



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

PROPOSED PRECINCT CLOSINGS FOR THE 2010 ELECTIONS

THE PROCUREMENT OF A VOTING SYSTEM

FOR THE

STATE OF HAWAII

OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

JUNE 15, 2009

This report to the Hawai'i Legislature about the procurement of a new voting equipment system for the 2010 elections responds to its direction to report about possible cost savings and operational efficiencies. The direction arises from section 56 of House Bill No. 200, H.D.1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1 that requires the Office of Elections to report to the legislature about the procurement of a voting system. Specifically, the legislature directed the Office of Elections to

perform an in-depth analysis on voting precincts prior to issuing a request for proposal (RFP) on the state's new election voting system; . . . (to) enable the department to recognize opportunities for cost savings and operational efficiencies and that such findings be taken into consideration when crafting the RFP; and . . . (to) submit the analysis and findings to the legislature prior to issuing the RFP,"¹

The Office of Elections in consultations with the clerks for all four counties concluded that the primary, if not the only, means to achieve cost savings under the state's current election scheme is to realize them only through voting machines. Voting equipment is the single greatest driver of costs for Hawai'i's elections at this time.² Accordingly, they examined all 339 voting precincts used in the state during the 2008 elections. They sought to identify, and recognize opportunities for cost savings and operational efficiencies, if any. This information was and is incorporated into our considerations for the request for proposal (RFP) for a new voting equipment system for the 2010 elections that currently we plan to complete by July 1, 2009.

Generally, the state's election officials are always reviewing operational efficiencies and cost savings as they may impact voting precincts. All the election officials share the fundamental objective of providing to and enabling for each voter regardless of location substantially the same voting experience to promote the integrity of the state's elections. In implementing this principle, all county clerks and staff and the Office of Elections entertain and discuss how this principle may be realized in each election and what reasonable procedures may adopted to do so at least inconvenience and cost. For example, the voting precincts opened were reduced to 339 for the 2008

¹ See Section 56 of House Bill No. 200, H.D.1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1 (2009). The section provides:

SECTION 56. . . . the office of elections (AGS 879) shall perform an in-depth analysis on voting precincts prior to issuing a request for proposal (RFP) on the state's new election voting system; provided further that this analysis shall enable the department to recognize opportunities for cost savings and operational efficiencies and that such findings be taken into consideration when crafting the RFP; provided further that the department shall submit the analysis and findings to the legislature prior to issuing the RFP; provided further that the department shall submit to the legislature a timeline for the procurement of the state's new election voting system; provided further that the department shall inform the legislature upon completion of each phase in the procurement process, and provided further that the department shall submit to the legislature any documents related to the procurement process allowable under HRS §103D within five working days after documents are made open to the public.

² Hawai'i currently implements a traditional election scheme that provides a conveniently located polling place where each registered voter can vote on a voting machine of one kind or another that meets appropriate state and federal voting requirements and counts each vote timely. Although the other election schemes exist and are implemented such as an all mail and internet voting schemes that could likely generate significant cost savings, they are not currently authorized under existing law and thus are not reasonable options of methods that might generate cost savings and operational efficiencies that could inure to the benefit of all registered voters and the state as a whole.

elections from the 353 precincts opened for the 2006 elections. Specifically, the reductions in each county were: (1) city and county of Honolulu, 212 in 2008 from 217 in 2006, or a reduction of 5 polling places; (2) county of Hawaii, 67 in 2008 from 71 in 2006, a reduction of 4 polling places; (3) Kauai, 17 in 2008 from 21, a reduction of 4; and (4) Maui 43, a reduction from 44 precincts in 2006.

The reductions in 2008 resulted in reducing the voting precincts to the bare bones that all the state's election officials believe are reasonable and appropriate for a good election for all involved. Election officials, however, understand and appreciate that the seemingly rising costs of voting machines through the 2008 elections may be one of the few remaining constituent parts of an election that may present an opportunity reduce overall election costs by reducing the number of voting precincts and thereby the number of corresponding voting machines needed for the elections. Election officials, however, have reviewed their procedures and spent considerable time and effort to consider the extent to which, if at all, the number of voting precincts may be further reduced for the 2010 elections.

Accordingly the elections officials, based on their considerable actual elections' administration experience and informed judgment derived over many years, adopted and considered general criteria to apply to the state's existing 339 precincts to determine each voting precinct's eligibility to be closed for the 2010 elections. The criteria applied to identify polling places to possibly close are the extent to which a polling place may:

- use the same ballot type;
- adjoin geographic boundaries;
- serve fewer than 6,500 total registered voters;
- comply with the American with Disability Act (ADA) requirements and standards to accommodate voters with disabilities;
- accommodate the voting precinct's unique administration, parking, and traffic needs during peak operation times, and
- enjoy a central location with easy access to major transportation corridors.

