



SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1027
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 14, 2013

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1027. The purpose of this bill is to require absentee voters to affirm by signature that the ballot was completed in secrecy and without influence by others. This includes prohibiting employers, unions, and candidates or their agents from assisting voters with completing absentee ballots.

The Office of Elections provides the following information for the committee's consideration.

The Voter Assistance Provision of the Voting Rights Act provides that "[a]ny voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union." 42 USC § 1973aa-6. The statute does not appear on its face to be limited to voting in polling places and as such would appear to apply absentee mail voting.

Additionally, our state law mirrors federal law in providing, in part, that "[a]ny voter who requires assistance to vote may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or agent of the voter's union, or the voter may receive the assistance of two precinct officials who are not of the same political party." HRS § 11-139.

The present bill appears to attempt to mirror the provisions of HRS § 11-139 regarding voting in the polling place, in the context of absentee voting and elections by mail. Additionally, it adds the category of candidates and their

Testimony for H.B. No. 1027
February 14, 2013
Page 3

agents to the list of individuals who cannot provide assistance to the voter. Finally, it provides that those who violate the statute will be deemed guilty of an election fraud, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

We would defer to the Department of the Attorney General as to whether the inclusion of the category of "a candidate of any office" or their "agent" conflicts or is consistent with federal law, and as to whether they believe any amendments are necessary to facilitate the ability to enforce the provisions of this bill should it become law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1027.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawai'i**

February 14, 2013

RE: H.B. 1027; RELATING TO JURY SELECTION.

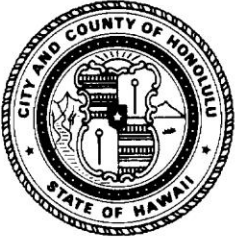
Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 1027.

The purpose of H.B. 1027 is to:

1. Require absentee voters to affirm by signature that the ballot was completed in secrecy and without influence from others.
2. Require absentee ballots to include information regarding election fraud, voter fraud, and related penalties.
3. Prohibit employers, unions, and candidates or their agents from assisting voters with completing absentee ballots.
4. Subject special elections by mail to the same requirements as for absentee ballots.

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu discourages employers, unions, and candidates or their agents from assisting voters with completing absentee ballots. Such actions violate a citizen's right to vote on how he or she wishes, and could influence the outcome of an election.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports H.B. 1027. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



BERNICE K.N. MAU
City Clerk

ELECTIONS

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3099
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3800 • FAX: (808) 768-3835

Testimony on HB1481 Relating to Elections.

House Committee on Judiciary
February 14, 2013
2:00 p.m., Rm. 325

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the City Clerk has comments on HB1027 and believes that due to the growing popularity of voting by mail, some form of guidance should be enacted for addressing voter assistance that is provided to absentee mail voters.

This bill attempts to address this issue by adding candidates to the category of persons that is prohibited from providing voter assistance. Currently, federal law allows voters to receive assistance from anyone with the exception of their employer, agent of the employer, or union agent. If a similar provision is created in state law, we recommend that it track the language contained in 42 USC 1973aa-6.

Additionally, this measure requires the inclusion of a statement within the vote by mail affirmation that the voter indicate that s/he has not been unduly influenced in casting the vote. Federal law requires a substantially similar statement for military and overseas absentee voters and creating one for regular absentee voters would also presumably educate that person of their right to vote a secret absentee ballot.

We also recommend that provisions in this bill be amended require the retention of absentee voting envelopes for twenty-two (22) months (instead of 48 months) pursuant to the federal Civil Rights Act (which is similar for all election records). Additionally, we recommend that those absentee voting envelopes be maintained by the State Office of Elections since custody of the absentee voting envelopes is transferred to them prior to the election.

Finally, while the Office of the City Clerk would cooperate with any law enforcement agency tasked with investigating infractions, we believe that we are not the appropriate agency for receiving any alleged complaints concerning the prohibited activities. If the measure is to be effective, a mechanism for receiving complaints for this newly created felony offense may be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

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, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1027
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 14, 2013

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1027. The purpose of this bill is to require absentee voters to affirm by signature that the ballot was completed in secrecy and without influence from others; requires absentee ballots to include information regarding election fraud, voter fraud, and related penalties; prohibits employers, unions, and candidates or their agents from assisting voters with completing absentee ballots; and subjects special elections by mail to the same requirements as for absentee ballots.

Our office takes no position on the Bill but wishes to offer comments concerning various provisions and their impact to our office and operations.

It will be a challenge to implement provisions requiring absentee ballots to include information regarding election and voter fraud, and related penalties since we would be limited to printing this and related information on only one side of the ballot return envelope.

