

DEPT. COMM. NO. 140

F.M. SCOTTY ANDERSON
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

**STATE OF HAWAII
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

December 28, 2016

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members
of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

RE: Elections Commission's Biennial Evaluation of Elections Operation

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting two (2) copies of the "*Biennial Report to the Legislature on the Office of Elections*," in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-8.5.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683).

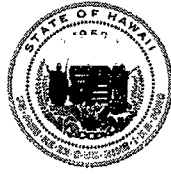
Very truly yours,

F.M. SCOTTY ANDERSON
Elections Commission Chair

SA:jk
EC-16-011

Enclosures

c: Legislative Reference Bureau



F.M. SCOTTY ANDERSON
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

STATE OF HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION

December 28, 2016

Elections Commission's Biennial Evaluation of Elections Operation

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-8.5, we are pleased to report that while we had a few minor glitches on General Election Day, all of those problems were resolved and were not of any major consequence. The problems have been reviewed and the Chief Election Officer has taken action to hopefully avoid those problems in the future.

Most of the problems that were experienced involved tabulating machines that voters and, in some cases, volunteers jammed by shoving the second ballot (for Oahu only because of the Charter amendments) into the machines prior to the first one clearing. Additionally, in one case a janitor locked two machines in a closet for safety.

On the other hand, we did not experience any problems with lack of ballots or complete failures of any equipment.

The Commission does want to point out that 54% of voters cast their ballot by mail in the Primary Election, and 44% of voters cast their ballot by mail in the General Election. In both elections, over 50% cast their ballot prior to Election Day as compared to 46% in the 2012 Presidential Election.

Another interesting statistic is that since the launch of Statewide Online Voter Registration System on August 3, 2015, the system had registered over 24,000 new voters to be eligible to vote in the 2016 Elections. To date, the online system has seen over 71,000 transactions which includes new registrations and updates to current registrations.

It is still the goal of the Commission to move to all mail in voting beginning with Kauai in 2018, Hawaii and Maui Counties in 2020, and the City and County of Honolulu in 2022. There are a host of reasons for this, with the main reason being saving some \$800,000 per election cycle, on a program that would take approximately \$300,000 to institute.

Attached is a report from another Elections Commission member who went to polling places on Election Day. While I did not go to any polling places, I did go the State Capitol once in the morning and again in the evening to observe the counting process. It is a well-oiled machine, and there were no problems throughout the counting. I am very proud of the job done by the Chief Election Officer Scott Nago and his entire team of staff and volunteers.

EC Report to the 2017 Legislature
December 28, 2016
Page 2

Should you have any questions, you may contact me via email at elections@hawaii.gov,
Attn: Scotty Anderson.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F.M. Scotty Anderson", is written above a horizontal line.

F.M. Scotty Anderson
Elections Commission Chair

SA:jk
EC-16-010

Enclosure



F.M. SCOTTY ANDERSON
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

**STATE OF HAWAII
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

December 28, 2016

Having visited 12 precincts located from South, West, East, and Upcountry Maui, my observations are:

1. Maui had one major machine jamming malfunction at the Haiku precinct caused by high humidity with the ballots. One precinct chair chose not to use their machine due to difficulties. Another chair observed that a majority of voters preferred to use a booth.
2. Many precincts had long telephone delays while trying to get voter issues solved with the County Clerk Office. I suggest more staff and phone lines at Clerk's Office to handle the overload.
3. Staffing was an issue at Kalama Intermediate School where "no shows" were prevalent. Had it not been for Seabury Hall student volunteers filling in and assisting, voting delays would have occurred.
4. Names of voters were not listed or listed outside, but when entering the building found their name not at their designated area.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bill Bates
Elections Commission Member