



## Hawai'i

Voters in Hawaii will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 51 seats are up in the state House and 12 seats are up in the state Senate. Democrats are expected to maintain the governorship and both chambers.

### Governor

#### Democratic Nominee

#### [Governor David Ige](#)

In 2014, Governor David Ige was the first person to defeat a sitting governor in a Democratic primary. He faced what was first considered to be a challenging primary himself this cycle but orchestrated a comeback and easily defeated his opponent.

Governor Ige is running on his record and the state's booming economy. Hawai'i has the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. Governor Ige is prioritizing affordable housing in his re-election bid. He is focused on building an additional 5,900 units and engaging in public-private partnerships for new housing for homeless families.

He is calling for more sustainable and energy-efficient agriculture tactics on the island to double its food production by 2020.

Governor Ige supports strengthening penalties for illegal Airbnb-style vacation rentals and strengthening regulations of transient accommodations.

Governor Ige opposes marijuana legalization and vetoed a bill this session that authorizes the use of medical cannabis as a treatment for opioid addiction.

He is touting the recent raise of teacher salaries and air conditioning project for over 1,300 classrooms. His administration has also expanded the Early College Program and established a financial assistance program for low-income community college students.

Governor Ige opposes importing liquified natural gas and was the first governor to commit to the Paris Climate Agreement. He also touts his support of the first-in-the-nation legislation to require 100% of electricity to be derived from renewable sources by 2045.

*Trivia: Governor Ige was the first governor of Okinawan descent in the nation.*