

## **HAWAII**

### **Winner: Democrats**

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With the use of prior election statistics, finding a state that is more democratic than Hawaii is difficult. As well, demographics and past election results also show that Hawaii consistently votes Democratic. Hawaii over time has become a “safe state” by the Democratic party, meaning safely or by a wide margin of winning vote for the Democratic party (Baumgartner and Francia). All signs and history point to a Democratic victory in 2008’s general election.

The demographic makeup of Hawaii points heavily towards a democratic victory. In Hawaii, the white population is found as the minority race. The white population constitutes only 28.7% of Hawaii’s entire population leaving nearly 75% of other racial ethnicity (“Hawaii Quick Facts”). In the United States, varying ethnic groups other than whites have consistently leaned heavily toward voting Democratic in presidential elections. As well, the health care system in Hawaii is a continuing issue; it’s an issue that has become synonymous with the Democratic Party (Wayne, 2008).

Past election results are startling, showing Hawaii’s steady vote towards Democratic nominees. In every presidential election since 1984- the year of a race that Ronald Reagan took both Hawaii and 48 of the other states as well- Hawaii has voted Democratic by substantial margins. The average winning margins in the Hawaiian general elections over the past 20 years have been around 15% (Leip, 2008). Hawaii is a solid Democratic state at the presidential level.

Hawaii's tendency to vote Democratic extends all the way through the House and Senate- at both the national and state levels. Since 1990, Democrats have won all seven Senate races. The closest margin of victory in the U.S. Senate race came in 1990, when it was won with 54.02 percent of the vote. Although in 1998, Democrats won the seat with 80 percent of the vote. The House vote shows the same command, winning by very safe margins. The winning percentage for the Democrats has consistently hovered around 65 percent, since 1990 (Lendy, 1991; Anderson, 1993; Carle, 1995, 1997; Cable News Network, 1998; Trandahl, 1999, 2001, 2003; Washington Post, 2004; The Green Papers, 2007). This pattern has held true at the state level as well; Democrats holding a 5:1 seat advantage (StateVote 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006). The only success that Republicans have seen is at the gubernatorial level. In 2002 Linda Lingle won, by a 52 to 47 percent margin over Democratic candidate Mazie Hirono. In 2006, Lingle won the office running for re-election winning with 62 percent of the vote (Cable News Network, 2002, 2006).

With overwhelming evidence, Hawaii will most likely undoubtedly vote Democratic in 2008's general election, with the Democratic candidate winning 4 electoral votes.

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