Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
Hawaii offers online and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration, and added automatic registration in 2022. The state does not purge voting lists no matter how many years of nonvoting. There were zero total voting list purges conducted in 2020. Youth can preregister to vote beginning at age 16. There were very few reports from voters to the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election about voter registration. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. Hawaii was ranked the top state in this index.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Hawaii has a non-strict non-photo ID law. The state is NOT a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helps states improve accuracy of voter rolls. No laws were enacted in 2021 or 2022 to impose restrictions.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Hawaii offers early in-person voting beginning 10 days before Election Day. State legislation was passed in 2021 to further improve access. The state also provides all-mail or no-excuse absentee ballot voting options.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Hawaii has been a vote-at-home state since 2020. Ballots are mailed to all voters (no applications necessary), ballot return options are robust, prepaid postage is provided, and the state offers accessible electronic vote-by-mail ballots to voters with disabilities. There are no restrictions on who can return the ballot on behalf of the voter. State laws in 2022 require the exterior of the mail ballot sent to voters to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services and expand ballot drop off sites. Hawaii was one of the top ranked states in this index.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - HIGH
Hawaii had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very low rejection rate. The state has a statewide ballot tracking service, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. Hawaii allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, provides prepaid postage on return envelopes, allows voters to correct for ballot discrepancies, and has a signature verification program. Each voter has 5 business days after the date of the election to cure any ballot deficiency.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Although Election Day is a state holiday in Hawaii, there is no state law that specifically allows employees to take paid or unpaid leave to vote. Hawaii allows curbside voting, offers hand delivery of ballots to another location if access to the assigned polling site is not possible, and provides high quality accessible voting machine options. New state laws establish advisory committees for voters with disabilities and require the state to inform individuals on parole or probation of their right to vote and provide voting information. Although the state had a low ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020, Hawaii was rated high for investments made in the 2020 elections to improve processes while being cost effective.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - LOW
Hawaii has a statewide verified paper audit trail. All voting centers use hand marked paper ballots and offer Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs. The state does not conduct tests of the equipment according to federal standards, and its election security systems received very low overall ratings in 2018. Hawaii uses risk traditional audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors, including before election certification and during the statutorily required post-election period.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH
Hawaii has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot and its election administration is designed to be nonpartisan by nature. No laws were passed in 2021 or 2022 on this topic. Hawaii was ranked first among all states in this index.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - HIGH
Public opinion surveys showed that Hawaii voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state medium media integrity ratings. Reports from voters with concerns about political intimidation, disinformation, or safety issues at the polling sites were rare. State law criminalizes voter intimidation and false election speech and requires that all poll workers be trained. Hawaii was ranked among the five best states in this index.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Hawaii is one of 13 states that has a Democratic trifecta, as well as a triplex - the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state are from the same political party. Based on the last two presidential elections, Hawaii is the 2nd most Democratic state in the country, with an average Democratic voting margin of 30.8% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 7.0% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Hawaii is the most racially diverse state in the country. It is the only state where the Asian population is the largest single ethnic group. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.