

Ka 'Aha Kenekoa
THE SENATE

Ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo Kanakolu
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

'Aha Kau Waena Kānāwai 2019
INTERIM OF 2019

Ke Kōmike Ho'okolokolo
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Kenekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads, Luna Ho'omalū/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Glenn Wakai, Hope Luna Ho'omalū/Vice Chair

Kenekoa/Senator Mike Gabbard
Kenekoa/Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Kenekoa/Senator Kurt Fevella

Ke Kōmike Ho'okolokolo
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Lunamaka'āinana/Representative Chris Lee, Luna Ho'omalū/Chair
Lunamaka'āinana/Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Hope Luna Ho'omalū/Vice Chair

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Lunamaka'āinana/Representative Amy A. Perruso
Lunamaka'āinana/Representative Calvin K.Y. Say
Lunamaka'āinana/Representative Gregg Takayama
Lunamaka'āinana/Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Lunamaka'āinana/Representative Cynthia Thielen

Ho'olaha 'Aha Ka'ana 'Ike
NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Lā / DATE: Pō'akolu, Nowemapa 13, 2019 / Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Hola / TIME: 2:00 p.m.
Wahi / PLACE: Lumi 'Aha Kūkā 016 / Conference Room 016
Ke Kapikala Moku'āina / State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Papa Kumuhana
A G E N D A

Status Update on Statewide Vote by Mail Process

The purpose of this informational briefing is to obtain an update on the status of the implementation of voting by mail pursuant to Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019. Act 136 requires that all elections in the State be conducted by mail commencing with the 2020 election cycle.

Briefing Speakers:

1. Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer, State of Hawai‘i;
2. Jon Henricks, County Clerk, County of Hawai‘i;
3. Josiah Nishita, County Clerk, County of Maui;
4. Jade Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk, County of Kaua‘i; and
5. Glen Takahashi, City Clerk, City & County of Honolulu.

After the presentations and questions from the committee members, invited agencies and community organizations will be given the opportunity to comment.

Please find the link to Act 136 below:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/GM1238 .PDF>

‘A‘ole e ‘ae ‘ia ka ‘ōlelo hō‘ike e ka lehulehu.
No public testimony will be accepted.

No nā mea pono kōkua unuhi, a i ‘ole kekahi mau mea lawelawe ‘ē a‘e no ke komo ‘ana i nā hanana ma ka ‘aha ho‘olohe, e kāhea aku i ke kākau ‘ōlelo kōmike he 24 hola ma ka li‘ili‘i loa ma mua o ka ‘aha ho‘olohe i mea e hiki ai ke ho‘omākaukau pono.

If you require auxiliary aids or services to participate in the public hearing process (i.e. ASL or foreign language interpreter, or wheelchair accessibility), please contact the committee clerk at least 24 hours prior to the hearing so that arrangements can be made.

No Ka ‘Ike ‘Ē A‘e, E Kelepona Aku I Ke Kākau ‘Ōlelo Kōmike Ma (808) 586-6130.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT (808) 586-6130.

Lunamaka‘āinana/Representative Chris Lee
Luna Ho‘omalū/Chair

Kenekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads
Luna Ho‘omalū/Chair

Lunamaka‘āinana/Representative Scott K. Saiki
Luna Ho‘omalū o Ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana/
Speaker of the House

Kenekoa/Senator Ronald D. Kouchi
Pelekikena o Ka ‘Aha Kenekoa/
President of the Senate



