



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2437
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

January 31, 2012

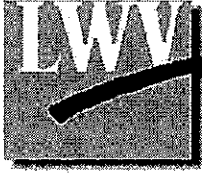
Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2437. The purpose of this bill is to provide for an emergency appropriation to fund the voting system contract for conducting the 2012 Elections.

Currently, the Office of Elections is in a multi-year contract with a vendor to provide a 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 \$1,725,00 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 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 this requirement. This emergency appropriation will likewise permit the State to once again meet this maintenance of effort requirement, as well as, ensure funding for a critical component of the 2012 Elections.

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



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HB 2437 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
2:00 p.m. Conf. Room 325

Testimony by Janet Mason, Vice President, LWV of Hawaii
Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports an adequate operating budget for the Office of Elections to run and maintain the State's voting systems for the 2012 elections, and keep the State of Hawaii in compliance with its obligations under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-252). However, the League encourages development of new, 21st century voting systems, including online voter registration, and would prefer having more knowledge of how this large appropriation will be spent.

Making democracy work in Hawaii requires that we maintain adequate voting system standards. It is critical that voters have confidence in our voting systems, and we heartily endorse all reasonable efforts the Office of Elections can take to safeguard Hawaii's voting systems.

The Federal "Help America Vote" financing has been an invaluable source of money to maintain, secure and modernize our voting system, and Hawaii should continue to meet the level of expenditures required for the Act's "maintenance of funding" requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HB 2437 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
2:00 p.m. Conf. Room 325

Testimony by Janet Mason, Vice President, LWV of Hawaii
Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB 2437 which would make an emergency appropriation of \$1,725,000 to fund the voting system contract for the 2012 elections, and keep the State of Hawaii in compliance with its obligations under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-252).

Making democracy work in Hawaii requires that we maintain adequate voting system standards. It is critical that voters have confidence in our voting systems, and we heartily endorse all reasonable efforts the Office of Elections can take to safeguard Hawaii's voting systems.

The Federal "Help America Vote" financing has been an invaluable source of money to maintain, secure and modernize our voting system, and Hawaii should continue to meet the level of expenditures required for the Act's "maintenance of funding" requirement.

The League of Women Voters urges that this appropriation be made as soon as possible, so that the Office of Elections has an operating budget sufficient time and money resources to carry out the 2012 elections in a reliable and cost-effective manner.