

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND VOTING	Document Number	GO 518
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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines for employees in regards to various political activities and participation in political events.

2. PERSONS AFFECTED

All department personnel.

3. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Hawai'i Police Department that its members be allowed to participate in political activities in instances where their participation does not interfere with their official duties or interfere with the political process.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. Members are permitted to:

- 4.1.1. Vote as they choose.
- 4.1.2. Express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates.
- 4.1.3. Be a member of any political party, organization or club.
- 4.1.4. Make voluntary contributions to a political organization or party.
- 4.1.5. Assist in maintaining peace at the polls after being ordered to the voting place for such purpose by competent authority.

4.2. Members are prohibited from:

- 4.2.1. Using their official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or affecting the result thereof.
- 4.2.2. Directly or indirectly coercing, attempting to coerce, commanding, or advising a person to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes.

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4.2.3. Loitering around voting places so that no possible criticism may be directed to the department for attempting to influence the vote or for failing to return promptly to duty.

## 5. PROCEDURES

### 5.1. Seeking Public Office

5.1.1. Members of the department who perform duties in connection or are directly involved with an activity financed in whole or in part by a Federal loan or grant may not be a candidate for an elective political (partisan) office.

a. Members are prohibited from being a candidate for any Hawai'i County office, to include the Mayor, County Council, and Prosecuting Attorney offices.

- Members may run for other offices, however, may apply for a leave of absence without pay until the outcome of the election.
- If elected, leaves of absence cannot be continued pursuant to Rule 10A.3c of the County of Hawai'i, Personnel Rules and Regulations. At that time the member must choose to resign his/her position or return to the Hawai'i Police Department.

b. The purpose of this policy is to prevent members from running for such positions which might give them power over their supervisors.

### 5.1.2. Membership in Political Parties

a. Members of the department have the right to belong to any political party, organization or club, and such right has been constructed to include the privilege to serve as a delegate or officer or committee member of any such party, organization or club, and the right to participate in the activities of such party, organization or club.

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- The nature of police employment requires proper neutrality in political affairs to prevent adverse criticism against the department for any alleged exercise of official authority or influence in interfering with or coercing the results of an election or the action of any person or party.
- For this reason, members are cautioned regarding acceptance of appointments to serve as an officer or delegate of a precinct club, or as a member of any county, state, central or executive committee of any party, or as a delegate to a party convention.

b. It is not the intent of the administration, however, to limit or infringe upon the right of any member to exercise his full rights and privileges in connection with membership in any party, organization or club.

5.2. Time Off to Vote

- 5.2.1. Members registered in the district or precinct where they are stationed shall be allowed to interrupt their duties for a reasonable period of time on voting days so they may cast their ballot.
- 5.2.2. Members registered in a district or precinct other than their duty station shall be granted time off to cast their ballot only when it is not practical for them to do so prior to or following their tour of duty.
- 5.2.3. Members who are granted time off to vote under this provision shall proceed to the place where they are registered, cast their ballot and immediately return to their duty station.

5.3. Members of the department shall remain away from all election polls except when engaging in one of the following activities:

- 5.3.1. Casting their own ballot(s).
- 5.3.2. Assisting in maintaining peace at the polls after being ordered to the voting place for such purpose by competent authority.