



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
[www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections)

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2437, HD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

February 10, 2012

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2437, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for an emergency appropriation to fund the voting system contract for the 2012 Elections.

Having a voting system is integral to conducting secure, open, and honest elections and this was mandated by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, which requires that all voting systems:

- Be accessible for individuals with disabilities, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters; and
- Provide error messages to alert voters of overvotes and multiparty voting.

Currently, the Office of Elections is in a multi-year contract with a vendor to provide a compliant voting system for our elections. As state and county elections are held jointly, the cost of the contract is split equally between the State (50%) and the counties (50%). The share of each county is based on its proportion of the registered voters at the time of the General Election. The 2012 Election Cycle is the second cycle, of three, of the contract and it will cost \$3,450,000. The counties' portion is \$1,725,000 and the State's portion is \$1,725,000.

Funding for the prior 2010 election cycle was provided for in a specific budget proviso. Section 52, Act 162, SLH 2009. However, the current biennium budget for the Office of Elections does not include funding for the 2012 election cycle of the contract. Act 164, SLH 2011. Our current budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 is \$1,829,851.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 also mandates, as a condition of the prior receipt of federal payments, the maintenance of expenditures of the State for activities funded by the payment at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the State for Fiscal Year 2000. 42 USC § 15404(a)(7). The level of such expenditures in Fiscal Year 2000 was \$2,299,552. The State of Hawaii has always met the maintenance of effort requirement. This emergency appropriation will ensure funding for a critical component of the 2012 Elections and will allow the State to continue to meet the maintenance of effort requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2437, HD 1.

**RICKY R. WATANABE**  
County Clerk

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**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
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**ELECTIONS DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK  
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101  
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819**

**TESTIMONY OF  
RICKY R. WATANABE  
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2437, HD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS  
February 10, 2012**

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 2437, HD1. The purpose of this bill is to make an emergency appropriation to fund the voting system contract for the 2012 Elections.

This bill will provide the Office of Elections with sufficient funds in its biennium budget to cover its portion of the cost for the voting system. The emergency appropriation also ensures that the Office of Elections fulfills maintenance of effort provisions of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 which are necessary to remain eligible for federal funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 2437, HD1.

**RICKY R. WATANABE**  
County Clerk

JEFFREY T. KUWADA  
County Clerk



LANCE TAGUCHI  
Deputy County Clerk

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

COUNTY OF MAUI  
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**TESTIMONY OF**

**JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2437, HD 1**

**RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2012**

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2437, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for an emergency appropriation to fund the voting system contract for the 2012 Elections.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 mandates, as a condition of the prior receipt of federal payment, the maintenance of expenditures by the State for activities funded by the payment at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the State for Fiscal Year 2000. 42 USC § 15404(a)(7). The State of Hawaii has heretofore met this requirement. By making this requested emergency appropriation the State will once again meet its maintenance of effort requirement and ensure funding for the voting system to be used in the 2012 Elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2437, HD 1.



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 10, 2012

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

#### House Bill 2437, HD1 – Relating to Elections

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2437, HD1 Relating to Elections. The purpose of this bill is to make an emergency appropriation to fund the voting system contract for the 2012 elections to ensure compliance with federal law.

DCAB worked cooperatively with the Office of Elections when the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 was initially passed. We housed the Election Specialist position for the first three (3) years of the HAVA grant by providing technical assistance related to disability and accessibility issues as they related to voting. We assisted the Office of Elections with surveying polling places to ensure the facilities were accessible and in selecting accessible voting equipment to ensure individuals with disabilities could vote independently and privately. The Election Specialist has since relocated to the Office of Elections to provide disability related expertise as part of the elections staff.

DCAB continues to support efforts of the Office of Elections to provide accessible voting equipment so that voters with disabilities can continue to exercise the right to vote independently at the polling place.

We defer to the Office of Elections regarding the funding to purchase voting equipment necessary to run the elections in 2012.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 6:45 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** chair@hawaiidemocrats.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2437 on 2/10/2012 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/10/2012 4:30:00 PM HB2437

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Dante Carpenter  
Organization: Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
E-mail: [chair@hawaiidemocrats.org](mailto:chair@hawaiidemocrats.org)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

### Comments:

Chairman Oshiro & Memebers of the Finance Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i is in support of HB2437 as well as its Senate companion Bill SB2699. Passage will ensure compliance with Federal Law and assure funding the voting system contract for conducting the 2012 election.

Finally, this will insure appropriate manpower to carry out the duties and functions of the Elections Division of the State of Hawai'i in this important Presidential election year.

We strongly support the passage of HB2437.

Mahalo a nui loa,

Dante K. Carpenter  
Chairman, Democratic Party of Hawai'i