

JAN 25 2006

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that only seventeen per  
2 cent of persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four  
3 voted in the 2002 midterm elections, which is half the rate of  
4 the voting age population as a whole. Even in the hotly  
5 contested 2004 presidential election, barely forty per cent of  
6 all eligible voters between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four  
7 turned out to vote. One of the most basic reasons is voter  
8 registration; only seven out of ten eligible voters in the  
9 United States are registered to vote. This rate is even lower  
10 for young adults, with less than fifty per cent of eligible  
11 voters under the age of twenty-five being registered to vote.

12           The purpose of this Act is to require the office of  
13 elections to convene a universal voter registration task force  
14 for the purpose of designing a voter registration system that  
15 will result in one hundred per cent registration of voting-age  
16 citizens, except for citizens who opt out explicitly and in  
17 writing.



1           SECTION 2. (a) There is established a universal voter  
2 registration task force in the office of elections. The goal of  
3 the task force shall be to:

4           (1) Conduct research and create proposals for a voter  
5 registration system that will result in one hundred  
6 per cent registration of voting-age citizens, except  
7 citizens who state in writing that they do not want to  
8 be registered voters; and

9           (2) Recommend to the legislature a framework and proposals  
10 for legislation, and implement any proposals created  
11 by the task force.

12           (b) The universal voter registration task force shall  
13 consist of the following members:

14           (1) The director of the office of elections or the  
15 director's designee;

16           (2) The county clerk from each county or the clerk's  
17 designee;

18           (3) One member of the League of Women Voters Hawaii, to be  
19 appointed by the governor; and

20           (4) Interested members of the public who are involved in  
21 voter registration and compliance issues, to be  
22 appointed by the governor.



1 (c) The universal voter registration task force may form  
2 workgroups and subcommittees to:

3 (1) Obtain input from stakeholders and other individuals  
4 as deemed appropriate by the task force; and

5 (2) Perform any other functions deemed appropriate by the  
6 task force to fulfill its functions.

7 (d) Members of the universal voter registration task force  
8 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
9 expenses, such as travel expenses, necessary for the performance  
10 of their duties.

11 (e) The universal voter registration task force shall  
12 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
13 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
14 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
15 2007.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000, or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2006-2007 to the  
19 office of elections to support the operation of the universal  
20 voter registration task force.

21 This sum shall be expended by the office of elections for  
22 the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
2 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

SB. NO. 2993

**Report Title:**

Universal Voter Registration Task Force

**Description:**

Requires the office of elections to convene a universal voter registration task force. Appropriates funds.

