

2011 REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Standards and criteria that shall be followed:

The population base used shall be the total population of the State of Hawaii as determined by the last U.S. Census (1,360,301 persons).

The population in the two congressional districts shall be as nearly equal as possible. The difference in the populations in the two districts must be less than 1% and preferably less than 0.82%.

The congressional districts shall not be drawn so as to unduly favor a person or political party.

The congressional districts shall be “contiguous”. In other words, all parts of each district should share a common border and you should be able to reach any part of that district without crossing the district’s boundary. Put another way, no district should be divided into two or more discrete pieces.

The congressional districts shall not be drawn so as to: (a) deny or abridge a citizen’s right to vote based on race, color or membership in a language minority group; or (b) unlawfully discriminate against voters on the basis of race, color or membership in a language minority group.

Standards and criteria that are to be followed if practicable:

The congressional districts should be geographically “compact”.

The congressional district boundaries should follow permanent and easily recognized features such as streets, streams, and clear geographic features.

The congressional district boundaries should coincide with census tract boundaries. (This should automatically follow from the requirement that census blocks not be split.)

The state legislative districts should be wholly included within the congressional districts. In other words, all proposed state senate and representative districts should wholly fit

within one of the two proposed congressional districts. They should not cross the congressional district borders and sit partly within both congressional districts.

Submergence of an area in a larger district wherein substantially different socio-economic interests predominate should be avoided. For example, if there are two groups of people with differing socio-economic interests residing in areas close to each other, if practicable, the congressional districts should not be drawn so that the voting power of one of the groups is submerged or outweighed by the voting power of the other group.

All proposed plans submitted to the Commission must contain the following technical information in the following format in order to be considered:

- Plans shall be submitted as a table of census block IDs, block population, and assigned district number.
- Permissible district numbers for Federal Congressional plans are 1 and 2. Permissible district numbers for State Senate plans are 1 thru 25. Permissible district numbers for State House plans are 1 thru 51.
- The Commission will also accept general comments and recommendations for redistricting and requests to consolidate, split or maintain specific communities of interest. Comments and recommendations should be submitted in writing.

Other standards and criteria:

Neighborhoods will generally be determined based on existing elementary school district boundaries and/or neighborhood board district boundaries.

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

Standards and criteria that shall be followed:

The population base used shall be the “permanent resident” population of the State of Hawaii. The permanent resident population is the total population of the State of Hawaii as shown in the last U.S. census less the following: non-resident students and non-resident military sponsors.

The permanent resident population in each of the 25 state senate districts shall be as nearly equal as possible. The population difference between the largest and smallest of the senate districts (the “maximum deviation”) shall be less than 10%.*

* Maximum deviations greater than 10% are prima facie unconstitutional and have to be justified by rational state objectives. Maximum deviations greater than 16% are considered unjustifiable.

The permanent resident population in each of the 51 house of representative districts shall be as nearly equal as possible. The maximum deviation between the largest and smallest of the house of representative districts shall be less than 10%.*

No state legislative district shall be drawn so as to unduly favor a person or political party.

Except in the case of districts encompassing more than one island, each state legislative district shall be “contiguous”. In other words, all parts of each proposed district should share a common border and you should be able to reach any part of that district without crossing the district’s boundary. Put another way, no district should be divided into two or more discrete pieces.

All state legislative districts shall be single-member districts. Alternatively, not more than four members shall be elected from any state legislative district.

In drawing the state legislative districts, no census blocks shall be split. In other words, district lines shall not be drawn so that a census block lies partly in one district and partly in another district.

The state legislative districts shall not be drawn so as to: (a) deny or abridge a citizen’s right to vote based on race, color or membership in a language minority group; or (b) unlawfully discriminate against voters on the basis of race, color or membership in a language minority group.

Standards and criteria that are to be followed if practicable:

No district shall extend beyond the boundaries of any basic island unit.*

The state legislative districts should be geographically “compact”.

The state legislative district boundaries should follow permanent and easily recognized features such as streets, streams, and clear geographic features.

The state legislative district boundaries should coincide with census tract boundaries. (This should automatically follow from the requirement that census blocks not be split.)

The state legislative districts should be wholly included within the congressional districts. In other words, all proposed state senate and representative districts should wholly fit within one of the two proposed congressional districts. They should not cross the congressional district borders and lie partly within both congressional districts.

* This standard may not be practicable since it may result in a maximum deviation between districts that exceeds 10%. Such deviations are prima facie unconstitutional and have to be justified by rational state objectives. Deviations greater than 16% are considered unjustifiable.

The state house of representative districts should be wholly included within the state senate districts. In other words, a representative district should not lie partly in one senate district and partly within another senate district.

Submergence of an area in a larger district wherein substantially different socio-economic interests predominate should be avoided. For example, if there are two groups of people with differing socio-economic interests residing in areas close to each other, if practicable, the state legislative districts should not be drawn so that the voting power of one of the groups is submerged or outweighed by the voting power of the other group.

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- The Commission will also accept general comments and recommendations for redistricting and requests to consolidate, split or maintain specific communities of interest. Comments and recommendations should be submitted in writing.

Other standards and criteria:

Neighborhoods shall be determined based on existing elementary school district boundaries and/or neighborhood board district boundaries.