

2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN HAWAII

September 2012

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan



Final plans released by Hawaii Reapportionment Commission on Sept. 26, 2011.

2012 Projections (oR, 2D)*

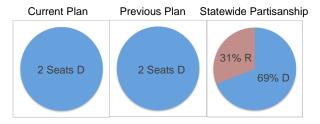
Hawaii had its first competitive House election in ten years in 2010 when Rep. Neil Abercrombie retired to run for governor. Republican Charles Djou won a special election in May 2010 due to the Democratic vote being split, but his tenure was short-lived, as Democrat Colleen Hanabusa won by 6% in November. Djou had been Hawaii's first Republican House representative since 1991 and only the second since Hawaii became a state in 1959.

Expect no surprises this year: Democrats are favored to win both seats in 2012. District 2 nominee Tulsi Gabbard is projected to be the first Hindu elected to the U.S. House

* See details and the fair voting alternative on the following pages.

Hawaii's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

New Redistricting Plan Distorts Political Landscape



Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election.

Competition and Voting Rights in Hawaii

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	0% (0/2)	0% (0/2)
Asian Voting Strength*	67%	62%

* Measures the percentage of Asian American eligible voters living in districts where they are a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

Redistricting Process in Hawaii

The task of redistricting in Hawaii falls to a bipartisan commission comprised of nine members. Eight of these are chosen by different members of the state legislature from both the Republican and Democratic parties, who then choose the commission chair. However, the Hawaii Supreme Court had to appoint the ninth member when the original eight members failed to meet the 30-day deadline.

The commission deadlocked again when deciding between two proposed congressional maps. One option drew Rep. Hanabusa out of her district, but the Supreme Court-appointed chair cast the deciding vote to keep the incumbent within her original district.

During the redistricting process, Gov. Neil Abercrombie suggested a return to multi-member state legislative districts, a system Hawaii employed until a federal lawsuit in 1981.

U.S. House Elections in Hawaii

Incumbent Colleen Hanabusa is running again in District 1. District 2, however, has been vacated by Rep. Mazie Hirono, who is running for the U.S. Senate. Democratic nominee Tulsi Gabbard easily won her primary bid on August 11.

Hawaii Republicans can elect governors and can contest House seats, but over the past two decades have held a House seat for less than a year. That Republican was a fluke winner in a special election in 2010, and then became the only House incumbent to lose since 1982.

Hawaii is the only state where non-whites make up a majority of voters. Asian Americans hold both U.S. House seats and both Senate seats. Women currently hold both House seats, although one seat is open this year.



2012 HOUSE ELECTIONS IN HAWAII

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Hawaii's new congressional districts. Incumbents are listed according to the districts in which they are running in 2012, with the 2010 district partisanship connected to that incumbent.

District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	Colleen Hanabusa	D	2010	53%	67 / 33	67 / 33	Strong D	Safe D
2	OPEN (Mazie Hirono)	D			70 / 30	71 / 29	Strong D	Safe D

^{*}Mazie Hirono (D) currently represents Hawaii's 2nd District, but is seeking election to the U.S. Senate in 2012.



HAWAII REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

Hawaii's Fair Voting Plan



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisanship Projection: 0R, 1D, 1?
A (CDs – 1, 2)	2	680,151	33.3%	69 / 31	0R, 1D, 1?

* plus 1 vote

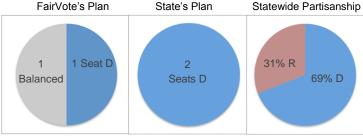
How Does Fair Voting Work?

Fair voting describes American forms of proportional representation that uphold electoral traditions and are based on voting for candidates. They ensure meaningfully contested elections and provide voters with more accurate representation.

Instead of two individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into one larger "super-district." Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a third of voters will win.

Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Hawaii's Redistricting Plan

More Accurate Political Representation*



* Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election similar to the Partisan Voting Index. They do not account for other candidate-based factors like incumbency.

Meaningful Elections and Representation

	FairVote's Plan	State's Plan
District Competition	100% (1/1)	0% (0/2)
Shared Representation*	Uncertain	Not Possible

^{*} Shared representation indicates districts represented by both Democrats and Republicans – which enables more accurate congressional representation for most voters. Republican voters have a chance to win one of the two seats with fair voting, but it's not guaranteed.

Benefits of a Fair Voting Plan

Shared representation of different views: Supporters of both major parties elect candidates everywhere, with accurate balance of that district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice: Better chance for third parties, independents and major party innovators, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat.

More competition: With voters having a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

Better representation of racial minorities: Lower threshold for racial minority candidates to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidacies.