



Modern Elections Hawaii

Frequently Asked Questions

Why election reform now?

Don't we have bigger fish to fry?

The sooner we pass the laws the sooner we'll see change. Any change in election law should happen in advance of an election year to allow the clerks and Office of elections to set up new procedures and to allow campaigns to plan based on the way the election will be run.

Why Hawaii? Shouldn't we be focusing nationally?

There has historically been great resistance to adopt national voting standards. Right now, nothing is going to move on the federal level. Additionally, Hawaii consistently ranks last in voter turnout in the country, we need reforms that reduce barriers to voting and have helped increase turnout in other states.

On cost

Won't these election measures cost too much money?

It will take initial investments to start the programs, however in the long term, many are expected to save the state money through increased efficiency. For instance, according to the Office of Elections Vote By Mail is expected to save approximately \$800,000 each election cycle. And states with Automatic Voter Registration report it costs approximately 30 times less to process an electronic versus paper registration application.

On choosing these reforms?

Why aren't we asking for more?

The policy analysts who we've been working with have identified these 4 measures the most critical to modernizing our elections. These reforms have been around and debated at the legislature for years and have been tried and proven effective in other states. Now is the time to take action and for Hawaii to catch up.