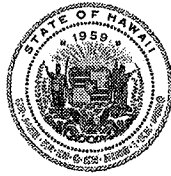


SB2699



**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 JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2699
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

February 7, 2012

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2699. The purpose of this bill is to provide for an emergency appropriation to fund the voting system contract for 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 \$1,725,000 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 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 Senate Bill No. 2699.

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
LĪHUʻE, KAUAʻI, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF
RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAʻI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2699
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 7, 2012

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2699. 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 Senate Bill No. 2699.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk