

JAN 17 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that only 52.7 per cent
2 of registered voters, and only 32.6 per cent of voters aged
3 eighteen to twenty-nine, cast ballots in Hawai'i during the 2018
4 general election. Voting is a habit that can be established
5 with a voter's first election. Evidence from jurisdictions that
6 have lowered the voting age supports arguments that the age of
7 sixteen is a better time to start the habit of voting than
8 eighteen. Voting in one election can increase the probability
9 that the person will vote in the next election by over fifty per
10 cent.

11 Early voting experiences are an important determinant of
12 future voting behavior. Sixteen and seventeen-year-olds work
13 and pay taxes; drive; and in some cases may be married; have
14 children; or, even be tried in adult courts. The legislature
15 further finds that extending voting rights to Hawai'i residents
16 aged sixteen and seventeen, coupled with robust civic education
17 at high school levels, will likely increase the civic engagement



1 of young people and help instill a culture of voting leading to
2 higher voter turnout among all demographics in the State.

3 The purpose of this Act is to lower the voting age for
4 state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age.

5 SECTION 2. Section 11-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§11-11 Registration.** A person who registers as required
8 by law shall be entitled to vote at any state or local election;
9 provided that the person shall have attained the age of
10 [~~eighteen~~] sixteen at the time of that election. A person who
11 registers as required by law shall be entitled to vote at any
12 federal election; provided that the person shall have attained
13 the age of eighteen at the time of that election. The county
14 clerk shall be responsible for voter registration in the
15 respective counties and the keeping of the general register and
16 precinct lists within the county."

17 SECTION 3. Section 11-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "**§11-12 Age; place of registering.** (a) Every person who
20 has reached the age of [~~eighteen~~] sixteen years or who is
21 [~~seventeen~~] fifteen years of age and will be [~~eighteen~~] sixteen



1 years of age by the date of the next state or local election,
2 and is otherwise qualified to register may do so for that
3 election. The person shall then be listed upon the appropriate
4 county general register and precinct list. No person shall
5 register or vote in any other precinct than that in which the
6 person resides except as provided in section 11-21.

7 (b) A person who is otherwise qualified to register and is
8 at least [~~sixteen~~] fourteen years of age but will not be
9 [~~eighteen~~] sixteen years of age by the date of the next state or
10 local election may preregister upon satisfactory proof of age
11 and shall be automatically registered upon reaching age
12 [~~eighteen-~~] sixteen.

13 (c) Any person who registers pursuant to this section
14 shall not vote in any federal election unless the person has
15 reached the age of eighteen at the time of that election."

16 SECTION 4. Section 11-15.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "[+]§11-15.5[+] **Duties of all state agencies; voter**
19 **registration.** Each state agency that deals with the public
20 shall make available to each member of the public [~~eighteen~~]
21 sixteen years of age or older an application in the form of an



1 affidavit for voter registration pursuant to section 11-15. The
2 application shall be available by mail or in person depending on
3 the manner in which the agency's services are requested by the
4 person. The form of the application may be identical to that
5 described and found in public telephone directories."

6 SECTION 5. Section 13D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

8 "(a) Every person who registers as required by law shall
9 be entitled to vote at any election of board members provided
10 that the person shall have attained the age of [~~eighteen~~]
11 sixteen years at the time of the election.

12 (b) No person shall be eligible to register as a voter for
13 the election of board members unless the person meets the
14 following qualifications:

- 15 (1) The person has attained the age of [~~eighteen~~] sixteen
16 years or will have attained such age within one year
17 of the date of the next election of board members; and
18 (2) The person is otherwise qualified to register to vote
19 in the State."

20 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

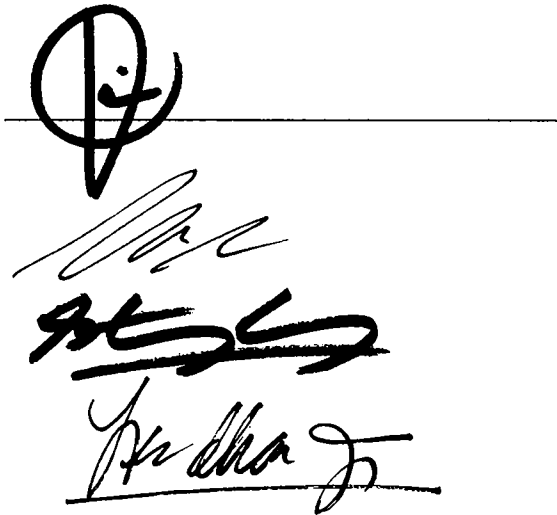


S.B. NO. 2530

1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
2 and upon ratification of a constitutional amendment lowering the
3 qualifying age of voters for any state or local election to
4 sixteen years of age.

5

INTRODUCED BY: _____



The image shows three handwritten signatures or initials stacked vertically. The top one is a large, stylized 'D' with a vertical line through it. The middle one is a cursive signature. The bottom one is a signature that appears to be 'John Doe' or similar, written in a cursive hand.



S.B. NO. 2530

Report Title:

Voting Age Decrease; State and Local Elections

Description:

Lowers the age of voting in state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age. Lowers the age of preregistration.

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

