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# Voter Registration on Election Day Gets OK from Hawaii Legislators

It still awaits a final vote next week, but House and Senate conferees on House Bill 2590 today gave initial ...

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It still awaits a final vote next week, but **House** and **Senate** conferees on [House Bill 2590](#) today gave initial approval to allowing **late voter registration**, including on election day, beginning in 2018.

HB 2590 also would allow **voter registration at absentee polling places** beginning in 2016.

“Eleven states have already adopted **Election Day voter registration**, and we are excited with the optimistic possibility that Hawaii could be next,” said **Carmille Lim**, executive director of **Common Cause Hawaii**. “With Hawaii’s consistent low voter turnout, coupled with several mishaps that occurred in the 2012 election cycle, more people have recognized the need to continue to streamline our election registration system and proactively modernize our voting systems.”

The Legislature has appropriated \$100,000 to help the **Office of Elections** facilitate the bill’s requirements.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. **Kaniela Ing**, told Civil Beat, “We’ve spent years working towards a win-win piece of legislation. Our final revision takes into account the burden on poll workers by providing adequate resources and updated technology.”

The program, he said, “will initiate simultaneous with online voter registration in 2016 and is estimated to increase voter turnout by 5 to 8 percent.”

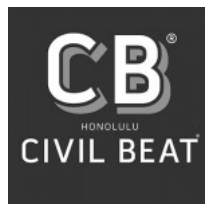


*Photo: Primary day at Farrington High School in Kalihi, Aug. 11, 2012. (Civil Beat)*

*—Chad Blair*

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