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TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 509
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. 509. The purpose of this bill is to require incumbent elected officials to file nomination papers for re-election 7 days prior to the filing deadline for non-incumbents.

If the purpose of this bill is to eliminate the flurry of candidate filings that happened in the 2008 Elections, which created an unopposed City Council contest, this bill does not address that specific issue nor would it have prevented this exact circumstance from happening. If you recall all candidates were non-incumbents and would have been allowed to file at the candidate filing deadline of sixty days prior to the election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 509.

Respectfully Submitted:

By Kevin Cronin