mathbf{\$148,582}$ (recommended)



F.M. SCOTTY ANDERSON
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

**STATE OF HAWAII
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

December 14, 2018

Ms. Daeleen Liu, Personnel Officer
Department of Accounting and General Services
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SALARY INCREASE FOR SCOTT T. NAGO

Dear Ms. Liu:

At the meeting on December 13, 2018, the Elections Commission voted and approved a salary increase for Mr. Scott T. Nago, Chief Election Officer, from an annual amount of \$100,800 to \$119,664, which is within the limits as provided by statute, HRS §11-1.6(e).

The effective date of the annual increase is July 1, 2018.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call the Office of Elections at (808) 453-VOTE (8683). Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F.M. Scotty Anderson", is written over a horizontal line.

F.M. Scotty Anderson
Elections Commission Chair

SA:JK
EC-18-008

c: Mr. Roderick K. Becker, Comptroller
Mr. Scott T. Nago, Chief Election Officer
Elections Commission

NOTICE OF ANTICIPATED VACANCY
CHAIR, ELECTIONS COMMISSION, STATE OF HAWAI'I

The Hawai'i State Elections Commission is accepting applications for the position of **Chair, Elections Commission**, State of Hawai'i.

The Chair has a four-year term which is anticipated to begin on December 4, 2015. The Elections Commission is composed of eight members appointed by various legislators. The Chair is selected by a 2/3 vote of the members, presides over Commission meetings, and is the spokesperson for the Commission.

In accordance with Section 11-7.5, HRS, the Elections Commission holds public hearings; investigates and holds hearings to receive evidence of violations and complaints; employs a chief election officer; and advises the chief election officer on matters relating to elections. Pursuant to Section 11-8, HRS, the Commission develops and implements an election review program to review the operation and performance of elections; makes recommendations to the chief election officer on methods to improve elections, establishes policies for an election observer program, and conducts a biennial evaluation of the elections operations. Elections Commission members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses, including travel expenses. Elections Commission members are restricted from taking an active part in political management or in political campaigns. (Section 11-8, HRS.)

Applicants: The Commission invites applicants to submit their resumes with a cover letter to the Elections Commission, State of Hawai'i, c/o Office of Elections, 802 Lehua Avenue, Pearl City, HI 96782.

The application can be emailed to the Office of Elections at elections@hawaii.gov, or it must be received by or delivered to the Office of Elections on or before the application deadline of October 23, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.