
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTION DAY POLL WATCHERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that over the years,
2 there has been an increase in conflicts between election day
3 poll watchers and precinct officials. Poll watchers are
4 appointed by qualified political parties not later than ten days
5 prior to the election. Many of these poll watchers do not avail
6 themselves of the poll worker training of the State. As a
7 result, many poll watchers are not informed as to the procedures
8 at the polling place and therefore create problems in the
9 polling place on election day.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require all poll watchers to
11 be appointed not later than forty-five days prior to any
12 election and require attendance of training and certification
13 prior to serving as poll watchers on election day.

14 SECTION 2. Section 11-77, Hawaii Revised Statutes is
15 amended as follows:

16 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

17 "(a) Each qualified political party shall be entitled to
18 appoint no more than one watcher who may be present at any time



1 in each precinct and absentee polling place in which the
2 candidates of that political party are on the ballot. Each
3 party shall submit its list of watchers not later than 4:30 p.m.
4 on the [~~tenth~~] forty-fifth day prior to any election to the
5 chief election officer or to the clerk in county elections. All
6 watchers shall serve without expense to the State or county.
7 All watchers so appointed shall be registered voters. No person
8 shall serve as a watcher unless that person has received
9 instruction and has been certified by the authorized instructor
10 to that effect. No person shall serve as a watcher who could
11 not qualify to serve as a precinct official under section 11-
12 72(b)(3)."

13 2. By amending subsection (d) to read:

14 "(d) The watcher shall call the attention of the
15 chairperson to any violations of the election laws that the
16 watcher observes. After the chairperson's attention is called
17 to the violation, the chairperson shall make an attempt to
18 correct such violation. If the chairperson fails to correct the
19 violation, the watcher may appeal to the chief election officer
20 or the clerk of the county[-] in county elections."

21 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Election Day Poll Watchers

Description:

Requires each county to submit its list of poll watchers not later than 4:30 p.m. on the forty-fifth day prior to any election. Requires anyone serving as a poll watcher to receive instruction and certification from an authorized instructor.
(HB1132 HD1)

