

# NOTICE TO REQUESTER

TO: Ralph Cushnie

FROM: Office of Elections, (808) 453-VOTE (8683), elections@hawaii.gov

DATE THAT THE RECORD REQUEST WAS RECEIVED BY AGENCY: April 11, 2025 (#1374)

DATE OF THIS NOTICE: April 28, 2025

**GOVERNMENT RECORDS YOU REQUESTED** (attach copy of request or provide brief description below):

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Records Request for Office of Elections: Please send records of the daily logs that were used to compile over under reports for the City and County of Honolulu during the 2024 General Election [#1374]

Aloha,

Please send

.Daily or cumulative counts of return identification envelopes (mail ballots) that were received and validated through the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) during the 2024 General Election, disaggregated by county and by date.

Any summary reports or logs generated by your office or received from county clerks that reflect the number of mail ballots deemed valid after signature verification and logged into the SVRS.

Any documentation or spreadsheets used internally to track the number of validated mail ballots, categorized by county and date, including during the signature verification process and up to the close of ballot receipt...

Mahalo,

**THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR RECORD REQUEST:**

☐ Will be granted in its entirety.

☐ Cannot be granted. Agency is unable to disclose the requested records for the following reason:

☐ Agency does not maintain the records. (HRS § 92F-3)

Other agency that is believed to maintain records:

☐ Agency needs further clarification or description of the records requested. Please contact the agency and provide the following information:

☐ Request requires agency to create a summary or compilation from records, but requested information is not readily retrievable. (HRS § 92F-11(c))

☒ Will be granted in part and denied in part, OR ☐ Is denied in its entirety

**Although the agency maintains the requested records, it is not disclosing all or part of them based on the exemptions provided in HRS § 92F-13 and/or § 92F-22 or other laws cited below.**

(Describe the portions of records that the agency will not disclose.)

RECORDS OR  
INFORMATION WITHHELD

APPLICABLE  
STATUTES

AGENCY  
JUSTIFICATION

The reconciliation process involves a comparison of the number of ballots received by the county clerks as documented in the statewide voter registration system against the number of ballots that were counted.

This involves three sources: (1) information in the statewide voter registration system concerning validated return identification ballots and how many voters voted in person at a voter service center; (2) the number of invalid ballot conditions that were recorded during the ballot opening process at the State counting centers; and (3) information reflected in the form of the election results indicating how many ballots were counted.

In regard to the first source, you would need to inquire with the county clerks as it relates to the statutory duties and responsibilities of the county clerks. Specifically, in regard to combined federal, state, and county elections, “[t]he counties shall be responsible for voter registration, absentee voting, voter service centers, places of deposit, and the mailing and receipt of ballots.” HRS § 11-110(b)(1)(A). Information concerning the validation of mail ballots and voters voting in person at a voter service center are recorded in the statewide voter registration system. The data in the statewide voter registration system constitutes each county’s data for purposes of determining its release. Additionally, the county clerks have specific statutory provisions, such as HRS § 11-97, that relate to their release of information from the statewide voter registration system.

With the above in mind, your request, to the extent it involves the contents of the statewide voter registration system, is denied as it falls into categories of documents exempt from disclosure under HRS § 92F-13(3) and (4) (i.e. “Government records that, by their nature, must be confidential in order for the government to avoid the frustration of a legitimate government function,” and “Government records which, pursuant to state or federal law including an order of any state or federal court, are protected from disclosure”).

However, as it relates to the second source, the number of invalid ballot conditions recorded during the ballot opening process, it is granted in that this notice indicates the copying costs involved with providing you with the invalid ballot log that would permit you to determine that number.

Finally, in regard to the third source, in the form of the election results, it is granted as the election results are available on our website at <https://elections.hawaii.gov/election-results/>.

#### **REQUESTER’S RESPONSIBILITIES:**

You are required to (1) pay any lawful fees and costs assessed; (2) make any necessary arrangements with the agency to inspect, copy or receive copies as instructed below; and (3) provide the agency any additional information requested. **For questions about this notice or the records being sought, please ask the agency’s contact person named at the top of this form.** Also, please submit your payment, if any, to the agency at the address listed at the top of this form. **DO NOT SEND YOUR PAYMENT** to the Office of Information Practices (OIP) unless you are requesting records directly from OIP.

If you do not comply with the requirements set forth in this notice within 20 business days after the postmark date of this notice or the date the agency makes the records available, you will be presumed to have abandoned your request and the agency shall have no further duty to process your request. Once the agency begins to process your request, you may be liable for any fees and costs incurred. If you wish to cancel or modify your request, you must advise the agency upon receipt of this notice.

