



ELECTIONS ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077

Committee Members
Donald Sakamoto, Chair
Brandon Young, Vice Chair
Ho'opi'ookalani Balaz
Ann Lemke

Minutes

Honolulu Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee Meeting
Honolulu Hale Room 205 & Virtually via WEBEX
Friday, April 26, 2024 at 2:30 P.M.

Video recording of this meeting can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1akGqIA1tk>

Committee Members

Donald Sakamoto, Chair
Ho'opi'ookalani Balaz, absent
Ann Lemke
Brandon Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair, Donald Sakamoto who gave the following opening remarks:

Welcome Advisory Committee members and the public. Your participation enables the County and State to receive recommendations that can help improve the elections process for voters with accessibility needs.

As background - Hawaii became a vote-by-mail state after the passage of Act 136 during the 2019 legislative session with first implementation in the 2020 primary election. This will be the third election cycle in Hawaii using the voting by mail election scheme.

II. ROLL CALL

Ann Lemke
Brandon Young
Donald Sakamoto
Ho'opi'ookalani Balaz, absent

Chair Sakamoto recognized the following members and allowed each to make a brief self-introduction: Donald Sakamoto, Brandon Young and newly sworn in board member Ann Lemke.

With the formal attendance noted and a quorum present, the meeting continued.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2022 MEETING

- Brandon Young moved, and Donald Sakamoto seconded the minutes of the 6/30/22 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

- Committee member Brandon Young nominated himself as Vice Chair. There were no further nominations.
- By acclamation, Brandon Young was selected as Vice Chair.

V. PRESENTATION BY THE STATEWIDE ELECTIONS ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE 2024 ELECTIONS

James Gashel, Vice Chair of the Statewide EANAC reported:

- The process to request and return an electronic ballot has been streamlined
- Voters must update their voter registration to request an electronic ballot
- Ballot Trax is a tool to track the status of a voter's ballot
- The Statewide Committee is working on getting charter questions and other ballot questions written in simple language

VI. UPDATE FROM THE HONOLULU ELECTIONS DIVISION ON THE 2024 ELECTIONS

- Rex Quidilla, Elections Administrator reported:
 - Voter Notification Cards would be arriving in voter's homes the following week
 - City Elections website has voter information in multiple languages and is accessible for blind users
 - Will be working with Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) to create documents in accessible formats and utilize Radio Reading Program for voter information
 - Will be providing interpretation services for voters who don't speak English as a first language and for American Sign Language
 - On mailing dates for ballots in the Primary Election (July 24, 2024) and General Election (October 18, 2024)
 - Mail ballot return envelopes have a tactile hole to assist visually-impaired voters to locate the signature box on the envelope without assistance
 - Return mail ballot envelopes for the Primary (Red) and General (Orange) Elections will be in different colors
 - Ballot Trax can be used to track the status of a ballot
 - Online Ballot Replacement System will be available to request a replacement ballot
 - A system called TXT2Cure will be available for voters who need to correct a signature deficiency electronically, the system is accessible

- An Alternative Format Ballot (AFB) can be used by voters to vote electronically
- There is a new Place of Deposit at Hauula Civic Center, bringing the total island-wide to 16 sites
- Voter Service Centers will be open at Honolulu Hale and Kapolei for ten business days prior and up to election day
- Pop-up Voter Service Centers will be open on a limited basis for five days each at Kaneohe District Park and Wahiawa District Park
- Voters who choose to vote in person should do so early
- Chair Sakamoto suggested workers be trained on the etiquette of serving voters with an accessibility needs.
- Chair Sakamoto raised a question regarding how the Honolulu County Elections Office planning to work with the news media to inform the voters about the elections process, etc.

Please click this link for additional concerns and questions that were raised
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1akGqIA1tk>

VII. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

- Committee Member Lemke moved the next meeting be held on June 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m., and Vice Chair Young seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Committee Member Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vice Chair Young. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.