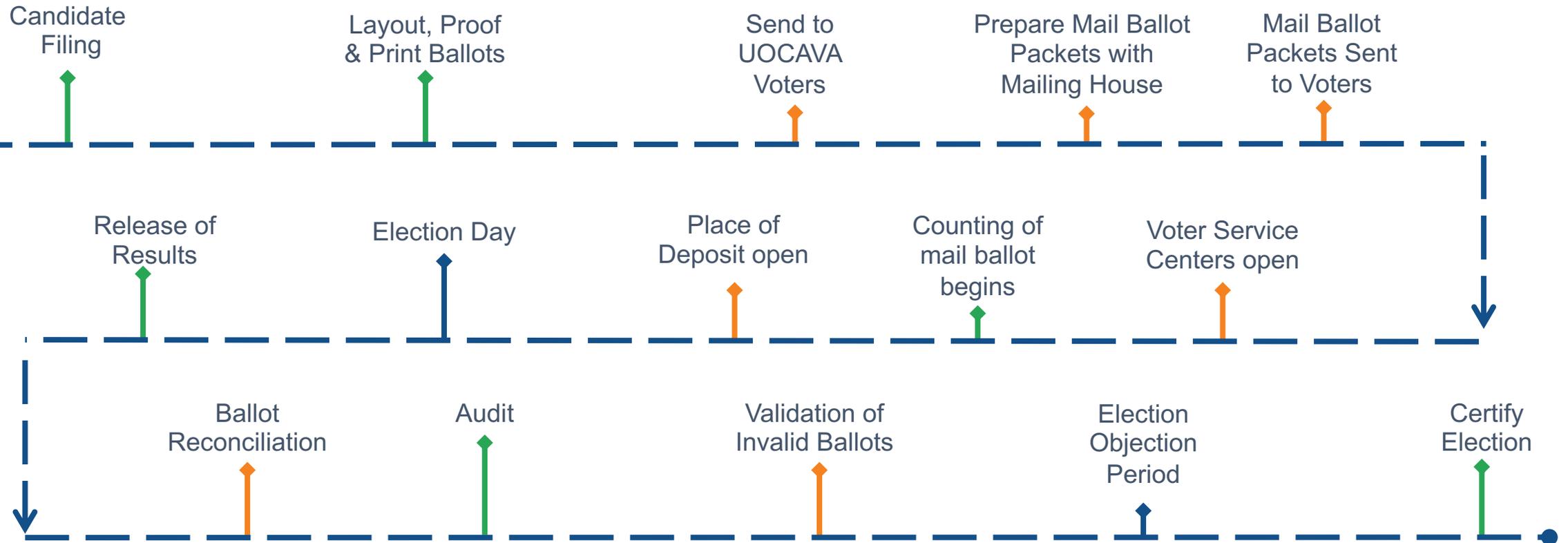
Implementing Elections by Mail

Office of Elections
November 13, 2019

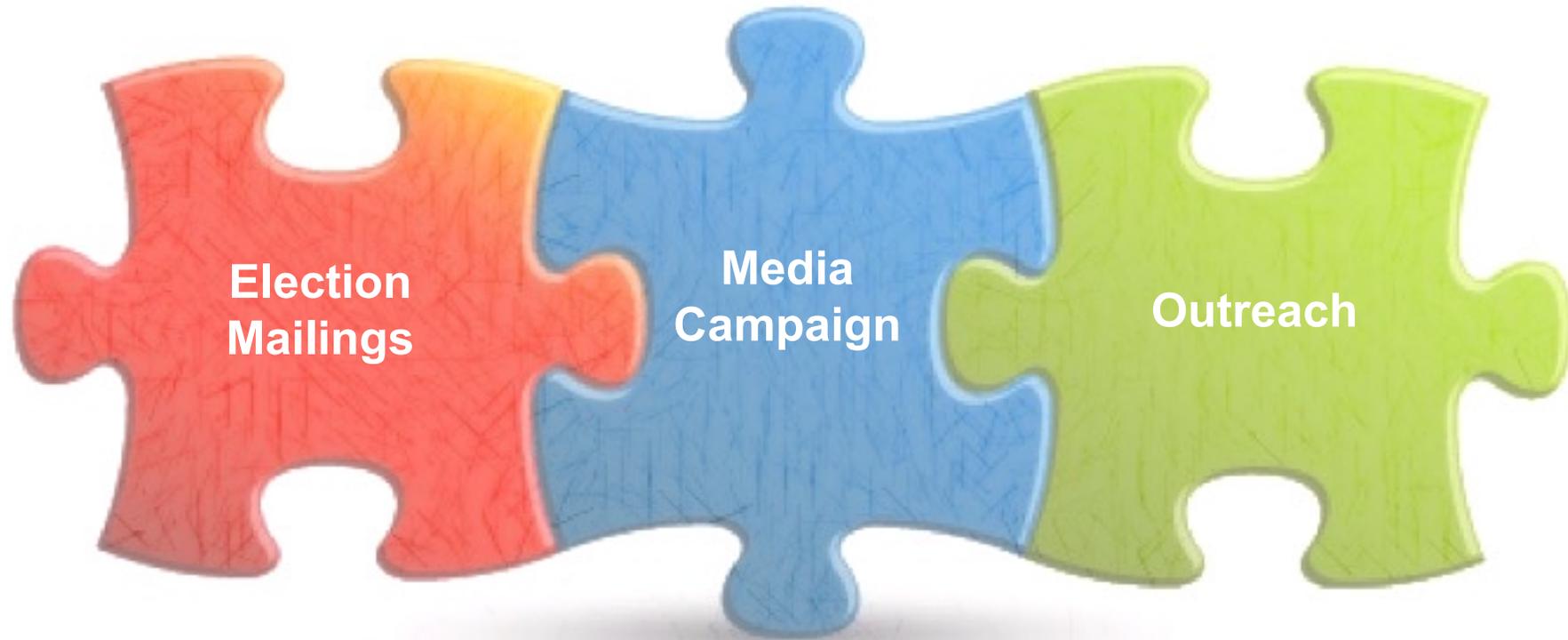
Our Role

- Voter Education
- Print Ballots
- Count & Tabulate Results

Overview

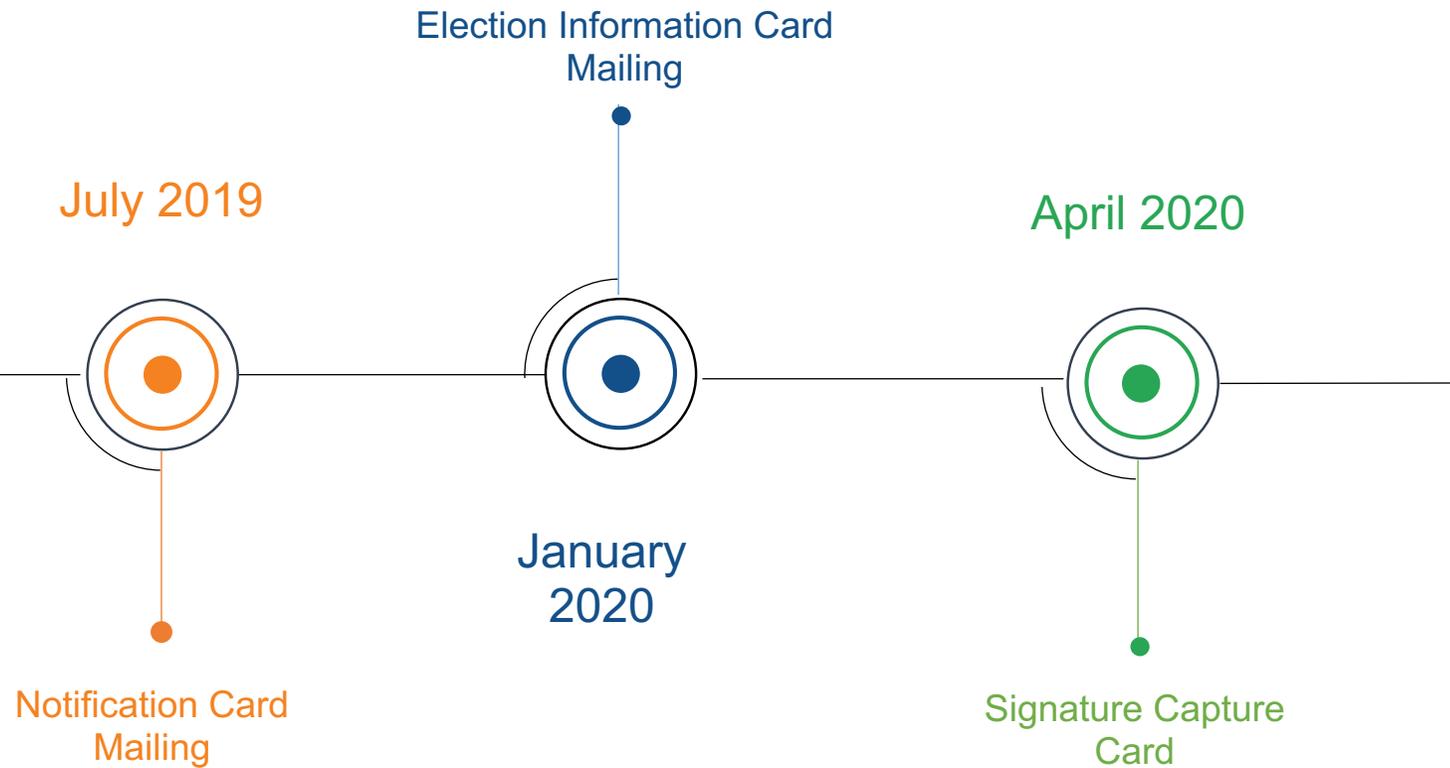


Voter Education



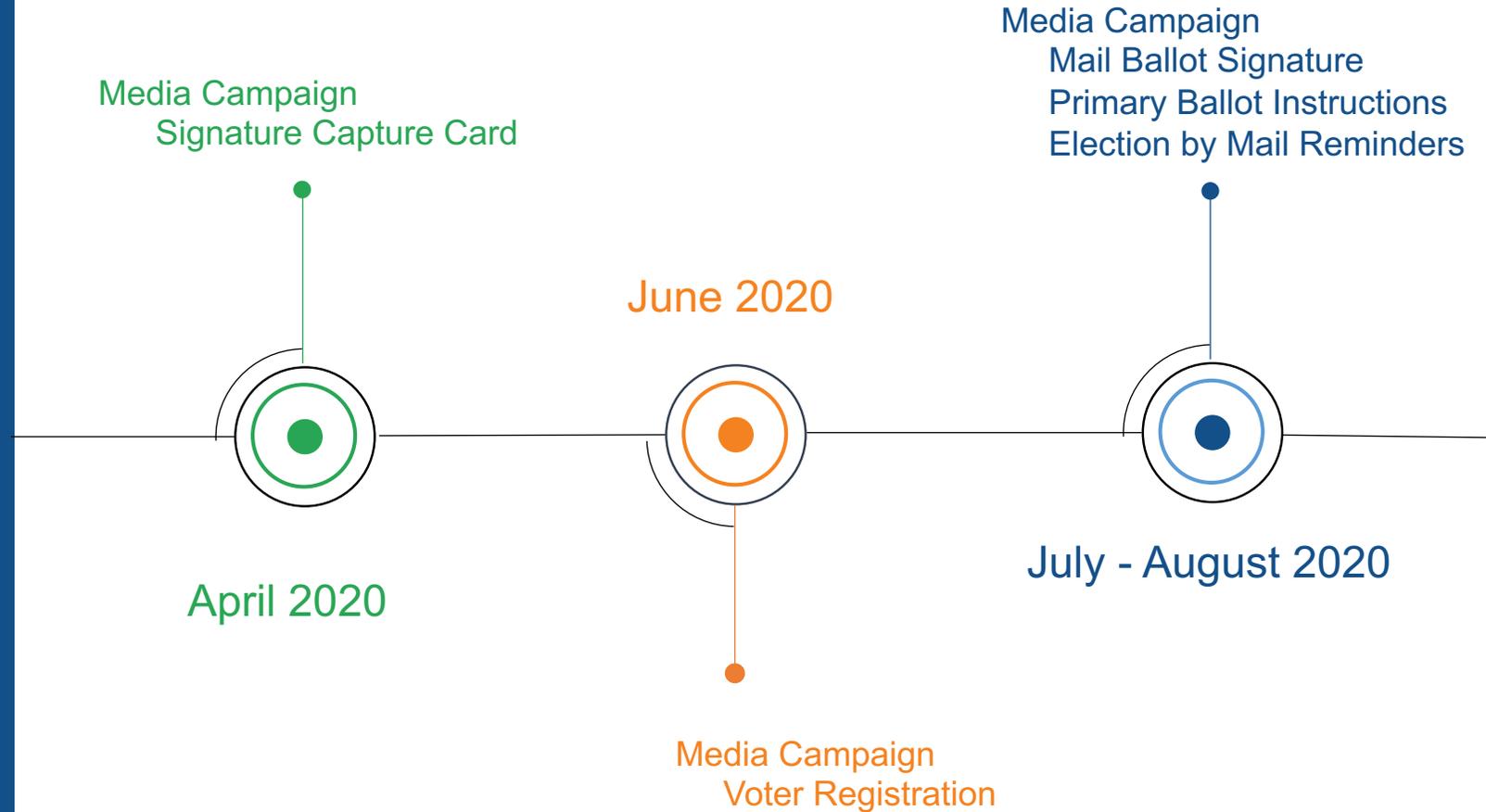
Election Mailings

- Series of mailings
- List maintenance

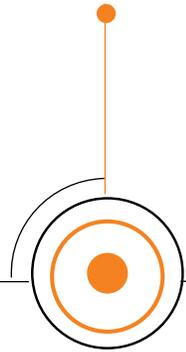


Media Campaign

- Objective
- Television, Radio, Digital
- Press Releases

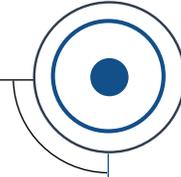


Media Campaign
Voter Registration