**Please note that the Office of Information Practices (OIP) does not maintain the records of other agencies, and a requester must seek records directly from the agency it believes maintains the records.** If the agency denies or fails to respond to your written request for records or if you have other questions regarding compliance with the UIPA, then you may contact OIP at (808) 586-1400, [oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov), or 250 South Hotel Street, Suite 107, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813.

#### **METHOD & TIMING OF DISCLOSURE:**

Records available for public access in their entirety must be disclosed within a reasonable time, not to exceed 10 business days from the date the request was received, or after receipt of any prepayment required. Records not available

in their entireties must be disclosed within 5 business days after this notice or after receipt of any prepayment required. HAR § 2-71-13(c). If incremental disclosure is authorized by HAR § 2-71-15, the first increment must be disclosed within 5 business days of this notice or after receipt of any prepayment required.

**Method of Disclosure:**

- ☐ Inspection at the following location:
- ☒ As requested, a copy of the record(s) will be provided in the following manner:
- ☐ Available for pick-up at the following location:
- ☐ Will be mailed to you.
- ☒ Will be transmitted to you by other means requested:

**Timing of Disclosure:** All records, or the first increment if applicable, will be made available or provided to you:

- ☐ On \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ **After prepayment** of 50% of fees and 100% of costs, as estimated below.

**For incremental disclosures**, each subsequent increment will be disclosed within 20 business days after:

- ☐ The prior increment (if one prepayment of fees is required and received), or
- ☐ Receipt of each incremental prepayment, if prepayment for each increment is required.

**Records will be disclosed in increments because the records are voluminous and the following extenuating circumstances exist:**

- ☐ Agency must consult with another person to determine whether the record is exempt from disclosure under HRS chapter 92F.
- ☐ Request requires extensive agency efforts to search, review, or segregate the records or otherwise prepare the records for inspection or copying.
- ☐ Agency requires additional time to respond to the request in order to avoid an unreasonable interference with its other statutory duties and functions.
- ☐ A natural disaster or other situation beyond agency's control prevents agency from responding to the request within 10 business days.

**ESTIMATED FEES & COSTS AND PAYMENT:**

**FEES:** For personal record requests under Part III of chapter 92F, HRS, the agency may charge you for its costs only, and fee waivers do not apply.

For public record requests under Part II of chapter 92F, HRS, the agency is authorized to charge you fees to search for, review, and segregate your request (even if a record is subsequently found to not exist or will not be disclosed in its entirety). The agency must waive the first \$30 in fees assessed for general requesters, OR in the alternative, the first \$60 in fees when the agency finds that the request is made in the public interest. Only one waiver is provided for each request. See HAR §§ 2-71-19, -31 and -32.

**COSTS:** For either personal or public record requests, the agency may charge you for the costs of copying and delivering records in response to your request, and other lawful fees and costs.

**PREPAYMENT:** The agency may require prepayment of 50% of the total estimated fees and 100% of the total estimated costs prior to processing your request. If a prepayment is required, the agency may wait to start any search for or review of the records until the prepayment is received by the agency. Additionally, if you have outstanding fees or costs from previous requests, including abandoned requests, the agency may require prepayment of 100% of the unpaid balance from prior requests before it begins any search or review for the records you are now seeking.

**The following is an itemization of what you must pay, based on the estimated fees and costs that the agency will charge you and the applicable waiver amount that will be deducted:**

**For public record requests only:**

<b>Fees:</b> Search	Estimate of time to be spent: ____ hours (\$2.50 for each 15-minute period)	\$
Review & segregation	Estimate of time to be spent: ____ hours (\$5.00 for each 15-minute period)	\$
Fees waived	<input type="checkbox"/> general (\$30), <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> public interest (\$60) <\$ ____> (Only one waiver per request)	
Other	Click or tap here to enter text. (Pursuant to HAR §§ 2-71-19 & 2-71-31)	\$
<b>Total Estimated Fees:</b>		<b>\$</b>

**For public or personal record requests:**

<b>Costs:</b> Copying	Estimate of # of pages to be copied: 7 (@ \$ .25 per page, pursuant to HRS § 92-21)	\$1.75
Delivery	Postage	\$
Other	Click or tap here to enter text.	\$
<b>Total Estimated Costs:</b>		<b>\$</b>

**TOTAL ESTIMATED FEES AND COSTS from above: \$1.75**

- ☐ The estimated fees and costs above are for the first incremental disclosure only. Additional fees and costs, and no further fee waivers, will apply to future incremental disclosures.
- ☒ **PREPAYMENT IS REQUIRED** (50% of fees + 100% of costs, as estimated above) \$
- ☐ **UNPAID BALANCE FROM PRIOR REQUESTS** (100% must be paid before work begins) \$

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AT THIS TIME \$1.75**

Payment may be made by: ☐ cash  
☒ personal check payable to: Office of Elections  
☐ other

**Submit your payment to the agency at the address listed at the beginning of this form, including the name of the agency's contact person.**