Hawaii

Voting is the cornerstone right of our democracy. You can only have your voice and your needs reflected in government if you vote. Pre-registration is an important tool that allows people younger than 18 to vote as soon as they are eligible.

✓ Hawaii has pre-registration to vote starting at age 16.
✓ If you are 17 years old and will be 18 by the date of the next election, you may register to vote.¹
✓ To pre-register or to register, visit Hawaii’s Online Voter Registration System to fill out Hawaii’s standard registration form. You must have a current Hawaii Driver’s License or State ID to complete an application online.
  o You can also pre-register or register by printing and submitting a completed Voter Registration & Permanent Absentee Application to your Clerk’s Office either by mail or in-person. Pre-register or register this way if you do not have a current Hawaii Driver’s License or State ID.
  o Applications are available at Clerk’s Offices, State libraries, U.S. Post Offices and most State agencies.
  o You may also register on Election Day at your assigned polling place.² Use the Polling Place Locator to locate your polling place.
✓ If you are 16 years old or 17 years old and will not be 18 by the date of the next election, your pre-registration will be converted automatically into an active registration when you turn 18.³ You will receive a postcard confirming your registration in the first election year after your turn 18.

Hawaii law does not allow those younger than 18 to vote in primary elections, even if they will be 18 by the time of the general election. You can only vote once you turn 18.⁴

Hawaii law does allow students to serve as poll-workers. To serve, you must be at least 16 years of age on or before June 30 of the election year, a registered or pre-registered voter in the State of Hawaii, and able to read and write in English.⁵

For more information, see ACS’s resources on pre-registration and youth poll workers in all 50 states.

ACS encourages everyone to learn more about voter registration in their state. ACS is not a voter registration entity. This is simply an informational tool and is not intended, nor should it serve, as legal advice.

¹ HI Rev Stat Title 2 § 11-12(a) (2017)
² HI Rev Stat Title 2 § 11-15.2 (2017)
³ HI Rev Stat Title 2 § 11-12(b) (2017)
⁴ HI Rev Stat Title 2 § 11-11 (2017); Constitution of the State of Hawaii Article II, Section 1
⁵ Hawaii Office of Elections “Volunteer,” accessed February 24, 2018