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LATE TESTIMONY

ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
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LIHU'E, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1754
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

January 24, 2012

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1754. The purpose of this bill is to permit the county clerk to mail an absentee ballot to each registered voter who resides in a population pocket of less than five-hundred voters which requires its own unique ballot type. A ballot type contains a unique combination of contests, and ballot questions or issues that only voters in a specific district are entitled to vote on.

This bill offers a sensible solution to an unintended and unfortunate consequence of the reapportionment process. While considerable effort is made to establish simple, straightforward voting districts, oftentimes populations are distributed such that voting district boundaries required for federal, state and county elections cannot precisely overlay one another. The resulting deviation between district boundaries results in population pockets consisting of a relatively small number of voters who require their own unique ballot type.

By allowing all mail voting for these population pockets, HB 1754 ensures that an equitable amount of financial and personnel resources is allocated for servicing impacted voters. We also note that voters residing in a population pocket will always have the option to cast a ballot in-person at an early voting site which is opened at least ten working days prior to each election.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 1754

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

JEFFREY T. KUWADA
County Clerk



LANCE TAGUCHI
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF
JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1754
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
JANUARY 24, 2012

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1754. The purpose of this bill is to allow the mailing of absentee ballots to all registered voters in areas of small population, in lieu of the operating polling places.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui, supports House Bill No. 1754.

Due to the invalidation of the 2011 Legislative Reapportionment Plan, election officials do not know whether small population pockets requiring their own ballot type can be minimized.

Given the limited amount of time that the Reapportionment Commission has to complete its new plan, the Reapportionment Commission may not be able to devise a plan whose boundaries line up with each other, so as to avoid areas being unnecessarily divided up on the basis of county council, state representative, state senator, and congressional lines. Even if the Reapportionment Commission has the time, the unique configuration of the various state, county, and federal lines, might make it inevitable that small population pockets will have to be created and that each pocket will require its own unique ballot type.

Given the small number of voters in each of these possible population pockets and the financial resources and personnel required to establish and operate a polling place in each pocket, we favor having the authority to mail absentee ballots to registered voters in these impacted areas in lieu of the operating polling places. Registered voters residing in these impacted areas will still retain the ability, should they choose, to vote in person at an absentee walk location for a period of ten working days prior to each election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1754.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LATE TESTIMONY

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

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TESTIMONY TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SUPPORTING HB 1754 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

HEARING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

To: Chair, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Kari Rhoads

Re: Mail Election

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB1754 which would allow the Office of Elections to facilitate voting for small populations of residents whose voting districts have been redrawn due to the latest census and redistricting.

Since polling places normally have ballots that list candidates that are to be elected from that specific area and since the numbers of voters who fall into each special category would be small, staffing and furnishing all the accoutrements for these polls would be burdensome and expensive.

It therefore seems reasonable to send ballots to the voters involved and have them returned by mail. The method would be the same as absentee voting. It is a tried and true method and would simplify the voting in these areas for all concerned.

The Office of Elections carried out an entire special election for a Congressional seat on very short notice and it went very well. We are confident that in the special circumstances that the redistricting has created, voting by mail is the solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marian W. Wilkins, LWV Elections Committee Member

January 23, 2012