

JAN 18 2013

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The office of elections shall develop and
2 implement a vote-by-mail pilot program that shall:

3 (1) Apply to all elections, as that term is defined in
4 section 11-302, Hawaii Revised Statutes, held in the
5 State in 2014;

6 (2) Confine the vote-by-mail pilot program to one state
7 representative district within each county as
8 determined pursuant to subsection (b); provided that
9 the office of elections shall make one or more walk-in
10 polling places available for pilot program voters who
11 the office of elections determines are unable to vote
12 by mail because of the absence of a permanent mailing
13 address or any other reason that the office of
14 elections deems appropriate;

15 (3) Require that vote-by-mail ballots be received by the
16 close of the polls on election day to ensure that the
17 ballots are counted; and



1 (4) Provide voter education materials relating to the
2 pilot program to voters who are eligible for the pilot
3 program.

4 (b) Within each county, the office of elections shall
5 implement the pilot program in the state representative district
6 that the office of elections determines to have the lowest voter
7 turnout of all state representative districts within the county
8 for the two most recent general elections; provided that if more
9 than one state representative district qualifies under this
10 subsection, the office of elections shall select the state
11 representative district it deems to be the most suitable for the
12 purposes of this Act. For purposes of this subsection, "voter
13 turnout" means the percentage of all registered voters within a
14 state representative district who vote in a given election.

15 (c) Upon the designation of state representative districts
16 for the pilot program pursuant to subsection (b), but not later
17 than July 1, 2014, the office of elections shall submit a
18 preliminary report to the legislature that includes:

19 (1) Identification of the state representative districts
20 designated by the office of elections for the pilot
21 program, including a description of the method used to
22 select the districts;



1 (2) The current status of implementation of the pilot
2 program; and

3 (3) A brief description of any operational problems or
4 legal impediments that have affected or are
5 anticipated to affect implementation of the pilot
6 program.

7 (d) Upon the conclusion of the 2014 general election, but
8 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
9 session of 2015, the office of elections shall submit a report
10 to the legislature that includes:

11 (1) Voter demographics, turnout, and other statistical
12 information, as deemed necessary by the chief election
13 officer, to accurately assess the efficacy of the
14 pilot program for each designated state representative
15 district;

16 (2) Efforts made by the office of elections to promote and
17 provide voter education about the pilot program and
18 the cost of those efforts;

19 (3) The effect, if any, of the pilot program on increasing
20 or decreasing voter turnout;



1 (4) Any operational problems or legal impediments that
2 arose and affected the implementation or operation of
3 the pilot program;

4 (5) The actual cost of implementing the pilot program,
5 including postage costs;

6 (6) A recommendation as to whether the pilot program
7 should be made permanent on a limited or statewide
8 basis and, if recommended to be made permanent, any
9 proposed statutory revisions necessary to effectuate
10 the mail-in voting program; and

11 (7) An estimate of the cost, including postage costs, to
12 continue the pilot program permanently on a limited or
13 statewide basis.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2014-2015 for the vote-by-mail pilot program required by
19 this Act.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
21 elections for the purposes of this Act.



S.B. NO. 209

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013, and
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Will Evers

[Signature]

Randy H. Bab

J. Kim Gish

Therese Chun Calabrese

[Signature]



S.B. NO. 209

Report Title:

Voting; Elections by Mail; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the office of elections to establish a vote-by-mail pilot program for the 2014 elections in state representative districts with the lowest voter turnout in each county. Appropriates funds for the pilot program.

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