

JAN 15 2025

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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. The legislature finds that additional in-person  
2 voting locations are necessary to accommodate voters who choose  
3 to vote in person. An absence of available voter service  
4 centers has resulted in long lines and frustrated voters  
5 remaining in line to vote beyond the official closing time.  
6 Delays and long waits may discourage voters from turning out as  
7 some voters may decide that it is not worth waiting in line to  
8 cast their ballots.

9           The legislature further finds that ensuring access to  
10 voting in all of its forms, by mail, absentee, and in-person, is  
11 essential to ensuring the health of our democracy. The  
12 legislature also finds that some geographic areas with high  
13 voter turn-out are also home to underserved communities that  
14 would benefit from more accessible voting service centers.

15           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish three  
16 additional voting service centers in a county with a population



1 of more than five hundred thousand to improve the accessibility  
2 and overall experience of voting.

3 SECTION 2. Section 11-109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) Voter service centers shall be established by the  
6 clerks to service the particular needs of each county's voters.

7 For a county with a population of more than five hundred  
8 thousand, the clerks shall establish three additional voter  
9 service centers; provided that the new voter service centers  
10 shall be located in highly populated and underserved areas  
11 within the county; provided further that the office of  
12 elections:

13 (1) Shall consult with local communities, civic  
14 organizations, and elected representatives to  
15 determine the optimal locations for the new voter  
16 service centers; and

17 (2) Shall submit an annual report to the legislature  
18 detailing the locations, accessibility, and use of the  
19 new voter service centers."

20 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Anna Mercedes Kim*



# S.B. NO. 134

**Report Title:**

Office of Elections; Elections; Voter Service Centers; Report

**Description:**

Requires the Office of Elections to establish three additional voting centers in a county with a population of five hundred thousand or more. Requires a report to the Legislature.

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