These criteria pulled out many polling places that might generate the lowest election administrative process impacts and achieve the highest cost savings.

In applying these criteria during our in-depth analysis of voting precincts, we determined that the neighbor island counties had already consolidated their polling places to the greatest extent reasonably possible for the 2008 elections when each county consolidated its polling places to account for its unique logistic and geographical needs to serve its diverse geographically-located voters. The county of Kauai in fact had reduced their voting precincts by over 19%. While the neighbor islands' reviews of their polling places continue for the 2010 elections as part of the state's continuing sound election

administration practices, our in-depth analysis of our precinct screening consolidation process naturally turned to the most densely populated county of the city and county of Honolulu.

The city and county of Honolulu was found to have the precincts that appear to best meet our criteria for closing polling places for the 2010 elections. The precincts identified and proposed to be closed total 66 precincts at this time. They are located in the large population area bounded by Waipahu on the west, Kailua on the north, and Hawaii Kai on the east of Oahu. Each proposed precinct to be closed appears on the list at Exhibit A that at the same time identifies the voting precincts to which the affected voters would be proposed to be assigned for the 2010 elections. The Office of Elections does not anticipate and foresee much revision to this number of proposed precinct closings under existing circumstances, but the elections office remains open to accommodate good reasons to make adjustments to this list of proposed precincts to be closed until the deadline to be determined to decide which precincts, if any, to close. Among the good reasons to revise this precinct closing list is the possibility the RFP to be issued soon generates proposals that do not establish significant cost savings that may be realized from such closures. In such case, we would revisit this precinct closure issue and proceed appropriately and timely.

The proposed precinct closings' impacts at best are uncertain at this time.

If voters take responsibility to plan ahead and use one of the other voting opportunities available to facilitate voting, the voters can eliminate the need to go to a polling place on election days and reduce the possible adverse impact of closing the precincts in Honolulu. These other voting opportunities include: (1) AB walk or early voting that enables a registered voter to vote early at a designated polling place; (2) absentee voting that enables each voter to request the clerk of his/her county to mail an absentee mail ballot, vote, and return the ballot to be counted, and (3) the new permanent absentee mail program that, like absentee mail, enables a voter to mail his/her ballot to the county clerk's office to be counted but, unlike absentee mail, enables a voter to register only once to receive a ballot for the 2010 elections and a ballot for each election thereafter as long as the voter meets all the requirements that are spelled out on the permanent absentee mail registration form. These alternate voting options could enhance the voting experience of those voters who choose to use one of them.

If, however, voters wait until election days to vote, the voters affected by the precinct closings may experience challenges to voting and increase the possible adverse impact of closing the Honolulu precincts. The challenges to the voters may include: (1) inconvenience, transportation, and parking issues; (2) accessibility to the polls and lines of voters longer than the voters are accustomed to; and (3) overwhelmed election officials who might not be prepared for the possible increased numbers of voters. These challenges, and perhaps others, could discourage large numbers of voters from voting or, worse yet, actually turn them off to the 2010 elections.

The proposed precinct closings in Honolulu could become voting neutral on balance, depending on the voters' and others' reactions to the proposed closings and their

individual decisions about voting in light of the fiscal impact on the 2010 elections that state budget reductions have had and are likely to continue to have.

Finally, we have adopted a proposed timeline for the RFP for the 2010 elections. The RFP timeline appears on Exhibit B. This timeline is subject to change based on circumstances and events that may occur beyond our control. Currently, the Office of Elections is reviewing the RFP before determining the appropriate process for issuing it. The Office of Elections will keep the legislature informed of the status of the procurement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Office of Elections

