



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 510
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 3, 2009

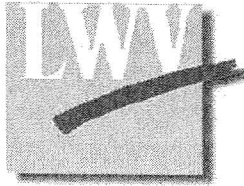
Chair Karamatsu and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 510. The purpose of this bill is to extend the deadline by 5 days in cases where a candidate withdraws less than 5 days prior the filing deadline.

The Office of Elections takes no position on this bill, however, would like to point out that in some situations of this bill, the candidate filing deadline will fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 510.

Respectfully Submitted:

By Kevin Cronin



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON NB 510 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 3, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325

Testifier: Jean Aoki, LWVHI Legislative Liaison

Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, members of the Judiciary Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 510 which would prevent the kind of problem we experienced the past year when a councilmember withdrew on the last day for filing to run for office which resulted in so much confusion and missed opportunities for some. Whether the late withdrawal is by design or completely innocent of any selfish motive, the consequences are too important to be ignored. It is not only a missed opportunity for some hopeful candidates: it is taking away the right of citizens to encourage likely candidates and work for their nomination and election.

HB 510 proposes one way of avoiding the problematic situation. we believe this may be the best solution.

Thank your this opportunity to testify on this measure.