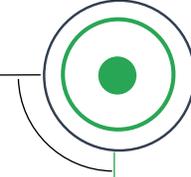
September
2020

October -
November 2020



Media Campaign
Mail Ballot Signature
Election by Mail Reminders

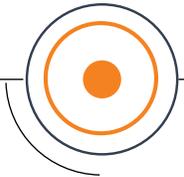
November –
December 2020



Program Evaluation

Outreach

June 2019



Community Outreach

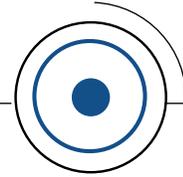
Young Voter Registration Program

College Students

Disability Community

Senior Citizens

November 2020



- Objective
- Tabling Events & Voter Information Booths
- Community-Based Organizations
- Voter Presentations



www.elections.hawaii.gov



OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK



Senate and House Judiciary Committees

Informational Briefing on Act 136 (SLH 2019)

November 13, 2019





OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK



Voter Service Centers

Velma McWayne Santos (Wailuku) Community Center, Maui
Mitchell Pauole Community Center's Conference Room, Molokai

Lanai City, Lanai

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK



Places of Deposit

Wailuku, Maui

Kaunakakai, Molokai

Hana, Maui

Lanai City, Lanai



OFFICE OF THE
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Voter Education Priorities

Updates to Voter Registration
Awareness of Elections by Mail
New Voter Registrations



Voter Education Platforms

Community Meetings

Radio Advertisements

Press Releases

Community Television

Events

Videos

County buses

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

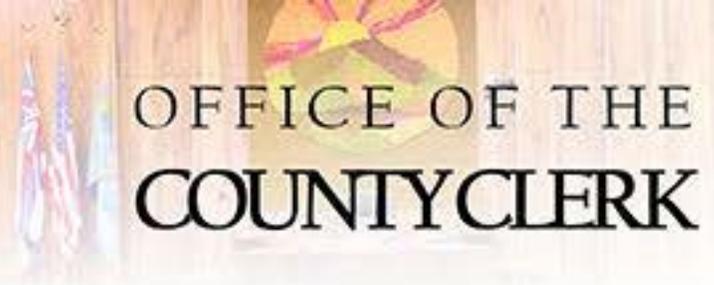


Additional Outreach

Commission on Persons with Disabilities

Office on Aging

Department of Housing and Human Services



OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK



Legislative Needs

Flexibility on the days/hours of operation for additional voter service centers

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK



MAHALO!

