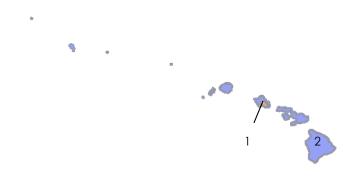
## 2014 ELECTIONS IN HAWAII

July 2014

### **Current Congressional District Map**



### Representation

2014 Projections Statewide Partisanship Current Delegation



Partisanship is a measure of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

## **District Competitiveness**

Majority	Swing	Lean	Safe	
Partisanship	(50-<53%)	(53-<58%)	(58%+)	
Districts	0	0	2	

## Redistricting

The task of redistricting in Hawaii falls to a bipartisan commission comprised of nine members. In the recent round of redistricting, the Supreme Court of Hawaii had to appoint the chair when the original eight members of the commission failed to meet the 30-day deadline.

The commission deadlocked again when deciding between two proposed congressional maps. One option drew Rep. Colleen Hanabusa's residence out of her district, but the Supreme Courtappointed chair cast the deciding vote to keep Hanabusa within her original district.

#### 2014 Projections: 0 R, 2 D, 0 ?

Hawaii is a strongly Democratic state, with a 68% Democratic partisanship in HI-1 and a 70% Democratic partisanship in HI-2. The only Republican to represent Hawaii in the House since 1991 was Charles Djou, who won the 1st district by plurality in a 2010 special election before losing in the subsequent general election. Djou ran again in 2012 and kept the election surprisingly close, giving incumbent Colleen Hanabusa the lowest POAC score of any Member of Congress.

HI-1 will be an open seat in 2014 as Hanabusa is running for U.S. Senate. The district's voters have shown a greater propensity to buck their partisanship than the rest of the country, but it is still very likely to remain Democratic.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.

2012 Projections: 0 R, 2 D, 0 ? All projections accurate.

Races to Watch: None Strongest Candidate: N/A Weakest Candidate: N/A

\*POAC (Performance Over Average Candidate) is a measure of the quality of a winning candidate's campaign. It compares how well a winner did relative to what would be projected for a generic candidate of the same party and incumbency status. See our Methodology section to learn how POAC is determined.

#### Race and Gender in the U.S. House

Hawaii is the only state where nonwhites make up a majority of voters, and Asian Americans hold both of its U.S. House seats. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is the first American Samoan and the first Hindu to be elected to the House.

Both of Hawaii's seats are also held by women, whose victories in 2010 made Hawaii the first multi-seat state with an all-female delegation. Hawaii has elected five women to the House since becoming a state in 1959.

#### **Dubious Democracy**

Hawaii's Democracy Index Ranking: 48th (of 50)

Hawaii's ranks so poorly largely because of its voter turnout: only 43% in 2012, the lowest in the nation. As a result, just 29% of eligible voters voted for a winning candidate. Hawaii Republicans won 33% of the vote for congressional candidates but have no representation in the House.

Hawaii has rarely been competitive in congressional elections in recent history. Only one incumbent has lost a U.S. House race in the state since 1982.

View redistricting alternatives at FairVotingUS.com

# **2014 ELECTIONS IN HAWAII**

July 2014

Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Hawaii's two U.S. House districts. All metrics in this table are further explained in the Methodology section of this report.

**Partisanship** is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. It is determined by measuring how the district voted for president in 2012 relative to the presidential candidates' national averages. Developed by FairVote in 1997 and adapted by Charlie Cook for the Cook Partisan Voting Index, this definition of partisanship is based on only the most recent presidential election.

**Performance Over Average Candidate (POAC)** is an indicator of how well the winner did compared to a hypothetical generic candidate of the same district, incumbency status, and party, based on their winning percentages in 2010 and 2012. A high POAC suggests that the winner appealed to independents and voters from other parties in addition to voters from his or her own party. A low POAC suggests that the winner did not draw many votes from independents and other parties.

District	Incumbent	Party	Race/ Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2-Party Winning Percentage	POAC	District Partisanship (D)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projected Competition
1	OPEN (Hanabusa, Colleen)	D	Asian/F	2010	54.6%	-13.1%	68.4%	68.4%	Safe D
2	Gabbard, Tulsi	D	Asian/F	2012	80.5%	8.1%	70.4%	72.3%	Safe D

### Hawaii's Fair Representation Voting Plan

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



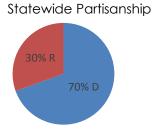
Partisan and Racial Impact: Hawaii is one of the last two states to have used statewide elections for more than one congressional seat, but was forced to abandon the system in 1968 according to a new federal statute. This plan would restore at-large elections to Hawaii but with a fair voting system. It is limited by the fact that Hawaii only has two House seats, but would improve Republicans' chances of winning one of the seats. Asian American voters would have the voting power to be able to elect at least one preferred candidate.

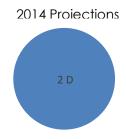
## **How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?**

Fair representation voting methods such as ranked choice voting describe American forms of proportional representation with a history in local and state elections. They uphold American electoral traditions, such as voting for candidates rather than parties. They ensure all voters participate in competitive elections and ensure more accurate representation, with the majority of voters likely to elect most seats and backers of both major parties likely to elect preferred candidates

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 Representation Voting Plan to Hawaii's Current Districts







Partisanship is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

## Benefits of a Fair Representation Voting Plan

**More accurate representation:** Congressional delegations more faithfully reflect the preferences of all voters. Supporters of both major parties elect candidates in each district, with accurate balance of each district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice and competition: Third parties, independents and major party innovators have better chances, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat. Because voters have a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

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

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