

Section B

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



2008 Election Administration & Voting Survey

Statutory Overview

In order to better understand state laws governing federal elections, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, as part of its biennial Election Administration and Voting Survey, is collecting information on state election laws and procedures. These answers will help us to better understand the quantitative data relating to the 2008 general election that we are collecting from all U.S. states and territories.

We understand that responding to this Statutory Overview may require significant staff time on the part of your office. Please be assured that we have attempted to minimize the burden, and we appreciate your cooperation in this very important project.

Information Supplied By	
Name	Kevin B. Cronin
Title	Chief Election Officer
Office/Agency Name	Office of Elections
Address 1	802 Lehua Avenue
Address 2	
City	Pearl City
State	Hawaii
Zip Code	96782
Email Address	
Telephone (area Code and number)	808 453-8683
Fax Number (area code and number)	808 453-6006

DIRECTIONS AND EXAMPLE

Please provide your state's legal citation for the responses to these questions (where applicable).

Please answer each question to the best of your ability. If terms are ambiguous or not relevant, please explain why. If a question is not applicable to your state, please explain why. If a definition or term lacks legal standing but is widely understood in practice, please explain. If election procedures vary at the local level within your state, please explain to the best of your ability.

If state laws are currently enjoined or otherwise blocked from enforcement by a state or federal court, please specify.

Please put your responses between the red, bracketed text lines. This will help us extract your answers into our central database.

Example:

A1. How does your state define the following terms related to votes and ballots? Please provide your state's legal citation defining these terms, where applicable.

- a. Over-vote

[Begin definition (a) below this line.]

Your answer goes here. You may enter the text directly, or cut and paste from another word processing program.

There is no limit to the length of your response.

[End definition (a) above this line.]

SECTION A: GENERAL

A1. How does your state define the following terms related to votes and ballots? Please provide your state's legal citation defining these terms, where applicable.

a. Over-vote

A ballot condition that indicates the number of valid marks found within the contest for office exceeds the number of votes allowable for that race.

b. Under-vote

A ballot condition that indicates the number of valid marks found within the contest for office are less than the number of votes allowable for that race.

c. Blank ballot

The ballot contains no valid marks for any candidate for office.

d. Void/Spoiled ballot

The ballot contains errors, mistakes, marks, or any condition that the voter believes renders the ballot insufficient or defective to cast the person's vote(s) at the election, and the person requests another ballot to vote. HAR § 2-51-1 (Definitions).

e. Provisional/Challenged ballot

A provisional/challenged ballot is that ballot provided to a voter whose right to vote remains to be verified within a fixed period of time.

f. Absentee

For purposes of this survey, an absentee ballot is a ballot mailed to a registered voter who requests a ballot by mail within the lawful period for requesting an absentee ballot. HRS § 15-1.

g. Early voting

For purposes of this survey, early voting is that period before election day when a registered voter may cast a ballot to be counted on election day. HRS §§ 15-4 & 15-7.

h. Active Voter

Any registered voter who may vote whose voter registration record contains no evidence that raises a question about the person's eligibility to vote.

i. Inactive Voter

Any voter who is registered to vote and has been mailed a confirmation postcard under section 8(d)(2), HAVA, but who did not vote at an election.

j. Other terms (please specify) None

A2. Please provide the legal citation for any **significant** changes to election laws or procedures that have been enacted or adopted since the previous Federal election. By "significant," we do not mean routine or technical changes (such as changes to election district boundaries or polling place changes). However, we would like to learn about any new identification requirements for voters or registrants; changes in eligibility for voting or registering; adoption of alternative voting methods; and other changes that you believe represent a significant change in the way your state runs its elections.

None at this time.

SECTION B: VOTER REGISTRATION

B1. Is your state's voter registration database system best described as a bottom-up, a top-down, or a hybrid? (Note: A bottom-up system generally uploads information retained at the local level and compiled at regular intervals to form the statewide voter registration list. A top-down system is hosted on a single, central platform/mainframe and is generally maintained by the state with information supplied by local jurisdictions. A hybrid is some combination of both systems described above.)

Hawaii's voter registration system is a top down system.

If your state has a bottom-up or hybrid system, how often do local jurisdictions transmit registration information to the state list?

Not applicable.

B2. Please describe the process used in your state to move voters from the active list to the inactive list, and from the inactive list to the active list. Is a different process used for UOCAVA voters?

Voters are moved to the inactive list after election officials mail the section 8(d)(2) confirmation postcard. Re-registration submitted by this category of voter would move the record back to the active list. This process is used for UOCAVA voters.

B3. Please describe your state's process for removing voters from the voter registration rolls (not merely moving them from active to inactive). Please include information regarding notices and confirmations. Are these procedures the same for UOCAVA voters?

Voters are removed after non activity/non registration for two federal election cycles following placement on the inactive list. Typically, the purging is conducted several months after the general election. This process is used for UOCAVA voters.

B4. Can your state's voter registration database (or equivalent) share information electronically with your state's drivers license agency (for example, to match records or trace changes in address)? Can your voter registration database be similarly linked with databases in any other state or federal agencies? Please describe these links, including any use of database matching to verify voter registration applications.

Hawaii currently verifies voter registration information with the state drivers license database.

B5. Please describe how your state uses National Change of Address (NCOA). What has been your state's experience with using NCOA?

We do not use the NCOA process but are currently researching and experimenting with it to determine factors that affect reliability for Hawaii addresses.

B6. Please describe your state's voting eligibility requirements as they relate to individuals with a felony conviction. (For example, are convicted felons allowed to vote while in prison or while on parole or probation? Are voting rights automatically restored or does the individual have to apply for a pardon, certificate of eligibility or other similar certificate? Does an individual whose voting rights have been restored have to produce documentation of his/her status when registering to vote?)

Convicted felons regain the right to vote upon probation, parole, or final discharge. HRS § 831-2. Individuals may be asked to produce documentation to that effect. Registration by deadlines is not automatic and is required.

B7. Does your state currently use the Internet in any way to facilitate voter registration? If yes, please describe how your state allows voters to use the Internet in the registration process (e.g., entire registration completed online; completed online but then must be printed, signed, and mailed by voter, etc.).

Yes. A person who wants to register to vote may download and print a voter registration form.

SECTION C: ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

C1. Please describe how all votes cast at a place other than the voter's precinct of registration are tabulated (for example, please include descriptions of such votes as absentee ballots, mail-in ballots, votes cast at vote centers, provisional ballots, early voting locations, etc.).

- a. Are the votes counted centrally or at the precincts?

For early vote the ballots are counted on a precinct counter and/or DRE. For Absentee Mail the ballots are counted centrally at a counting center in each county.

- b. If centrally tabulated, are the votes redirected to the appropriate precinct for reporting in the canvass?

No, the votes are redirected by ballot style.

- c. Are the absentee, mail, etc., votes reported separately for each precinct, or are they added to the in-precinct results and reported as just a single number?

The absentee mail and early vote ballots are reported by ballot style, separate from the election day votes.

- d. How are UOCAVA ballots counted and reported?

UOCAVA votes are counted the same as absentee ballots in c., supra.

C2. Does your state require a reason for voting absentee, or does your state allow no-excuse absentee voting? (If a reason is required, please provide the legal citation.)

Hawaii does not require a reason for voting absentee. HRS § 15-4.

C3. Does your state provide for in-person early voting? If so, how is early voting defined? When early voting is used, are the ballots counted at the precinct or at a central location? How are these votes reported?

Yes, Hawaii provides for in-person early voting. HRS § 15-7. Here early voting is termed “absentee walk in” voting. Votes are counted at the precincts and compiled centrally.

C4. Do any jurisdictions in your state use a vote-by-mail system to replace (and not merely supplement) at-the-precinct voting in any elections?

For unique historical reasons the area of Kalawao, located on the Island on Molokai, is designated as a county, but for election purposes it is included in the County of Maui. HRS 11-1 (Definitions). The County of Kalawao utilizes a vote by mail system. HRS § 15-4. However, we do not consider it to be an election jurisdiction for purposes of this survey.

C5. Please list each of the situations that require a provisional ballot in your state. Please provide the relevant legal citation for each situation.

A voter who asserts his/her registration but whose name does not appear on the voter registration list.

A voter is to be turned away by election official.

C6. Does your state count provisional ballots of voters who are registered in different precincts, or are those ballots automatically rejected? Please describe the process used by local election officials in determining whether to count a provisional ballot.

A voter casting a provisional ballot must be in the proper precinct. Local election officials will determine whether the voter’s ballot proposed to be cast is in the proper precinct by verifying the ballot style against the address noted on the provisional ballot documentation.

C7. Please describe your state’s laws regarding post-election audits, if any.

HRS §11-153 requires that the overages and underages to the poll book be made public.

C8. Please describe any state requirements for poll worker training.

Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-73 – No precinct official shall serve unless the official has received instruction and has been certified by the authorized instructor to that effect. This section shall not prevent the assignment of a person who has not received such instruction or such certificate but who is otherwise qualified to fill a vacancy among precinct officials when a qualified certified person is not available.

SECTION D: ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

D1. Please describe your state's process for capturing "over-vote" and "under-vote" counts.

Any overvotes and / or undervotes are captured for each contest as part of the election tally.

D2. What identification does your state require from voters in the following situations:

- a. registering to vote;

Hawaii requires HAVA-required ID for first time mail registrants.

- b. casting an in-person ballot;

Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-136 – Every person shall provide identification if so requested by a precinct official.

Hawaii Administrative Rules §2-51-80 – The voter shall present valid identification to the official in charge of the pollbook.

HAVA Title III Sec 303 (b)(2)(i)(II) – Copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

- c. casting a mail-in or absentee vote;

[Begin response to above question (c) below this line.]

No identification requirement. The voter is required to sign an affirmation, which is part of the return envelope, stating that the voter is the person voting. HRS § 15-6. The signature on the affirmation statement is compared to the voter's signature on the absentee request or the voter registration affidavit and it must correspond in order for the vote to be counted. HAR § 2-53-9.

[End response to above question (c) above this line.]

d. casting a ballot under UOCAVA;

None.

e. any other stage in registration or voting process in which identification is required (please specify).

[Begin response to above question (e) below this line.]

None.

[End response to above question (e) above this line.]

D3. Please describe your state's laws regarding access to the polling place for election observers. Election observers are people allowed inside the polling place who are not poll workers, election officials or voters. If decisions on access to observers are left to local jurisdictions, please explain.

HRS § 11-77. Appointment of watchers; service

(a) Each qualified political party shall be entitled to appoint no more than one watcher who may be present at any time in each precinct and absentee polling place in which the candidates of that political party are on the ballot. Each party shall submit its list of watchers not later than 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day prior to any election to the chief election officer or to the clerk in county elections. All watchers shall serve without expense to the State or county. All watchers so appointed shall be registered voters. No person shall serve as a watcher who could not qualify to serve as a precinct official under section [11-72(b)(3)].

(b) Each watcher shall be provided with identification from the chief election officer, or by the clerk in the case of county elections, stating the watcher's name and the name of the party the watcher represents. On election day the watcher shall present identification to the chairperson of precinct officials of the precinct or precincts where the watcher is to serve.

(c) All watchers for precincts shall be permitted to observe the conduct of the election in the precinct. The watchers may remain in the precinct as long as the precinct is in operation subject to section 19-6. Watchers may review the polling book pursuant to section 11-97.

(d) The watcher shall call the attention of the chairperson to any violations of the election laws that the watcher observes. After the chairperson's attention is called to the violation the chairperson shall make an attempt to correct such violation. If the chairperson fails to correct the violation, the watcher may appeal to the clerk of the county.

(e) The watchers shall be permitted to observe the operations of the absentee polling place. Any violation of the election laws shall be reported to the clerk.

SECTION E: OTHER

E1. Under HAVA, Section 402, states are required to have in place administrative complaint procedures to remedy grievances. Has your state revised its administrative complaint procedures since they were first implemented? If so, how?

[Begin response to above question (E1) below this line.]

No.

[End response to above question (E1) above this line.]

E2. Please add any additional comments or information about your state's election administration processes that would help to inform the EAC's interpretation of your data.

[Begin response to above question (E2) below this line.]

No additional comments.

[End response to above question (E2) above this line.]

* The information collection associated with the Election Administration and Voting Survey is required for the EAC to meet its statutory requirements under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15301), the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-1 et seq.), and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voters Act (UOCAVA) (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1). Respondent's obligation to reply to this information collection is mandatory as required under NVRA (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-1 et seq.) and UOCAVA (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1). This part of the information collection is being requested to help the EAC to better understand state laws governing federal elections. Respondents include the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories. This information will be made publicly available on the EAC website (www.eac.gov). According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is OMB Control No. 3265-0006 (expires 3/31/09). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 59 hours per state response. This estimate includes the time for reviewing the instructions, gathering information, and completing the form. Comments regarding this burden estimate should be sent the U.S. Election Assistance Commission – 2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey, 1225 New York Avenue, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005.