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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that citizen  
2 participation in elections is vital to the health and well-being  
3 of a democratic and representative form of government. When the  
4 citizenry opts out of its responsibility to vote, public  
5 confidence and support of government is undermined, as is the  
6 government's effectiveness in serving the people of the state.

7           In 2008, Hawaii had the lowest voter turnout in the United  
8 States, with 50.6 per cent of eligible voters voting. Low voter  
9 turnout is a significant concern that must be addressed. To  
10 combat voter apathy, efforts to increase the percentage of  
11 voting age citizens who are registered and to simplify the  
12 voting process must be implemented.

13           The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to  
14 study and make recommendations on expanding voter registration  
15 methods and requiring mail-in ballots.

16           SECTION 2. There is established within the office of  
17 elections a voter registration and participation task force that  
18 shall consist of the following members:



- 1 (1) The chief election officer, as chair;
- 2 (2) A representative of the governor, designated by the
- 3 governor;
- 4 (3) A representative of the mayor of each county,
- 5 designated by the respective mayor;
- 6 (4) The county clerk of each county or the county clerk's
- 7 designee;
- 8 (5) A representative from each political party as defined
- 9 pursuant to section 11-61, designated by the
- 10 respective party;
- 11 (6) A representative from the League of Women Voters,
- 12 designated by the league;
- 13 (7) A member of the senate appointed by the senate
- 14 president; and
- 15 (8) A member of the house of representatives appointed by
- 16 the speaker of the house of representatives.

17 SECTION 3. The members of the task force shall serve  
18 without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary travel  
19 expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, if  
20 funds are available.

21 SECTION 4. The office of elections shall provide all  
22 necessary administrative and staff support for the task force.



1 SECTION 5. The voter registration and participation task  
2 force shall study improvements to voter registration and the  
3 voting process that include:

4 (1) Creating voter registration centers on college and  
5 university campuses;

6 (2) Developing on-line voter registration sites for  
7 initial registration and subsequent changes to  
8 registration information;

9 (3) Allowing registration anytime, up to and including  
10 election day;

11 (4) Registering eligible voters automatically at the time  
12 of driver's license application or renewal; and

13 (5) Requiring that all votes be cast by mail-in ballot.

14 SECTION 6. The voter registration and participation task  
15 force shall submit a report on the task force's findings and  
16 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
17 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18 the regular session of 2010.

19 SECTION 7. The voter registration and participation task  
20 force shall cease to exist on June 1, 2010.

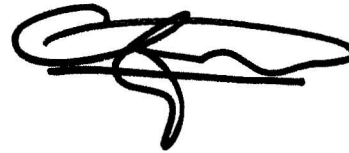
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1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: ALOT K DAN

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JAN 28 2009



**Report Title:**

Elections; Low Voter Turnout; Task Force

**Description:**

Creates a voter registration and participation task force within the office of elections to study increasing voter registration options and requiring mail-in voting to increase voter registration and turnout rates.