Provisions requiring the County Clerks to secure and store all ballot return envelopes for two General Elections (48 months) exceeds federal requirements in 42 USC § 1974, which specify a twenty-two month retention period. The increased retention period and the ever increasing numbers of absentee mail voters will eventually create logistical issues for the Counties.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1027.

RICKY R. WATANABE
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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1027
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 14, 2013

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No. 1027. The purpose of this measure is to require absentee voters to affirm by signature that their ballot was completed in secrecy and without influence from others; requires absentee ballots to include information regarding election fraud, voter fraud, and related penalties; prohibits employers, unions, and candidates or their agents from assisting voters with completing absentee ballots; extends the retention period for ballot envelopes; and subjects special elections by mail to the same requirements as absentee ballots.

The Office of the County Clerk (Clerk's Office), County of Maui, provides the following information for the consideration of the committee.

The requirements of House Bill No. 1027, will increase the cost of administering elections.

The insertion of an affirmation and "materials summarizing the provisions in sections 19-3, 19-3.5, 19-4, and 19-6" into the absentee envelope will increase the amount of postage required to mail out the ballots and, in our view, distract voters from the actual ballot/voting process.

Presently, pursuant to federal law, ballot envelopes are retained for a period of twenty-two months from the date of any general, special, or primary election. 42 USC § 1974. Retaining the absentee envelopes for two general elections will take up scarce warehouse storage space.

With respect to voters needing assistance to vote, Hawaii law is already consistent with federal law by allowing the voter needing assistance to designate a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or agent of the voter's union, or the voter may receive assistance at the polling place by two precinct officials of different parties. HRS § 11-139.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No. 1027.



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 14, 2013, 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

HB1027, Relating to Elections

TESTIMONY

Marian Wilkins, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Name/Names, Vice-Chair Name or Names, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports the intent of HB1027, and suggests two amendments to the bill. This measure adds additional safeguards to preserve the integrity of the ballot used in absentee voting and elections by mail, to insure fairness to all voters, and to minimize the opportunity for fraud. It is the League of Women Voters of Hawaii's strong recommendation that our State move to more modern elections administration by 2016, adopting a vote-by-mail program statewide, which makes the precautions described in this measure especially timely. But since many voters in Hawaii are already using absentee ballots, we support the July 1, 2013 effective date for implementation of this bill.

We think the proposed provision requiring absentee voters to affirm by signature that the ballot was completed in secrecy and without influence from others may be confusing or restrictive enough to discourage voting, and think this idea should be dropped from the bill.

The bill also prohibits employers, unions, and candidates or their agents from assisting voters with completing absentee ballots. While it may not be a good thing for these intermediaries to assist voters in completing a ballot, we think the bill should be amended to make the prohibition broader, to include



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

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anyone whom the voter has not freely chosen to assist them. We suggest a more inclusive statement for section (b) of the bill: **“Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting is subject to a fine.”**¹

The second amendment we propose is that voters be informed of the ballot secrecy laws, by requiring that **this same statement be printed on each absentee ballot**. The reason for printing it on the ballot is so everyone knows about the law and can refer to it if necessary.

We concur with the penalties for violation of Section 15-b (illegally assisting voters in completing an absentee ballot). We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

¹ The proposed wording is found in **Oregon Election Laws: Chapter 253; 254.471 (5) p. 118, 2011 edition, together with a definition of the phrase “unduly influence.”**



House Judiciary Committee
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Sharon Har

Thursday 02/14/13 at 02:00PM in Room 325
HB1027– Relating to Elections

TESTIMONY
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1027. This bill would establish several precautionary measures to help deter voter fraud and voter coercion, such as: requiring absentee voters to affirm by signature that the ballot was completed in secrecy and without influence from others; requiring absentee ballots to include information on election and voter fraud, and related penalties; prohibiting employers, unions, and candidates from assisting voters with completing absentee ballots.

In light of the Governor’s intent to move Hawaii to an all-mail voting system, we must ensure that further measures are taken to not only prevent voter fraud, but that unknowing citizens are aware of what voter fraud entails, and what its penalties are.

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1027, but has the following suggestions:

- **Section 1:** We suggest the *addition* of: (4) a member of a noncandidate committee, or a member of a political candidate’s campaign during the current election cycle

Currently, Section 1 lists three types of persons who should not assist a voter in completing her/his absentee ballot.

While the HB1027’S proposed Section 1 includes the “and their agents,” we believe that language is not strong enough to specifically indicate that members of a political candidate’s campaign committee should not be assisting should not be assisting a voter in completing an absentee ballot.

- **Section 3:** We suggest *eliminating* the first proposed line in Section 3 from the bill (which would require voters to affirm by signature that the ballot was completed in secrecy and without influence from others). *We feel that the proposed provision is confusing and unnecessary.*
- **Section 3:** We recommend that the second proposed line (which proposes the inclusion of information regarding election fraud, voter fraud, and related penalties) *be made available in multiple foreign language translations* consistent with the other languages for which elections materials are printed in.

Voter intimidation and coercion can happen both in in-person polling places as well as in vote-by-mail. It is up to us, and the Legislature, to ensure that we address this, and establish precautionary measures to prevent and minimize voter coercion in future elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1027.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1027, Relating to Elections

House Committee on Judiciary
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 14, 2013, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Rhoads and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of HB 269, relating to elections.

Sometimes, elections foster unintended consequences, highlighting discrepancies in our electoral law that we may not know exist. Such was the case in 2012, when a hotly contested race for the District 30 House seat, waged between Nicole Velasco and Romy Cachola, became the subject of post-election controversy amidst concerns of voter intimidation. Cachola, who won the race by 120 votes (51 percent to 46 percent), relied more heavily on nail-in absentee voting than any other primary candidate running for public office, earning over 70 percent of his vote total through mail-in votes (mostly from one precinct, 30-02). According to at least one family living in the district, Cachola pressured an elderly woman to cast her ballot in his favor. In a Civil Beat story entitled "Concerns of voter intimidation raised in Cachola victory, published on August 16, 2012, reporter Chad Blair wrote:

The grandmother said she received her ballot on July 28. The next afternoon, Cachola visited the home when the grandmother was with the friend of a family member who did not speak Ilokano, and didn't understand what Cachola and the grandmother were talking about.

The grandmother said Cachola just kind of barged in.

"He was already in the house, saying, 'Nana, did you receive the ballot?'" she told Civil Beat in English. "I was getting ready to leave to go to a party, but he would not leave. 'No, Nana, two minutes, sit down with me.'"

"He forced me to sit down," she said. "He said, 'Did you receive your ballot?' Yes. 'Where is it?' So I took it and opened it. He then said, 'Two minutes, you can do it now.' He would not go until I finished."

The woman handed the ballot to Cachola, who opened it.

"And he just like forced me to do the voting in front of him, and I did not want to. I told him, 'I have to go, I know what to do.' So I stopped what I did, then he looked at his name. I scratched it, and he watched me do it all the way until I finished."

The woman said Cachola then told her to put the ballot in the state Elections Office envelope, to seal it and then give it to him to mail. He then left the house with the ballot in hand.

We don't wish to cast aspersions on any representative or their campaign for public office. To be clear, Cachola has never been found guilty of election fraud and we are not accusing him of that in our testimony, suggestive as Civil Beat's story may be. Instead, we feel that the questions raised with regard to District 30 electioneering evince a need to clarify state law about what constitutes voter intimidation and/or election fraud, thereby preventing these activities from tainting future campaigns and empowering election and law enforcement officials with the legal tools necessary to prosecute those who would corrupt our system of governance.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Anna Koseki. I am in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027,
relating to Elections.

We need to make sure that absentee ballots are respected and to
keep our elections safe from fraud.

Sincerely,

Anna Koseki

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jerald Eubank and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerald Eubank", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aloha,

My name is Jeri Velasco and I am in support of House Bill 1027. I would be there in person but leaving on a trip.

Please support this Bill, we would like to see Absentee Ballots respectfully and honestly utilized in the Election voting process.

I know of problems using this method of voting and would like to see those problems end. We need to help voters not feel intimidated with candidates who may pressure them into giving them their ballots and to vote for them.

Mahalo for your time,

Jeri Velasco

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Ellis and I support HB1027.

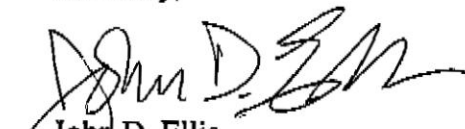
As a voter and concerned citizen, I am fervent in my belief that the voting process needs to be accurate and above reproach. Sadly, we have recently witnessed distressful practices that lend perceptions of unfavorable practices, which can erode the confidence in our voting processes.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,



John D. Ellis
One Coelho Way E
Honolulu, HI 96817

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 2:21 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: write.to.kathleenlee@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1027 on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM

HB1027

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections House Committee on Judiciary
DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013 TO:Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary RE:Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325 Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair
Har, and Members of the Committee: My name is Kathleen Lee, and I am in strong support of
HB1027. With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger
internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real
issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud. If we are to believe that the election process is worth
having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now. Thank you for allowing
me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027. Sincerely, Kathleen Lee

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kristen Butac and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Kristen Butac

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Megan Muramatsu and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Megan Muramatsu

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Omet Ewoterai and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Omet Ewoterai

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stacy Takekawa and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Stacy Takekawa

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 9:55 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Tigerlilyhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1027 on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM*

HB1027

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Eubank	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 7:48 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: 90f81446@opayq.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1027 on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM*

HB1027

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bennett Guira and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Bennett Guira

