



GOV. MSG. NO. 1341

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 6, 2021, the following bill was signed into law:

SB0548 SD1 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.
ACT 213 (21)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 136, Session
2 Laws of Hawaii 2019, required all elections statewide to be
3 conducted by mail beginning with the 2020 primary election.

4 The purpose of this Act is to:

5 (1) Amend the State's election laws to clarify and improve
6 the administration of elections by mail;

7 (2) Establish voters with special needs advisory
8 committees;

9 (3) Require the department of public safety and Hawaii
10 paroling authority to inform individuals on parole or
11 probation of their right to vote and provide them with
12 information on how to register and vote; and

13 (4) Require the office of elections and the county clerks
14 to make a determination, as soon as practicable, of
15 the optimal number and placement of voter service
16 centers.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding three new sections to be appropriately designated and
3 to read as follows:

4 "§11- Minimum number of precincts. Beginning with the
5 2022 primary election, there shall be a minimum of four
6 precincts in each district; provided that each inhabited island
7 with at least one hundred residents shall include at least one
8 precinct.

9 §11- Statewide voters with special needs advisory
10 committee. (a) There is established a statewide voters with
11 special needs advisory committee within the office of elections
12 for administrative purposes. The purpose of the advisory
13 committee is to ensure equal and independent access to voter
14 registration, casting of ballots, and all other office of
15 elections services.

16 (b) The advisory committee shall consist of five members
17 appointed by the governor based on recommendations from
18 organizations within the State that are comprised of a majority
19 of officers and members who are persons with physical
20 disabilities including visual impairment. Each member shall
21 identify as a voter with special needs arising from physical



1 disabilities including visual and hearing impairments that
2 require an accommodation to vote. The terms of advisory
3 committee members shall be four years; provided that initial
4 terms shall be one, two, three, or four years to ensure
5 staggered rotation of members.

6 (c) The advisory committee shall meet at least annually to
7 review election procedures, services, and technology and access
8 to information, and shall make recommendations to the office of
9 elections on at least an annual basis. The advisory committee
10 may meet and subsequently make recommendations at additional
11 times as determined by a majority of the members.

12 §11- County voters with special needs advisory
13 committees. (a) Each county shall establish a county voters
14 with special needs advisory committee. The purpose of the
15 advisory committee shall be to ensure equal and independent
16 access to voter registration, casting of ballots, and all other
17 county elections division services.

18 (b) Each advisory committee shall consist of five members
19 appointed by the mayor of each respective county based on
20 recommendations from organizations within the county that are
21 comprised of a majority of officers and members who are persons



- 1 (5) Time and distance that voters must travel to reach a
- 2 voter service center or place of deposit;
- 3 (6) Proximity to population centers;
- 4 (7) Proximity to geographically isolated populations;
- 5 (8) Proximity to official language minority communities;
- 6 (9) Proximity to low-income communities;
- 7 (10) Proximity to voters having disabilities;
- 8 (11) The need for alternate voting methods for voters with
- 9 disabilities;
- 10 (12) Proximity to communities with historically low vote by
- 11 mail usage; and
- 12 (13) Proximity to communities of eligible voters who are
- 13 not registered.

14 SECTION 48. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 49. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 06 day of JUL, 2021



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII