

Section 14

ELECTIONS

This section presents data on the number and characteristics of registered voters, votes cast, elected officials, and legislative bills.

More than 395,000 persons were registered to vote in the general election of November 1978, and more than 292,000 actually voted. The number voting amounted to 40 percent of the 637,000 Hawaii residents of voting age at that time. The latter figure included numerous aliens, inmates of mental and penal institutions, and members of the armed forces and their dependents, groups that are either ineligible or unlikely to vote in Island elections. Among eligible voters, females slightly outnumbered males, persons of Japanese ancestry outnumbered Caucasians, and Democrats were far more numerous than Republicans.

A constitutional convention was convened on July 5, 1978. In the election for delegates to this convention, 119,250 persons cast ballots out of 344,953 registered to vote. The number of delegates elected numbered 102, compared with 82 in the 1968 constitutional convention and 63 in 1950.

Elective offices in Hawaii include the President, two U.S. Senators, two U.S. Representatives, the Governor, 25 State Senators, 51 State Representatives, and various county officials. The minimum voting age is 18 years.

The 1977 State Legislature, with 76 members, included 67 males, 26 persons under 40 years of age, 34 persons of Japanese ancestry, and 59 Democrats.

In its 1978 session, the State Legislature considered 5,501 bills; 248 were passed and 239 became law. The Legislature also considered 1,521 resolutions, of which 875 were approved.

Official election results are published by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Additional information is often available from the various County Clerks. Characteristics of individual precincts are described in *1976 Hawaii Voting Behavior*, compiled by Daniel W. Tuttle, Jr., and published by the Public Affairs Advisory Services, Inc., on May 31, 1978. National statistics appear in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1977*, Section 16.

**Table 230.—REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTES CAST, FOR PRIMARY, GENERAL,
AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS: 1968 TO 1978**

Type and date of election	Registered voters ¹			Votes cast		Percent of civilian population ²	
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Number	Percent of reg. voters	Registered	Voting
Primary elections:							
1968: Oct. 5	265,253	...	...	166,271	62.7	39.2	24.5
1970: Oct. 3	282,472	...	...	202,401	71.7	39.1	28.0
1972: Oct. 7	326,906	...	...	203,160	62.1	42.4	26.3
1974: Oct. 5	333,527	...	...	235,982	70.8	41.8	29.6
1976: Oct. 2	353,249	175,276	177,973	251,457	71.2	42.8	30.5
1978: Oct. 7	387,673	190,796	196,877	289,029	74.6	46.2	34.5
General elections:							
1968: Nov. 5	274,199	137,863	136,302	239,765	87.4	40.5	35.4
1970: Nov. 3	291,681	146,630	145,051	247,740	84.9	40.4	34.4
1972: Nov. 7	337,837	169,896	167,941	286,593	84.8	43.9	37.3
1974: Nov. 5	343,404	171,072	172,332	272,545	79.4	43.1	34.2
1976: Nov. 2 ³	363,045	180,265	182,780	309,025	85.1	44.0	37.4
1978: Nov. 7	395,262	194,412	200,850	292,690	74.0	47.1	34.9
Special elections:⁴							
1968: June 1	242,827	...	...	110,370	45.5	35.8	16.3
1978: May 20	344,952	169,787	175,165	119,250	34.6	41.1	14.2

¹ Data by sex not available for primary elections before 1976 and the Constitutional Convention election of 1968. Data by sex for November 5, 1968 do not add exactly to the published total.

² Based on official estimates.

³ Number voting excludes 64 unregistered votes cast (overseas and nonresident).

⁴ Constitutional conventions of 1968 and 1978.

Source: Office of the Lieutenant Governor, *Result of Votes Cast* for each election. Registered voters by sex for the 1968 general election from unpublished data.

Table 231.—REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTES CAST FOR DELEGATES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: 1978

County	Registered voters: April 30, 1978			Votes cast: May 20, 1978	
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Number	Percent of registered voters
State total	344,952	169,787	175,165	119,250	34.6
Hawaii	37,083	18,408	18,675	12,700	34.2
Maui	27,601	13,762	13,839	10,959	39.7
Honolulu	262,588	128,788	133,800	87,008	33.1
Kauai	17,680	8,829	8,851	8,583	48.5

Source: Office of the Lieutenant Governor, *Result of Votes Cast, Constitutional Convention Election, Saturday, May 20, 1978, State of Hawaii.*

Table 232.—SEX AND PARTY OF REGISTERED VOTERS AND NUMBER VOTING, BY COUNTIES: NOVEMBER 2, 1976

Sex or party	State total	Hawaii County	Maui County	City and County of Honolulu	Kauai County
Total	363,045	39,760	29,743	275,479	18,063
Sex:					
Male	180,265	19,923	14,951	136,273	9,118
Female	182,780	19,837	14,792	139,206	8,945
Party:					
Democratic	215,321	22,497	17,452	163,192	12,180
Republican	41,849	4,863	2,420	33,190	1,376
Non-partisan	273	5	17	237	14
People's	88	10	10	64	4
Independents for					
Godly Government	16	1	4	11	—
Libertarian	34	—	1	33	—
Non-affiliated	105,464	12,384	9,839	78,752	4,489
Voting ¹	309,025	34,532	24,601	234,088	15,804
Percent of registration	85.1	86.9	82.7	85.0	87.5

¹ Excludes 64 unregistered votes cast (40 overseas and 24 nonresident).

Source: Office of the Lieutenant Governor, *Result of Votes Cast, General Election, Tuesday, November 2, 1976, State of Hawaii*, pp. 15, 16 and 134.

Table 233.—ETHNIC STOCK OF REGISTERED VOTERS: AUG.-OCT. 1974

Subject	Intending to vote in Democratic primary		All eligible voters: poll of Oct. 21-23, 1974
	Poll of Aug. 24-28, 1974	Poll of Sept. 20-24, 1974	
Persons interviewed ¹	574	1,197	607
Registered Democrats	474	926	(²)
Independents	100	271	(²)
Ethnic stock (percent) ³	100.0	100.0	100.0
Japanese	40.2	41.5	36.7
Caucasian	24.4	23.1	32.5
Filipino	13.9	14.1	7.9
Hawaiian or Part Hawaiian	8.5	8.2	9.9
Chinese	6.6	6.5	7.4
Others and not reported	6.3	6.5	5.6

¹Interviews were conducted on Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, but not Molokai or Lanai. For further discussion, see Gerry Keir, "State Race Doesn't Look Close," *Honolulu Advertiser*, Oct. 29, 1974, pp. A-1 and A-4.

²Not available. In response to the question, "Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or what?" Answers were: Democrats, 249 (41.0 percent), Republicans, 134 (22.1 percent), independents, 171 (28.2 percent), and did not know, 53 (8.7 percent).

³Response to the question, "According to the last Federal census there are five major ethnic groups in Hawaii. Which one best describes your own ancestry? (1) Caucasian, (2) Japanese, (3) Filipino, (4) Hawaiian or Part Hawaiian, (5) Chinese, (6) other."

Source: Sample surveys designed by Gerry Keir, City Editor, *Honolulu Advertiser*, and conducted by Surveys of Hawaii. Data supplied by Gerry Keir, Nov. 18, 1974.

Table 234.—POPULATION OF VOTING AGE AND PERCENT VOTING: NOVEMBER 1960 TO 1978

[Resident population 20 years old and over through 1970 and 18 years and over in 1972 and later years.
Includes armed forces stationed in Hawaii.]

Year (Nov.)	Persons of voting age	Percent casting votes		Subject	Persons of voting age
		For Presidential Electors	For U.S. Representatives		
1960.....	371,000	49.7	49.2	Age, 1978:	
1962.....	390,000	...	49.9	18 to 24 years	146,000
1964.....	404,000	51.3	56.9	25 to 44 years	248,000
1966.....	417,000	...	49.9	45 to 64 years	177,000
1968.....	439,000	53.8	55.3	65 years and over ...	67,000
1970.....	473,000	...	44.0		
1972.....	536,000	50.4	51.3	Race, 1978:	
1974.....	574,000	...	45.2	White	246,000
1976.....	605,000	48.2	48.6	Black	10,000
1978.....	637,000	...	39.9	Other	381,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Projections of the Population of Voting Age for States: November 1978," *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 732, September 1978.

Table 235.—PARTY MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATE LEGISLATURES: 1967 TO 1977

Regular session	House of Representatives				Senate			
	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Vacant seats	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Vacant seats
1967.....	51	39	12	—	25	15	10	—
1969.....	51	38	12	1	25	17	8	—
1971.....	51	34	17	—	25	16	8	1
1973.....	51	35	16	—	25	17	8	—
1975.....	51	35	16	—	25	18	7	—
1977 ¹	51	41	10	—	25	18	7	—
COUNTIES:								
1977								
Hawaii	5	5	—	—	3	2	1	—
Maui	4	4	—	—	2	2	—	—
Honolulu ¹	39	29	10	—	19	13	6	—
Kauai	3	3	—	—	1	1	—	—

¹Forty Democrats and 11 Republicans were elected to the House of Representatives in the general election of November 1976. In January 1977, however, one Oahu Republican changed his affiliation to Democrat.

Source: *Session Laws of Hawaii*, 1967-1975; Office of the Lieutenant Governor, records.

Table 236.—COMPOSITION OF THE 1977 HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE

Subject	House of Representatives			Senate		
	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Total	Democrats	Republicans
All members	51	41	10	25	18	7
County:						
Hawaii	5	5	—	3	2	1
Maui	4	4	—	2	2	—
Honolulu.....	39	29	10	19	13	6
Kauai	3	3	—	1	1	—
Sex:						
Male	46	39	7	21	16	5
Female	5	2	3	4	2	2
Year born:						
1916 or earlier	1	1	—	4	3	1
1917 to 1926	10	8	2	8	7	1
1927 to 1936	16	12	4	11	7	4
1937 to 1946	19	16	3	2	1	1
1947 or later	5	4	1	—	—	—
Ethnic stock:						
Caucasian, exc. Portuguese ...	9	7	2	5	2	3
Chinese.....	2	1	1	5	4	1
Filipino	2	2	—	—	—	—
Hawaiian (unmixed).....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japanese	23	22	1	11	10	1
Korean	—	—	—	—	—	—
Negro	1	1	—	—	—	—
Portuguese.....	1	—	1	1	—	1
Puerto Rican	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samoan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mixed: Part-Hawaiian	7	5	2	2	1	1
Mixed: Non-Hawaiian	6	3	3	1	1	—

Forty Democrats and 11 Republicans were elected to the House of Representatives in the general election of November 1976. In January 1977, however, one Republican changed his affiliation to Democrat.

Source: Office of the Lieutenant Governor, information supplied March 23, 1977.

Table 237.—VOTES CAST FOR MAJOR OFFICES: 1966 TO 1976

Election and office	Democratic party		Republican party		Other parties	
	Candidate	Votes	Candidate	Votes	Candidate	Votes
November 8, 1966:						
Governor	Burns	108,840	Crossley	104,324	None .....	...
U.S. Representative ¹	Matsunaga ...	140,110	Carroll	67,281	None .....	...
	Mink	140,880	Kealoha	62,473	None .....	...
November 5, 1968:						
President	Humphrey ...	141,324	Nixon	91,425	Wallace ² ..	3,469
U.S. Senator	Inouye, D.....	189,248	Thiessen.....	34,008	Lee ³	3,671
U.S. Representative ¹	Matsunaga ...	161,954	Blaisdell	78,733	Olsen ³	2,432
	Mink	149,207	DuBois	39,233	Lombardi ³ .	2,026
November 3, 1970:						
Governor	Burns	137,150	King.....	100,573	None .....	...
U.S. Senator	Heftel	116,039	Fong	123,334	None .....	...
U.S. Representative, Dist. 1 ...	Matsunaga ...	84,845	Cockey	31,534	None .....	...
U.S. Representative, Dist. 2 ...	Mink	90,628	None .....	...	None .....	...
November 7, 1972:						
President	McGovern....	101,409	Nixon	168,865	None .....	...
U.S. Representative, Dist. 1 ...	Matsunaga ...	73,826	Rohlfing	61,138	None .....	...
U.S. Representative, Dist. 2 ...	Mink	79,856	Hansen	60,043	None .....	...
November 5, 1974:						
Governor	Ariyoshi	136,262	Crossley.....	113,388	None .....	...
U.S. Senator	Inouye, D.....	207,454	None .....	...	Kimmel ⁴ ..	42,767
U.S. Representative, Dist. 1 ...	Matsunaga ...	71,552	Paul	49,065	None .....	...
U.S. Representative, Dist. 2 ...	Mink	86,916	Coray	51,894	None .....	...
November 2, 1976:						
President	Carter	147,375	Ford	140,003	MacBride ⁵ .	3,923
U.S. Senator	Matsunaga ...	162,305	Quinn	122,724	Others ⁶ ...	17,063
U.S. Representative, Dist. 1 ...	Heftel	60,050	Rohlfing	53,745	Hoshijo ⁷ ..	23,807
U.S. Representative, Dist. 2 ...	Akaka	124,116	Inouye, H. ...	23,917	Others ⁸ ...	8,066

¹ Two elected at large.

² American Independent.

³ Peace and Freedom.

⁴ People's.

⁵ Libertarian.

⁶ Hodges (People's), 14,226; Kimmel (Nonpartisan), 1,433; Johnson (Libertarian), 1,404.

⁷ Independents for Godly Government.

⁸ Penaroza (Independents for Godly Government), 3,461; Cate (People's), 2,408; Smith (Libertarian), 2,197.

Source: Office of the Lieutenant Governor, *Result of Votes Cast, General Election, State of Hawaii* (biennial).

**Table 238.—LEGISLATIVE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS, BY DISPOSITION:
1976 TO 1978**

Action	1976	1977		1978
		Regular	Special	
House bills:				
Carried over from previous year	1,854	—	—	1,616
Introduced	1,468	1,765	16	1,339
Enacted	143	149	16	162
Vetoed	7	4	—	6
Became law	136	145	16	156
Senate bills:				
Carried over from previous year	1,663	—	—	1,454
Introduced	1,285	1,532	5	1,092
Enacted	108	78	5	86
Vetoed	2	11	—	3
Became law	106	67	5	83
House resolutions:				
Offered	709	767	—	740
Adopted	455	538	—	442
House concurrent resolutions:				
Offered	124	140	—	150
Adopted	38	39	—	53
Senate resolutions:				
Offered	469	523	—	499
Adopted	259	308	—	336
Senate concurrent resolutions:				
Offered	123	175	—	132
Adopted	59	47	—	44

Source: Legislative Reference Bureau, records.