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christine Kan, and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Christine Kan

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Flora Wu and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Flora Wu

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcher Thompson and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Marcher Thompson

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maya Ross and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

In working in these last primaries, I have experienced firsthand the need to safeguard our democracy. While I might not live in District 30, my commitment in ensuring this district is fairly represented is real. In fact, watching the primaries unfold in District 30 has motivated me to invest in a home there. I am committed to helping the community as best as I can, and this testimony is just the beginning.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Maya Ross

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Yvette Butac and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Yvette Butac

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Geoff Jones and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Geoff Jones, Concerned Citizen and Voter

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew Pizza and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Matthew Pizza

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Pualena Pakele and Cabot and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Pualena Pakele and Cabot

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Imelda Ulangca and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Imelda Ulangca

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shaan Hathiramani and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Shaan Hathiramani

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tiffany Aoyama and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Aoyama

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 1:59 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: murps123@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB713 on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM

HB713

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devin Madan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: i support the bill

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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AVELINO J. HALAGAO, JR.

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Chris Lee
Rep. Tom Brower Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Rida Cabanilla Rep. Jessica Wooley
Rep. Mele Carroll Rep. Bob McDermott
Rep. Ken Ito Rep. Cynthia Thielen
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is A.J. Halagao. I write in full SUPPORT of HB1027.

At the very core of our democracy is the right to vote. There is nothing more essential than ensuring that each vote counts and that each vote truly represents the intentions of the citizen casting that vote.

Our government goes to great lengths in ensuring that votes casted in-person are done so in privacy. In this same spirit, we must enact legislation that enable mail-in voters to cast their vote without fraud, intimidation and undue influence.

In order to preserve the integrity of our elections, I respectfully request that this committee supports and passes HB1027.

Respectfully,

A.J. Halagao

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Judith Koseki and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Judith G. Koseki

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mishon Kawaguchi and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Mishon Kawaguchi

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynn Koseki and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,
Lynn Koseki

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 1:07 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: coachvelasco@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1027 on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM*

HB1027

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Velasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee: Representatives Belatti, Brower, Cabanilla, Carroll, Ito, Kawakami, Lee, Tsuji, Wooley, McDermott and Thielen

IN SUPPORT OF HB1027

I have a talk show on 'Olēlo. I devoted much of 2012 encouraging new people to run for elective office. A appeared as a guest on my show. In the primary, A narrowly lost. Before sending a comforting and encouraging e-mail, I decided to review and analyze the election results in detail. Here's what I found:

A Votes	B Votes	Precinct #1	A % Votes	B % Votes
232	126	Voted at Polling Place	64.80%	35.20%
20	8	Walk-in	71.43%	28.57%
154	153	Mail	50.16%	49.84%
Precinct #2				
167	143	Voted at Polling Place	53.87%	46.13%
25	20	Walk-in	55.56%	44.44%
243	685	Mail	26.19%	73.81%
Precinct #3				
7	1	Voted at Polling Place	87.50%	12.50%
1	0	Walk-in	100.00%	0.00%
7	1	Mail	87.50%	12.50%
Precinct #4				
147	61	Voted at Polling Place	70.67%	29.33%
11	4	Walk-in	73.33%	26.67%
102	34	Mail	75.00%	25.00%
1116	1236	Total	68.00%	32.00%
873	551	Without #2 Mail	71.80%	28.20%

The results were consistently in favor of A, except one reporting district - Precinct #2 Mail. If you removed Precinct #2 Mail, A would have won (approximately 70%-30%). In fact, the mail-in ballots for Precinct #2 were roughly the same percentage as the other reporting districts - only reversed. My initial thought was, "The totals must have been posted incorrectly." I notified A that there might be a posting error.

Her response caused me to dig further. I found: 1) it was common knowledge of a longstanding practice that B "assisted" senior voters in completing mail-in ballots; 2) this district included many immigrants; 3) these immigrants came from a part of the world where to report election irregularities could cost you your life; 4) voters were hesitant to come forward.

On behalf, not only of aspiring candidates, but all immigrant voters, please pass this bill. It is crucial to our form of government that elections are open and fair. Therefore, it is imperative that the legislature respond swiftly when abuse is uncovered.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq.

Testimony in Support of HB1027, Relating to Elections
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Wednesday, Friday 13, 2013

TO: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1027, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Furuta and I support HB1027.

With the Governor's request to move to an all-mail voting system, we must build stronger internal controls to safeguard our democracy. HB1027 begins to address the historical and very real issues of voter intimidation and voter fraud.

If we are to believe that the election process is worth having, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to protect that process now.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB1027.

Sincerely,

Justin Furuta

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 7:31 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: tracey@warmlava.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1027 on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM*

HB1027

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 14, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracey M Kamehiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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