

JAN 22 2007

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



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

12 2. By amending subsections (d) and (e) to read:

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

20 (e) The watcher shall be permitted to observe the  
21 operations of the absentee polling place. Any violation of the  
22 election laws shall be reported to the county clerk."



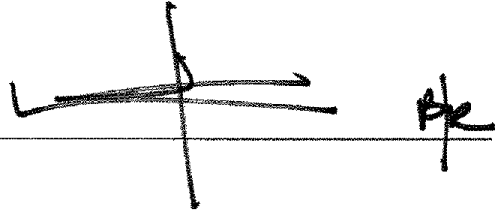
# S.B. NO. 1551

1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature is written over a horizontal line. The signature consists of a stylized 'L' shape followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line. To the right of the signature are the initials 'BR'.



**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 authorized instructor.

