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Over 1,600 absentee ballots arrive late statewide

*Published: Saturday, August 20th 2016, 10:23 am HST
Updated: Saturday, August 20th 2016, 10:25 am HST*

HILO, Hawaii (AP) - A county official wants people to mail absentee ballots earlier after more than 1,600 arrived late statewide. West Hawaii Today reports (<http://bit.ly/2bqDxa3>) 771 tardy absentee ballots recently arrived in the Hawaii County Elections Office mailbox. Hawaii County Elections Administrator Pat Nakamoto said the unusually high amount was very concerning. Clerk Stewart Maeda said Hawaii County will remind absentee voters to mail ballots early for the Nov. 8 general election. State Elections Office spokeswoman Nedielyn Bueno said the number of late ballots in the rest of the state were typical, totaling 500 in Honolulu, 347 on Maui and 60 on Kauai.

Some races were decided by slim margins. The Clerks Office must receive absentee ballots by 6 p.m. on election day under state law. Nakamoto said late ballots are not opened.

Information from: West Hawaii Today, <http://www.westhawaii.com>

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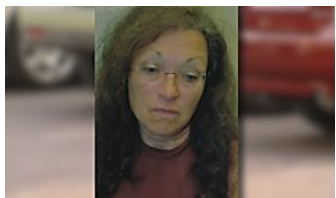
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