

THE BEAT

# Election Day Voter

Registration Now Hawaii Law

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Registration at absentee polling places to begin in 2016; late voter registration, including on election day, starts in 2018.

JUNE 30, 2014 • By Chad Blair   

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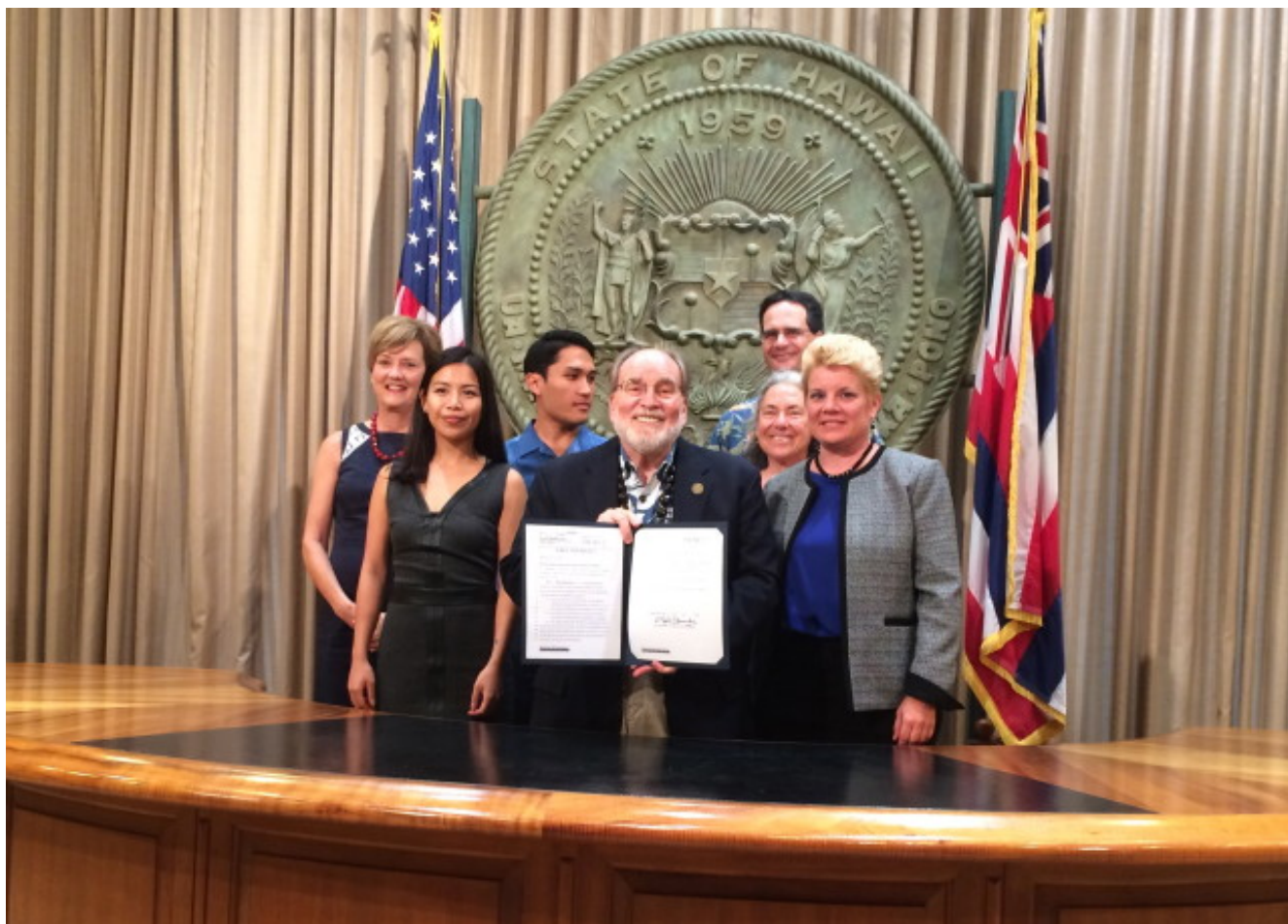
Saying “every vote is precious,” Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie today signed into law legislation that seeks to improve voter turnout.

[House Bill 2590](#) allows for voter registration at absentee polling places beginning in 2016, and late voter registration — including on election day — beginning in 2018.

The bill also allocates funds to help the State Elections Office and county clerks implement the new requirements.

Kaniela Ing, the state representative who introduced HB 2590, said he didn’t want potential new voters to be disenfranchised.

Chad Blair/Civil Beat



*Gov. Neil Abercrombie is surrounded by supporters of the new voter registration law, executive chambers, Hawaii State Capitol, June 30, 2014.*

Ing noted that Hawaii has gone from having perhaps the highest voter turnout rate in the nation 50 years ago to the lowest today.

Advocates of the new law include Common Cause Hawaii, the League of Women Voters of Hawaii and Faith Action for Community Equity.

Karl Rhoads, the House Judiciary chairman, said HB 2590 compliments [another measure this year](#) intended to prevent election fraud.

The governor signed [House Bill 452](#) into law last week.

“We want people to participate in our democracy and make certain that it thrives,” said Abercrombie.

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### About the Author



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**Frank De Giacomo**

Yes, the day after Carmille Lim's commentary taking the Gov to task for threatening veto of a disclosure bill there she is in a smiling photo-op with the Gov - accompanied by a League of Women Voters rep whose org also went after the Gov practically moments before the photo-op.

I criticize the Gov a lot but he cased everyone. I'm waiting for that to show up in some campaign mailers next.

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**Frank De Giacomo**

Ah, so no political hat trick for the Gov! . I grudgingly didn't think he was that good! Lol

If you heard of the transparency bill veto threat, and you were trying to pressure him to sign it at the time, doing a signing ceremony lets him off the hook, and confuses supporters. The benefits for you folks from a signing ceremony aren't all that much. I'd have skipped it, but that's just me, and I am not privy to all the details and machinations, so it may not have been a good idea to skip in reality.

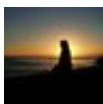
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**Kealii Makekau**

Trying to make up for the fake election last term because of no ballots to vote for the people. Go duke!

Like · Reply · Jul 2, 2014 2:48am



**Peter Easterling** · U of hawaii

Opening up voting is good. Now let's all hope the very same incompetents who bungled the election here on the island of Hawaii do a better job this time. I understand they were severely disciplined. One had to clap erasers for a week and the other had to dump the wastepaper baskets.

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