

JAN 18 2019

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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. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to part X to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4           "§11-     Mandatory recount of votes. (a) The chief  
5 election officer, or the clerk in the case of county elections,  
6 shall conduct a recount of all votes cast for any office at any  
7 election if the official canvass of all of the returns for that  
8 office reveals that the difference in the number of votes cast  
9 for a candidate apparently qualified for the general election  
10 ballot or elected to office and the number of votes cast for the  
11 closest apparently defeated opponent is less than two hundred  
12 fifty votes or less than one per cent of the total number of  
13 votes cast for the contest, whichever is less.

14           (b) No cost of a mandatory recount under this section may  
15 be charged to any candidate.



1        (c) All mandatory recounts of votes under this section  
2 shall be completed and the results publicly announced no later  
3 than the ninth day following the election.

4        (d) The chief election officer shall adopt rules pursuant  
5 to chapter 91 for the mandatory recount of votes under this  
6 section; provided that the rules shall:

7        (1) Authorize candidates affected by the recount, or their  
8 designated representatives, to attend and witness the  
9 recount; and

10       (2) Require the notification of the parties described in  
11 paragraph (1) of the time and place of the recount no  
12 later than one day prior to the date of the recount.

13       (e) This section shall apply to votes counted pursuant to  
14 section 11-151."

15       SECTION 2. Section 11-155, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17       "**§11-155 Certification of results of election.** On receipt  
18 of certified tabulations from the election officials concerned,  
19 the chief election officer or county clerk in county elections  
20 shall compile, certify, and release the election results after  
21 the expiration of the time for bringing an election contest.



1 The certification shall be based on a comparison and  
2 reconciliation of the following:

- 3 (1) The results of the canvass of ballots conducted  
4 pursuant to chapter 16;
- 5 (2) The audit of pollbooks (and related record books) and  
6 resultant overage and underage report;
- 7 (3) The audit results of the manual audit team;
- 8 (4) The results of the absentee ballot reconciliation  
9 report compiled by the clerks; [and]
- 10 (5) The results of any mandatory recount of votes  
11 conducted pursuant to section 11- ; and
- 12 ~~[-5]~~ (6) All logs, tally sheets, and other documents  
13 generated during the election and in the canvass of  
14 the election results.

15 A certificate of election or a certificate of results declaring  
16 the results of the election as of election day shall be issued  
17 pursuant to section 11-156; provided that in the event of an  
18 overage or underage, a list of all precincts in which an overage  
19 or underage occurred shall be attached to the certificate. The  
20 number of candidates to be elected receiving the highest number  
21 of votes in any election district shall be declared to be

1 elected. Unless otherwise provided, the term of office shall  
2 begin or end as of the close of polls on election day. The  
3 position on the question receiving the appropriate majority of  
4 the votes cast shall be reflected in a certificate of results  
5 issued pursuant to section 11-156."

6 SECTION 3. Section 11-173.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

8 "(a) In primary and special primary election contests, and  
9 county election contests held concurrently with a regularly  
10 scheduled primary or special primary election, the complaint  
11 shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the supreme court  
12 not later than 4:30 p.m. on the sixth day after a primary or  
13 special primary election, or county election contests held  
14 concurrently with a regularly scheduled primary or special  
15 primary election, and shall be accompanied by a deposit for  
16 costs of court as established by rules of the supreme court[-];  
17 provided that a complaint pertaining to votes subject to a  
18 mandatory recount pursuant to section 11- shall be filed no  
19 later than 4:30 p.m. on the thirteenth calendar day following  
20 the election or the third calendar day following a recount,  
21 whichever occurs first. The clerk shall issue to the defendants



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1 named in the complaint a summons to appear before the supreme  
2 court not later than 4:30 p.m. on the fifth day after service  
3 [~~thereof.~~] of summons."

4 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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# S.B. NO. 669

**Report Title:**

Elections; Mandatory Recount of Votes

**Description:**

Requires recounts of election votes when the margin of victory is less than two hundred fifty votes or less than one per cent of the votes cast, whichever is less.

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

