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House JUD Committee
Tuesday 2/9/10 at 2:30PM in Room 325
HB 2588

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Common Cause Hawaii, I am testifying in **opposition to HB 2588**.

Over the past year, we have had many serious concerns about the leadership and accountability in the elections process. However, we do not think a new elected Secretary of State position is the answer.

Instead, we believe the Elections Office and Elections Commission could be bolstered through some less drastic changes. We would suggest the Committee consider other ideas on this topic:

- HB 2372 – Grants the Chief Elections Officer direct recourse to the Supreme Court; establishes standards for selection of Elections Commission members.
- HB 2653 – Proposes Constitutional Amendment: Constitutionally establishes Elections Commission.
- HB 2654 – Authorizes Chief Elections Office to institute or join proceedings in the Supreme Court to enforce elections provisions; increases duties of the Elections Commission to include supervision of the Chief Election Officer. Contingent upon ratification of Constitutional Amendment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.