

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is reapportionment?

Reapportionment is the process of dividing the number of State representatives and senators among the State's population in order to assure, as close as possible, districts of equal size.

What is the difference between reapportionment and redistricting?

While the terms are often used interchangeably, "reapportionment" refers to the allocation of seats among the basic island units, whereas "redistricting" concerns the drawing of district lines.

When is reapportionment conducted?

Reapportionment is conducted once every 10 years.

What is the Reapportionment Commission?

State law requires the establishment of a bipartisan commission to conduct reapportionment. The leaders of the legislature's majority and minority parties name members to serve on the Reapportionment Commission. Each party names four members, for a total of eight members. The eight commission members select a ninth member to serve as commission chair.

The State Office of Elections provides support services to the Commission via the Reapportionment Project Office. The Chief Election Officer serves as the commission secretary.

What is the Advisory Council?

The Advisory Council is comprised of 16 members, four from each basic island unit - Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Oahu. The Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity to the commission for matters affecting its island unit. The leaders of the legislature's majority and minority parties name members to serve on the Advisory Council.

How long does the Reapportionment Commission have to complete its tasks?

The commission has two important statutory deadlines.

The first is September 7, 2001 (100 days after the appointment of the commission chair). The commission shall produce an initial draft reapportionment

plan for public comment and review. Meetings are held statewide to gather input from the public.

The second deadline is October 26, 2001, (150 days after the appointment of the commission chair). At this time, the final reapportionment plan is submitted to the Chief Election Officer.

What other elective offices in Hawaii are subject to reapportionment?

The counties of Hawaii and Honolulu conduct reapportionment of council seats.