Josiah Nishita, County Clerk

(808) 270-7749

County.Clerk@mauicounty.us

HEADS UP, MAUI COUNTY!



STARTING IN 2020: HAWAII VOTES BY MAIL

Learn more at www.elections.hawaii.gov



OFFICE OF THE
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Act 136 (2019) requires all elections statewide to be conducted by mail and establishes a limited number of voter service centers to receive personal delivery of mail-in ballots, accommodate voters with special needs, offer same day registration and voting.

 (808) 270-7749



2020 ELECTIONS UPDATE: LANAI VOTES BY MAIL

**ATTEND
INFORMATIONAL
MEETING**

LANAI SENIOR CENTER

Get your questions answered:

- When will I receive my ballot?
- What happens if I make a mistake?
- Can I still vote in-person?
- What if I never received my ballot?



OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Act 136 (2019) was signed into law by Governor Ige on June 25, 2019. Act 136 (2019) requires all elections statewide to be conducted by mail and establishes a limited number of voter service centers to receive personal delivery of mail-in ballots, accommodate voters with special needs, offer same day registration and voting.



808.270.7749



county.clerk@mauicounty.us

COUNTY COUNCIL

Arryl Kaneshiro Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Felicia Cowden
Luke Evslin
KipuKai Kualii



Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

November 13, 2019

Senate Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary
Interim of 2019

Informational Briefing: Status Update on Statewide Vote By Mail (VBM) Process

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairperson
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chairperson
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy A. Buenaventura, Vice -Chair
and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with an update on the status of the County of Kauai's Vote By Mail (VBM) program for the 2020 Election Cycle. For the record, my name is Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk. The County of Kauai has an estimated population of 72,133 people (2019 figures), of that number 44,461 are registered voters. In the 2018 General Election, we had a 58.1% voter turnout and have noticed a steady increase in number of people who have chosen to cast a ballot by mail (more commonly referred to as an Absentee Ballot) or have taken advantage of early voting services that we offer. Together, the total number of ballots cast in these two instances, exceed the number of people who have chosen to cast their ballot at the polls (2018 data: 14,420 vs 11,405). We are thankful that the Legislature supports our belief that this trend in voting will continue, and we are excited to embark on a Statewide Vote By Mail System.

Currently, we have procured the following items with funds appropriated through Act 182 ((2018 Session - Kaua'i vote by mail pilot project):

- One (1) Ballot scanner/sorter (\$59,850)
- Five (5) Steel Ballot cans (\$1,200)
- Four (4) Security cameras (\$6,523)

In total, we expended \$67,573 of the \$75,450 that was available. The County of Kauai is not eligible for funding appropriated through Act 136.

A summary of expenses for the 2018 Elections and projected expenditures for implementing Act 136 are depicted in the following table.

	2018 Expenses	2020 Projected	Notes
Ballot Mailing	\$37,607	\$165,000	
Envelopes	\$5,921	\$40,000	Pending procurement
Mailing House	\$4,417	\$25,000	Pending procurement
Postage	\$27,269	\$100,000	
Voter Service Center	\$19,652	\$24,185	
Facilities	n/a	n/a	County facility
Staffing	\$19,152	\$20,685	Only for Early Voting/Voter Service Center support
E-poll Books	n/a	\$3,000	Pending procurement
Supplies	< \$500	< \$500	Less than \$500
Place of Deposit	n/a	\$17,000	
Ballot Drop Boxes	n/a	\$12,000	Four (4) metal drop boxes; pending procurement
Drop box transport	n/a	\$5,000	Pending procurement
Seasonal Staffing	90,288	98,457	Long-term seasonal staffing; not including OT & fringes
TOTALS	\$147,547	\$304,642	

