



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2251
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

March 28, 2012

Chair Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2251. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the county clerk of any county with a population of less than one hundred thousand to mail an absentee ballot to each registered voter of any island of that county not contiguous with the island where the county seat of government is located.

The logistical and administrative issues associated with establishing a polling place on such an island are significant. For example, for the Island of Niihau, these issues include the delivery and return of ballots, voting machines, and associated election materials, in addition to the recruitment of on-island precinct officials to operate the polling place. This bill instead gives the county clerk the ability to give voters in this situation the convenience of an absentee ballot.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2251.

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

TESTIMONY OF
JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2251
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
March 28, 2012

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

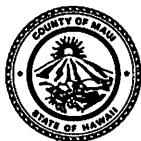
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 2251. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the county clerk of a county with a population of less than one hundred thousand to mail an absentee ballot for each primary, special primary, special, general, and special general election to all properly registered voters of any island of that county that is not contiguous with the island where the county seat of government is located.

House Bill No. 2251 will equitably reallocate diminished personnel and fiscal resources to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of delivering voting services. Additionally, House Bill No. 2251 is commensurate with the voting publics' growing acceptance and use of non-precinct based voting such as absentee mail voting.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 2251.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy 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

TESTIMONY OF
JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2251
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
MARCH 28, 2012

Chair Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2251, and the opportunity to offer comments. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the county clerk of any county with a population of less than one hundred thousand to mail an absentee ballot to each registered voter of any island of that county not contiguous with the island where the county seat of government is located.

This bill allows the county clerk to give voters in this situation the convenience of an absentee ballot.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2251.