

Women's Representation in Hawaii

Parity Ranking: 3rd of 50

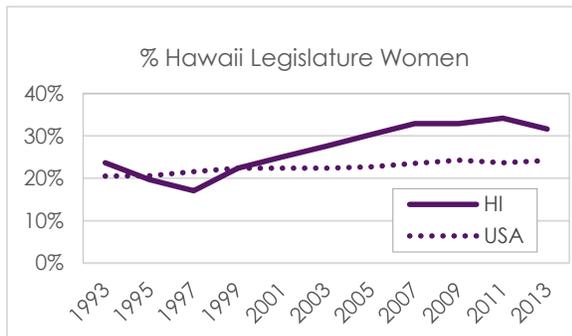
Score of 39: Ten points for former Governor Linda Lingle, 6 for Sen. Mazie Hirono's first term, 10 for women winning five of the six House elections held in the last three cycles, 9 for women's percentage of state legislative seats, and 1 for the senate president.

Quick Facts

Hawaii has had the highest rate of electing female U.S. Representatives in the nation. Of the 54 House elections held in Hawaii since it gained statehood in 1959, 39%, or 21 of 54, were won by women. In 2012, Hawaii elected its first woman Senator, Mazie Hirono.

Trending

From 1997 to 2011, the percentage of women in Hawaii's state legislature consistently increased.



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University.

Elections to Watch

Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D) will leave an open House seat in her run for U.S. Senate against appointed incumbent Brian Schatz in the Democratic primary. Male incumbents are heavily favored in re-election bids for governor and lieutenant governor.

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: Linda Lingle (2003-2011)

Currently female statewide elected executives: 0 of 2 positions

Number of women to have held statewide elected executives office: 3

Congress

U.S. Senate: 1 of 2 seats are held by women, Mazie Hirono (2013-present)

U.S. House: 2 of 2 seats are held by women

Hawaii has elected five women to the House and one to the Senate. An addition woman served as Hawaii's pre-statehood delegate to Congress.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 31.6%

Rankings: 7th of 50

Senate: 8 of 25 (32%) are women

House: 16 of 51 (31.4%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

Local

None of the four consolidated city-counties in the state with elected mayors has a woman mayor.

Words of Wisdom

"Well, there needs to be many more of us in here." – Mazie Hirono, U.S. senator from Hawaii