
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 VIII to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§11- Digital voter information guide. (a) The office
5 of elections shall prepare, and post on its website, a digital
6 voter information guide. The digital voter information guide
7 shall be posted on the office of election's website in a screen
8 reader-accessible format for voters with special needs who are
9 unable to read standard print due to disability. The office of
10 elections shall provide a translation of the digital voter
11 information guide in Olelo Hawaii on its website. The office of
12 elections shall print and mail a physical copy of the digital
13 voter information guide to any voter upon request. The office
14 of elections shall provide printed copies of the digital voter
15 information guide to all public libraries for dissemination to
16 the public. The digital voter information guide shall include:



- 1 (1) A photograph and short statement of less than one
2 hundred fifty words for each candidate running for
3 public office, to be prepared by the candidate;
4 provided that the office of elections may uniformly
5 limit the number of words for the candidate statement
6 by applicable public office;
- 7 (2) A clear and concise explanation drafted by the
8 department of the attorney general of each state
9 constitutional amendment that will be proposed to
10 voters in the next general election;
- 11 (3) A clear and concise explanation, drafted by the
12 appropriate county corporation counsel, for each
13 proposed county charter amendment, proposed
14 initiative, and proposed referendum issue; and
- 15 (4) Information regarding mailing deadlines, drop box
16 locations, same day voter registration, accessible
17 voting locations, and opening hours of voter service
18 centers.
- 19 (b) The office of elections shall prepare and mail with
20 each ballot for a primary election a notice to voters that a
21 digital voter information guide is available on the office of



1 elections website. The notice shall be sent by email to all
2 voters with special needs who have registered to receive
3 alternate format ballots.

4 (c) Information made available over the Internet pursuant
5 to this section shall meet or exceed the most current, ratified
6 standards under section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of
7 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended, and the Web Content
8 Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 adopted by the World Wide
9 Consortium for accessibility."

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
14 year 2024-2025 for the office of elections to prepare and mail a
15 notice to voters that a digital voter information guide may be
16 found on the office of elections website.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
18 elections for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

Digital Voter Information Guide; Ballot; Office of Elections;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide. Requires the Office of Elections to post the guide on its website in compliance with certain accessibility standards. Requires the Office of Elections to mail each ballot with a notice that states a voter information guide may be found on its website. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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