



DEPT. COMM. NO. 371

F.M. SCOTTY ANDERSON
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

**STATE OF HAWAII
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

January 21, 2021

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

The Honorable Scott Saiki
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting the "*Elections Commission's Biennial Evaluation of Elections Operation*," in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-8.5.

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

Sincerely,

F.M. SCOTTY ANDERSON
Elections Commission Chair

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Elections Commission's Biennial Evaluation of Elections Operation

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes § 11-8.5, we are pleased to submit the following report concerning the operation of elections.

The 2020 election cycle involved the transition to elections by mail from the prior polling place model. The transition to elections by mail was mandated by Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019. While the election community had noted that this was the natural progression from the ever-increasing role of absentee voting in our past elections, it still required a reconsideration of the optimal manner in which to conduct our elections and the concerted effort of all involved in the election community.

In the end, the 2020 election cycle was largely successful, even in the face of the challenges that COVID-19 brought to the administration of elections. Many lessons were learned that will help to improve the administration of elections moving forward.

We are continuing to see an increase in registration. The 2018 General Election included 756,751 registered voters, while the 2020 General Election recorded 832,466 registered voters.

A record 407,190 voters cast their ballot in the 2020 Primary Election, and 579,784 voters cast their ballot in the 2020 General Election. In the Primary Election, 99% of voters mailed their ballot or dropped it off at a place of deposit, while the remaining 1% voted in person at a voter service center. Similarly, in the General Election, over 93% cast their ballot by either mail or place of deposit, and less than 7% voted in person at a voter service center.

The 2020 Elections would not have been possible without the assistance from the volunteers and various government agencies. Each person serves a critical role in providing secure, accessible, and convenient election services for each voter. Going forward, we will continue to review procedures to ensure voters and volunteers have a smooth experience.

Finally, on Election Day and through the post-election audits and reconciliations conducted by the Office of Elections, no evidence of fraud or errors were found that would suggest our election had been tampered with.

We are very proud of the job done by the Chief Election Officer, Scott Nago, and his entire team of staff and volunteers.

The Elections Commission notes that it was unable to review the meeting minutes from its December 15, 2020 meeting. After review and approval of the minutes, the Elections Commission may submit an addendum to this report if necessary.

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

Respectfully submitted,



F.M. Scotty Anderson
Elections Commission Chair