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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that removing barriers  
2 for persons with voting accessibility needs ensure that all  
3 individuals have equal access to the voting process. Existing  
4 law requires the state office of elections and each county  
5 election office on accessibility and ways to remove barriers,  
6 promoting greater participation in voting by individuals with  
7 access needs who may be otherwise excluded. However,  
8 understanding the unique needs of each community statewide can  
9 provide valuable insight on current and future accessibility  
10 issues for voters.

11           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds  
12 to the office of elections for the statewide elections  
13 accessibility needs advisory committee to carry out its mandate.

14           SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
15 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
16 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
17 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,



1 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
2 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
3 \$                    or                    per cent. This current declaration takes  
4 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
5 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
6 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
7 ceiling are that:

- 8           (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
9                   serve the public interest; and
- 10          (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
11                   addressed by this Act.

12           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
15 the statewide elections accessibility needs advisory committee  
16 for information gathering, outreach, and voter education  
17 expenses approved by the committee; provided that any funds  
18 appropriated pursuant to this Act shall be in addition to and  
19 shall not supplant any portion of the base budget of the office  
20 of elections.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
2 elections for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 4. Beginning with fiscal year 2025-2026 and each  
4 fiscal year thereafter, the office of elections shall include in  
5 its annual budget request line-item funding for the statewide  
6 elections accessibility needs advisory committee. To ensure the  
7 continuation of voter education and outreach, the amount of  
8 funding requested shall scale proportionally with fulfilled  
9 needs and funding requests received by the statewide elections  
10 accessibility needs advisory committee.

11           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

12

INTRODUCED BY:           *Brenda Kyjuri*            
  **JAN 19 2024**



# H.B. NO. 1976

**Report Title:**

Deaf and Blind Task Force; Office of Elections; Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee; Voter Education; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Office of Elections Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee to provide voter education and outreach services for individuals with accessibility needs.

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

