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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 the current absentee  
2 ballot voting system in this State includes complications that  
3 may undermine the voting system. Issues surrounding use of the  
4 post office lead to questions concerning the delivery, receipt,  
5 and counting of every submitted absentee ballot on election day.

6           The legislature further finds that many residents have  
7 difficulty finding time to vote and obtaining access to voting  
8 options. Rural community voters, elderly residents, individuals  
9 who rely on childcare services in order to find time to vote,  
10 and voters with other commitments are among those most affected.  
11 These issues are some of the potential areas affecting voter  
12 access and turnout in this State.

13           Therefore, the legislature finds that a study is needed to  
14 review the voting methods of other states, in particular those  
15 that subscribe to all-mail elections, to determine how the  
16 election process in this State may be improved.



1           SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall  
2 conduct a study of the election systems in Oregon, Washington,  
3 and Colorado to review the use in those states of elections  
4 conducted entirely by mail, including:

- 5           (1) The current practices and associated costs for  
6           administering elections by mail in those states; and  
7           (2) An assessment of whether these states provide for  
8           early walk-in voting and election day voting in  
9           addition to the vote-by-mail option.

10          (b) In addition, the study shall determine the current  
11 practices and associated costs to administer the following ways  
12 for people to vote in Hawaii:

- 13          (1) Uniformed military and overseas voting under chapter  
14          15D, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
15          (2) Mail-in ballots other than for the voting method  
16          described under paragraph (1);  
17          (3) Early walk-in voting; and  
18          (4) Election day voting.

19          (c) The study shall include a determination of the current  
20 practices and associated costs for providing election  
21 information, such as candidate statements, constitutional



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1 amendments, and other matters to be voted on, to the general  
2 public in Oregon, Washington, and Colorado. The study shall  
3 also include a determination of the projected costs associated  
4 with implementing these information distribution practices in  
5 Hawaii.

6 (d) The legislative reference bureau shall submit a report  
7 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
8 legislation, to the legislature no later than December 1, 2017.

9 SECTION 3. The office of elections shall provide data and  
10 other information as may be requested by the legislative  
11 reference bureau for the completion of the study.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the  
15 purposes of this Act.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative  
17 reference bureau for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. The legislative reference bureau may contract  
19 the services of a consultant with the funds appropriated in  
20 section 4 of this Act. The contracting of services under this  
21 Act shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



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1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Cindy Evans*

JAN 19 2017



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**Report Title:**

Election Laws; LRB Study; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires LRB to conduct a study on current practices and costs to administer all-mail elections and disseminate election information in other states in comparison with the election process in Hawaii. Makes an appropriation.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