/s/

by Kevin B. Cronin

Chief Election Officer

CCHNL - 2010 Proposed Precinct Consolidation

Polling Places to be CLOSED	Consolidated Into
17-02 Koko Head District Park	17-01 Kaiser High Sch
17-04 Koko Head District Park	17-07 Kamiloiki Elem Sch
17-06 Kamiloiki Community Park	17-07 Kamiloiki Elem Sch
18-06 Aina Haina Community Park	18-05 Aina Haina Elem Sch
19-06 Liholiho Elem Sch	19-04 Waialae Elem Sch
20-02 Palolo Elem Sch	20-01 Anuenue Elem Sch
20-03 Maunalani Playground	20-04 Liliuokalani Elem Sch
21-01 Sacred Hearts Academy	21-06 Kaimuki High Sch
22-01 Hokulani Elem Sch	22-03 Kaimuki High Sch
22-02 Kuhio Elem Sch	22-03 Kaimuki High Sch
22-06 Lunalilo Elem Sch	22-07 Washington Middle Sch
23-01 Waikiki Baptist Church	23-02 Waikiki Community Ctr
24-01 St Pius X Church	24-06 Manoa Elem Sch
24-05 Manoa Valley Dist Park	24-02 Noelani Elem Sch
25-01 Roosevelt High Sch	25-06 Lincoln Elem Sch
25-07 Stevenson Middle Sch	25-06 Lincoln Elem Sch
26-02 Papakolea Playground	26-03 Stevenson Middle Sch
26-04 Punchbowl Homes HHA	26-05 Royal Elem Sch
27-01 International Baptist Church	27-03 Maemae Elem Sch
27-02 Puunui Playground	27-03 Maemae Elem Sch
27-04 Hoopono Rehab Ctr	27-06 Lanakila Elem Sch
27-05 Kauluwela Elem Sch	27-06 Lanakila Elem Sch
27-08 Kapalama Elem Sch	27-06 Lanakila Elem Sch
28-06 Kalanihuia HHA	28-04 Kaiulani Elem Sch
29-02 Kalihi Waena Elem Sch	29-01 Fern Elem Sch
29-04 Puuhale Elem Sch	29-03 Farrington High Sch
29-05 Kalakaua Middle Sch	29-03 Farrington High Sch
30-01 Kalihi Elem Sch	30-03 Kapalama Elem Sch
30-04 Kalihi Uka Community Park	30-02 Kalihi Uka Elem Sch
31-03 Aliamanu Elem Sch	31-02 Moanalua High Sch
31-04 Salt Lake Dist Park	31-05 Salt Lake Elem Sch
32-02 Kalihi Kai Elem Sch	32-03 Aliamanu Middle Sch
32-06 Makalapa Community Ctr	32-04 Makalapa Elem Sch
32-08 Alvah A Scott Elem Sch	32-07 Aiea Elem Sch
33-01 Red Hill Elem Sch	33-02 Halawa District Park
33-03 Webling Elem Sch	33-02 Halawa District Park
33-06 Waimalu Elem Sch	33-05 Pearlridge Elem Sch
34-02 Waiau Elem Sch	34-01 Waiau District Park

Polling Places to be CLOSED	Consolidated Into
34-03 Waimalu Elem Sch	34-01 Waiau District Park
34-05 Manana Community Park	34-04 Highlands Inter Sch
35-03 Waipahu Civic Ctr	35-02 Waipahu High Sch
35-05 Waipahu Field	35-06 August Ahrens Elem Sch
36-01 Momilani Elem Sch	36-02 Pearl City Highlands Elem Sch
36-03 Pearl City Elem Sch	36-05 Manana Elem Sch
36-07 Palisades Baptist Church	36-06 Palisades Elem Sch
38-05 Kipapa Elem Sch	38-04 Mililani High Sch
39-02 Wahiawa Elem Sch	39-03 Leilehua High Sch
39-06 Kaala Elem Sch	39-04 Wahiawa Middle Sch
40-06 Makakilo Community Pk	40-05 Mauka Lani Elem Sch
41-02 Waikele Community Park	41-01 Waikele Elem Sch
41-06 Hoaeae Community Pk	41-05 Kaleiopuu Elem Sch
42-03 Kahi Mohala	42-04 Ewa Elem Sch
44-02 Nanakuli Elem Sch	44-03 Nanaikapono Elem Sch
45-01 Waianae Elem Sch	45-02 Waianae Inter Sch
45-03 Kamaile Elem Sch	45-04 Makaha Elem Sch
47-03 KEY Project	47-02 Kahaluu Elem Sch
47-05 Windward Community College	47-06 Ahuimanu Elem Sch
48-05 Windward Community College	48-01 Heeia Elem Sch
49-02 Kaelepulu Elem Sch	49-01 Enchanted Lake Elem Sch
49-04 Kailua High Sch	49-03 Maunawili Elem Sch
49-05 Puohala Elem Sch	49-06 Parker United Methodist
50-01 St Anthony Church	50-05 Kainalu Elem Sch
50-02 Kailua Field	50-04 Kailua Elem Sch
50-07 Aikahi Elem Sch	50-06 Kalaheo High Sch
51-05 Keolu Elem Sch	51-06 St. John Vianney
51-07 Kailua Field	51-04 Kaelepulu Elem Sch

Exhibit A

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Proposed RFP Timeline

<u>Events</u>	<u>Date</u>
Advertisement of RFP	July 1, 2009
Deadline for Questions for Pre-proposal Conference	July 11, 2009
Pre-proposal Conference	July 13, 2009
Deadline for Written Questions	July 25, 2009
Addendum for Responses to Inquiries Received	August 2, 2009
Proposals Due and Opened	August 11, 2009, 2:00 pm (HST)
Proposal Evaluation	August 12-16, 2009
Demonstrations and or Discussions with Priority-Listed Offerors, if necessary	August 29-31, 2009
Best and Final Offers due, if any	September 9, 2009
Award of Contract	September 15, 2009
Issuance of Notice to Proceed	September 20, 2009