

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800
TTY: (808) 241-5116



JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk

Facsimile: (808) 241-6207
E-mail: elections@kauai.gov

ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101
LIHU'E, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766-1819

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF
RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2181
RELATING TO VACANCIES
February 27, 2012

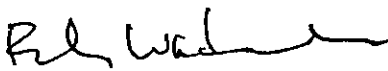
Chair Oshiro and Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 2181. The purpose of this bill is to amend the deadline to file nomination papers for an election to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

The earlier filing deadline established by House Bill No. 2181 will ensure that the official list of candidates is finalized early enough for ballots to be printed and mailed to uniformed and overseas voters no later than forty-five days prior to the election as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, P.L. 111-84.

The bill will also amend related deadlines in section 17-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes so they conform to the amended deadline for filing nomination papers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 2181.


RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK **LATE TESTIMONY**

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

TESTIMONY OF
JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND
COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2181
RELATING TO VACANCIES
February 27, 2012

Chair Oshiro and Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance and House Committee on Legislative Management, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2181. The purpose of this bill is to amend the deadline to file nomination papers to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

In 2010, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, P.L. 111-84, mandated the mailing of absentee ballots to uniformed and overseas voters no later than forty-five days prior to an election. For regularly scheduled elections, State law provides sufficient time between the end of the candidate filing process and the above-referenced deadline to permit election officials to design, print, and mail out ballots to uniformed and overseas voters.

However, with respect to filling a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, current State law sets a nomination paper filing deadline that is only fifty days prior to the special election (to be held in conjunction with a General Election). The current fifty day time period gives election officials only five days to redesign the ballot to include the names of the candidates for the vacant seat, coordinate the printing of over 600,000 redesigned ballots, and then mail them out by the forty-fifth day prior to the General Election. The current fifty day time frame is too compressed.

Currently, there is a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The present bill extends the deadline for candidate filing to the sixtieth day prior to the General Election. This is a more reasonable time frame given the requirements of above-referenced federal law and the work to be accomplished by election officials.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2181.



LATE TESTIMONY

HB2181
RELATING TO VACANCIES
House Committee on Finance

February 27, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on HB2181, which seeks to amend the deadline to file nomination papers associated with filling a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Trustees of OHA .

It is our understanding that this measure simply seeks to ensure that, when a vacancy on the OHA Board of Trustees is to be filled for the unexpired term at the next succeeding special election held in conjunction with the general election, the Office of Elections will have adequate time to mail absentee ballots to uniformed and overseas voters no later than 45 days prior to the election . We further understand that the bill seeks to ensure compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. We understand and appreciate the intent of the bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 8:55 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: judy.a.gold@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB2181 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2181

Conference room: 308

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Judy Gold

Organization: Office of Elections

E-mail: judy.a.gold@hawaii.gov

Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Testimony was previously sent this morning. Resending in the event original was not submitted properly.