



86°  
Scattered Clouds  
Kailua-Kona

[FULL FORECAST](#)

# Voters encountered short lines, empty polling places in primary election

Published: Friday, August 12th 2016, 7:02 pm HST  
Updated: Sunday, August 14th 2016, 12:26 am HST

By HNN Staff [CONNECT](#)

HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) - At polling places statewide Saturday, voters encountered short lines -- or no lines -- as they cast their ballots in a primary election whose turnout hit a new low.

State election officials put turnout at about 34.7 percent, the lowest turnout in a primary election in the islands. Turnout in the 2014 primary election was 42 percent.

Officials said that nearly 252,000 of Hawaii's 723,000 registered voters cast ballots in Saturday's primary.

The polls opened at 7 a.m., and state election officials said there were no major problems.

But voters and elections volunteers alike noticed the low turnout.

"It's a lot slower," said polling place volunteer Jennifer Wilcox. "This year, we've just been kind of sitting around."

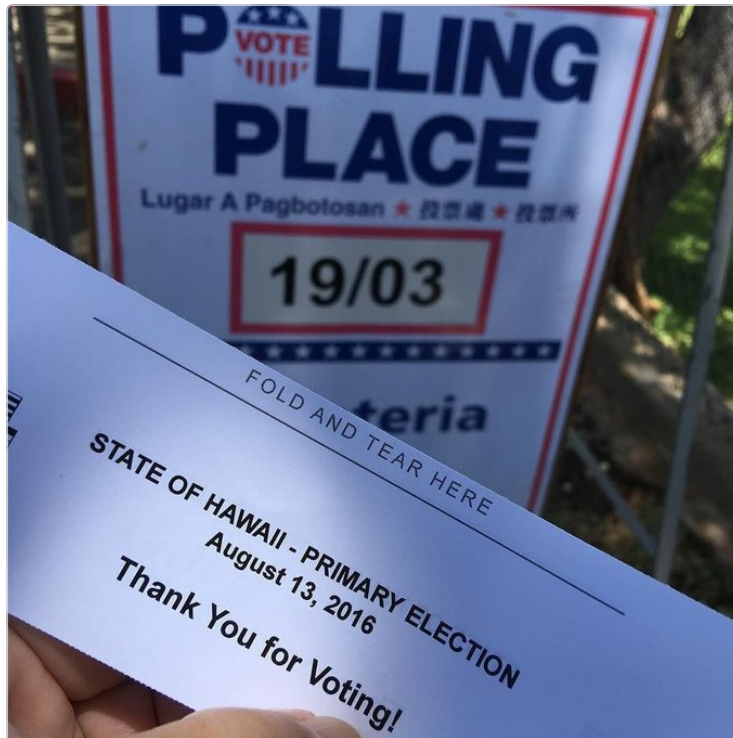
Voter Edna Butay cast her ballot Saturday morning, and said the process went smoothly.

"I know who to vote for. It's all done," she said.

Voter Charlotte Akeo said she cast her ballot out of respect for her mother "and the privilege to be an American and to be able to vote."

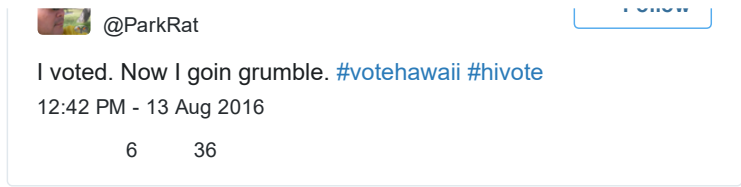
Scott Nago, chief elections officer, said polling places reported only minor problems Saturday morning. He also acknowledged the low turnout, but added, "We just want to make sure that every ballot gets counted."

This year's primaries featured contested mayoral, council, state House and Senate, and Congressional races.



Russ S

[Follow](#)



Turnout for primary elections in the islands is historically low, but officials had hoped to drive more people to the polls by making the registration process easier. This is the first year that Hawaii residents could register to vote online, something tens of thousands of people took advantage of. The state also for the first time allowed voters to register on-site at early walk-in polling places.

But the efforts to streamline registration didn't translate into more residents casting ballots.

Some 19,215 Hawaii residents participated in early walk-in voting that ended Thursday. That's a decline of about 30 percent from two years ago. On Oahu, 9,925 people cast ballots in early walk-in voting. That's down from about 10,500 in 2014.

Mail-in voting was also down. As of Friday afternoon, the city had received about 83,000 mail-in ballots. In 2014, by comparison, Oahu got 88,174 primary election mail-in ballots.

HAWAII PRIMARY ELECTION TURNOUT			
Year	Registered Voters	Voter Turnout	Turnout %
1998	582,558	291,069	50%
2000	629,162	262,487	41.7%
2002	667,679	274,517	41.1%
2004	626,120	252,630	40.3%
2006	655,741	276,693	42.2%
2008	667,647	246,299	36.9%
2010	684,481	293,016	42.8%
2012	687,500	290,766	42.3%
2014	697,033	289,398	41.5%

Source: State Office of Elections

Copyright 2016 *Hawaii News Now*. All rights reserved.

## RECOMMENDED STORIES



**Honolulu Charter school principal, administrator arrested**



**Why Amy Grant Chose The Gays Over God**

*Promoted By News N Buzz*



**2016's Best Luxury and Mid-Sized Sedans**

*Promoted By Yahoo Search*



**Former Kalaeloa homeless shelter employee charged with theft of more than half a million dollars**



**U.S. Rep. Mark Takai dies at 49 after battle with cancer - Hometown reaction**



**Thinking About Going Solar? Read This First**

*Promoted By Home Solar Programs*

*Recommended by*



**How To Fix Your Fatigue And Get More Energy**

*Promoted By Gundry MD*



**After tough question in finals, Miss Hawaii USA gets the last laugh**

## PROMOTED STORIES

## WE RECOMMEND

[A Video Of Malia Obama Allegedly "Smoking Pot" Has Provoked All Kinds Of Ridiculous Reactions](#) *Bustle*

[Rare Unseen Photos Of Hillary Clinton They Don't Want You To See](#) *Frank151*

[A Busy Mom Tried Nutrisystem: Here's What Happened](#) *Popdust*

[The 7 All-Time Best Beaches in the World](#) *JustLuxe*

[Trump's IQ Will Shock You](#) *Choice or Life*

[Pregnant teen beaten by customers over straws while working at Wendy's](#)

[Places We Love – Callie's Hot Little Biscuit](#)

[Couple dies minutes apart after 63 years, clock stops](#)

[Investigator: Stabbed teen screamed name of ex before dying](#)

[Girl in duffel bag carried by California man had drowned](#)

*Recommended by*

Can't Find Something? SEARCH FOR IT HERE

SEARCH



**Hawaii News Now**

420 Waiakamilo Road, Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Main (808) 847-3246  
News (808) 847-1112

**KHNL**

[FCC Public File](#)  
[KHNLpublicfile@hawaiinewsnow.com](mailto:KHNLpublicfile@hawaiinewsnow.com)  
[EEO Contact \(808\) 847-9383](#)  
[EEO Report](#)  
[Closed Captioning](#)

**KGMB**

[FCC Public File](#)  
[KGMBpublicfile@hawaiinewsnow.com](mailto:KGMBpublicfile@hawaiinewsnow.com)  
[EEO Contact \(808\) 847-9383](#)  
[EEO Report](#)  
[Closed Captioning](#)

[NEWS](#)

[WEATHER](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[VIDEO](#)

[SUNRISE](#)

[WHAT'S ON](#)

[COMMUNITY](#)

[TRAFFIC](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

**[HAWAII NEWS NOW](#)**

frankly All content © Copyright 2000 - 2016 Frankly and Raycom Media. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) and [Ad Choices](#)