One area where we will be concentrating our efforts, will be on Voter Education. We feel that it is extremely important to inform voters of the transition to an All Mail Voting System, in order to ensure voter confidence. In addition, it is imperative that we address any questions that voters may have regarding the security of the system. To maximize our reach, we will be implementing various strategies. The first facet of this multi-tiered approach involves sending out several voter notification mailings in the time leading up to the 2020 Primary and General Elections.

- All-mail election notification postcards (orange card) were mailed in July 2019.
- Regular voter notification postcards (yellow card); date TBD.
- Voter signature update postcards; date TBD.
- Voter file maintenance mailings (white card); date TBD.

We will also be conducting voter outreach targeting seniors, new voters and business and neighborhood organizations. Our outreach program will begin in the first half of 2020 and will include:

1. The development of an All-Mail informational video; projected deployment in first half of 2020; currently seeking a vendor.
2. Print, radio, and television public service announcements will be coordinated statewide; topics and dates TBD.
3. Development of fact sheets and related Vote By Mail informational material will available in early 2020.
4. Social media engagement- Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

We are also preparing for ballot envelopes and mailpiece assembly.

1. Negotiations with an in-state vendor is underway and is expected in include all envelopes needed for the 2020 Elections.
2. We are hopeful that negotiations are successful because:
 - We prefer to keep mail-piece assembly within the State; and
 - The prospective vendor has the experience and equipment to reduce the number of undeliverable mailpieces and prepare ballot mailings so that they qualify for the lowest possible postage rates.

As part of the Vote By Mail Program, and as required by ACT 136, we will be establishing a Voter Service Center as follows:

1. Location: Historic County Annex Basement
4386 Rice Street
Līhu‘e, Hawai‘i 96766
2. Services will begin ten (10) days prior to each election and include:
 - In-person voting services via a paper or electronic ballot;
 - Late voter registration services;
 - Voter assistance to individuals with disabilities; and
 - Ballot place of deposit
 -

3. Days and hours: Monday thru Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

Primary and General Election Day
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

3. The VSC will utilize electronic poll book provided by BPro Election Software, our voter registration system vendor.

Pursuant to ACT 136, we will also be establishing a place of deposit for ballots. These sites will begin accepting ballots five (5) days before the election and remain open until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

. The Five sites that will be established will be in the following locations:

- North Kaua'i (Hā'ena to Kīlauea)
- East Kaua'i (Anahola to Wailua)
- Central Kaua'i (Hanamā'ulu to Kīpū)
- South Kaua'i (Kōloa to Kalāheo)
- West Kaua'i ('Ele'ele to Mānā)

Specific locations will be announced shortly.

Counting Center Operations will occur in Lihue and will involve ballot processing which will begin no sooner than ten (10) days before the election, however, the exact dates and times will be determined at a later date. All processing of ballots shall be completed in the presence of Official Observers.

Location for the Counting Center:

Historic County Annex Building
4386 Rice Street
Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766

Kaua'i County Overview- For Informational Purposes

- A. Estimated population as of July 1, 2018: 72,133
- B. Population and voter registration counts.

Year	Voting Age*	No. Voters	Voting Age % Registered	General Election % Turnout
2014	54,698	41,869	76.55	57.40
2016	55,795	44,332	79.46	61.40
2018	56,384	44,461	78.85	58.10

* Includes individuals 18+ who are ineligible to register to vote

- C. General Election turnout breakdown.

Year	Mail	Early Voting	Polling Place	Total Turnout	No. Voters
2014	9,103	3,383	11,557	24,043	41,869
2016	10,480	4,741	12,004	27,225	44,332
2018	11,296	3,124	11,405	25,825	44,461

Good afternoon, Chairs Rhoads and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, and Members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

My name is Sandy Ma. I am Executive Director of Common Cause Hawaii, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. The foundation of American democracy is rooted upon a citizen's right to vote, which shall not be abridged or denied, according to the 15th Amendment of the US Constitution.

This exercise of our right to vote is modernized by the adoption of the Vote By Mail law. Common Cause Hawaii thanks the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, the Hawaii State Legislature as a whole, and Governor Ige for recognizing the need for modernizing our elections and voting systems. We also thank all the partners who supported this law – League of Women Voters, Americans for Democratic Action, Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, the presenters here before you today, and numerous other organizations and individuals.

However, enactment of the Vote By Mail law is not enough. We need to ensure that implementation of Vote By Mail is done correctly so that no citizen's right to vote shall be abridged or denied. Proper implementation is key. For proper implementation there are a few factors:

- 1) There must be proper education of the public that Hawaii will be transitioning to all Vote By Mail.
 - In addition to proper education, there needs to be broad and widespread education that Hawaii is transitioning to VBM.
 - We understand that of active voters in Hawaii in 2018, more voted absentee than at polling places. Still, we need to reach out and educate those who are accustomed to voting at traditional polling places.
 - We ask that State and Counties work with engaged stakeholders like Common Cause Hawaii to amplify the message that Hawaii will be Voting By Mail.
- 2) There must be enough Voter Service Centers and drop boxes in convenient locations with extended hours on all islands.
 - This is especially true given that this will be the first time Hawaii will be implementing VBM.
 - We must have more than the bare minimum number of Voter Service Centers and drop sites.
- 3) Additionally, we request that registered voters be allowed to track when ballots are mailed to them and when ballots have been received at the Clerk's Office to alleviate voter angst.

- In Oregon and certain counties of Colorado use a feature called Ballot Trax. The voter signs up online, and then each election, receives text messages alerting them when their ballot has been received, and then counted.
- 4) We suggest having paper Ballots on Demand at Voter Services Centers.
- We are concerned with only having the Direct Recording Electronic Voting System with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines available at Oahu Voter Service Centers.
 - People may not be comfortable and feel secure using voting machines and want to use paper ballots.

Again, Common Cause Hawaii is encouraged to learn of all the steps being taken to ensure proper implementation of the Vote By Mail law.

Common Cause Hawaii wishes to work in a collaborative, cooperative manner with the State Elections Office and the County Clerk's Offices to ensure that no citizen's right to vote is abridged or denied. We want Vote By Mail implementation to proceed smoothly. We are here to help this process succeed and want this process to succeed. A successful Vote By Mail process will pave the way for further modernization efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.





DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

November 7, 2019

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Senator
State Senate
Thirtieth Legislature

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON ACT 136 Status Update on Statewide Vote by Mail Process

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the implementation of a vote by mail system commencing in 2020, as mandated by Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019. For some people with disabilities, voting by mail may be the most accessible way to cast ballots. However, for others, it could make it more difficult to vote. That said, DCAB offers the following questions and comments:

1. As it relates to persons with disabilities, how will the implementation of voting by mail ensure compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002? HAVA established a clear mandate to ensure that all Americans with disabilities be given the same opportunity for access and participation that other voters receive, including security, privacy, and independence.
2. Act 136 provides for the establishment of voter service centers for purposes including the provision of voting machine services for persons with disabilities. What criteria is being used to determine the number and locations of such centers?
3. What additional measures (e.g., training for voter service center workers, increased accessibility to registration and voting materials, additional resources available to election officials) are being considered to eliminate barriers for people with disabilities?

According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, for vote-by-mail states to comply with HAVA, there still should be an option to vote in person and have access to a voting machine with adaptive technology to provide the voter, no matter their disability, with the ability to vote privately and independently. Additionally, materials developed in preparation for elections by mail, such as training videos or other multimedia, need to be made accessible for individuals with communication disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, Braille, large print, or alternate text for individuals with vision impairments, and captioning or sign language interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer questions and comments.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director