



**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 FINANCE
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 178
URGING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF
EARLY WALK-IN VOTING LOCATIONS

April 2, 2014

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 178. The purpose of this resolution is to urge the Office of Elections to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations, also referred to as absentee polling places.

As established by state law, the Office of Elections is responsible for election day services, which includes the administration of polling places, counting of ballots, and election results. Voter Registration and absentee voting are under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the various City/County Clerks. More specifically as it relates to this resolution, section 15-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states "absentee polling places shall be established at the office of the respective clerk and may be established at such other sites as may be designated by the clerk."

Given this, any request to increase the number of absentee polling places or to propose particular locations would be more appropriately directed to the various City/County Clerks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 178.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
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STANLEY CHANG

Councilmember – District IV

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ccldistrict4@honolulu.gov

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April 1, 2014

TESTIMONY OF STANLEY CHANG
CONCILMEMBER FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

On

H.C.R. 178/H.R. No. 136, URGING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF EARLY WALK-IN VOTING LOCATIONS

Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

3:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of H.C.R. 178/H.R. 136 Urging the Office of Elections to Increase the Number of Early Walk-In Voting Locations in my capacity as Councilmember of the City and County of Honolulu.

Hawaii is unique as it one of the few states, if not the only state, to make Election Day a state holiday; which encourages residents to engage in their civic duty. Unfortunately, poll numbers indicate that many residents are not turning out to vote. In fact, according to the United States Elections Project, only 44.5% of eligible Hawaii citizens turned out to vote in 2012.

H.C.R. 178/H.R. 136 would encourage the Office of Elections to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations. If the Office of Elections did comply with this request, the time frame in which people are able to vote during elections would be extended greatly. With such a variety of demanding work and family schedules, people often find it difficult to make adjustments in their daily plans, even when it comes to voting. By increasing the number of early voting locations in different areas around the island, many citizens will more easily be able to make time to vote.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your favorable passage of H.C.R. 178/H.R. 136 Urging the Office of Elections to Increase the Number of Early Walk-In Voting Locations, and thank the Committee for allowing me to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy", is written below the word "Sincerely,".



STANLEY CHANG

Councilmember – District IV

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CITY COUNCIL

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Stanley Chang

Councilmember, District IV



April 2, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Finance Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HCR 178 / HR 136 – URGING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EARLY WALK-IN VOTING LOCATIONS

The Maui County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has not taken an official position on this matter and therefore, I am testifying in my individual capacity as a member of the Party. The Maui County Committee however, has always supported greater access to voting. Therefore, I am **writing to express my strong support** for HCR 178 / HR 136 – Urging the Office of Elections to Increase the Number of Early Walk-in Voting Locations.

Hawaii is unique as it one of the few states, if not the only state, to make Election Day a state holiday. This encourages residents to engage in their civic duty. Unfortunately, poll numbers indicate that many residents are not turning out to vote. In fact, according to the United States Elections Project, only 44.5% of eligible Hawaii citizens turned out to vote in 2012.

HCR 178 / HR 136 would encourage the Office of Elections to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations. If the Office of Elections did comply with this request, the time frame in which people are able to vote during elections would be extended greatly. With such a variety of demanding work and family schedules, people often find it difficult to make adjustments in their daily plans, even when it comes to voting. Understanding this concern, the Maui County Council also recently unanimously passed a similar resolution, which is attached and encourages expanding early voting locations throughout Maui County.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Troy Hashimoto, Chair
Maui County Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Resolution

No. 14-34

URGING THE COUNTY CLERK TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EARLY WALK-IN VOTING LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, the right to vote is critical in upholding a vibrant democracy, and voting should be supported as much as reasonably possible; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012 general election, only 44.5 per cent of eligible Hawaii citizens turned out to vote, which was the lowest voter turnout in the nation, according to the United States Elections Project; and

WHEREAS, turnout among Maui County voters was even lower than the State average; and

WHEREAS, improving the ease and convenience of voting may increase participation; and

WHEREAS, according to the State Office of Elections, approximately 36.9 per cent of all ballots cast in the County of Maui in the 2012 general election were cast by absentee voting, which includes early walk-in voting; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012 election, the Kalana O Maui Building on Maui and the Mitchell Pauole Center on Molokai were the only locations for early walk-in voting for both the primary and general elections; and

WHEREAS, voting should be encouraged, whether through election-day voting, absentee mail-in voting, or early walk-in voting; and

WHEREAS, the County should support access to voting by offering a greater number of early-voting sites at convenient locations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby urges the County Clerk to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Clerk and the Chief Election Officer, Office of Elections, State of Hawaii.

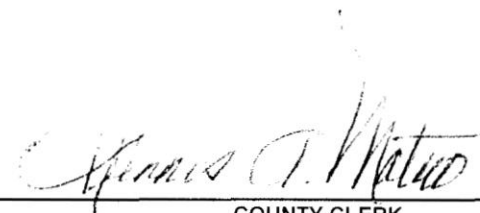
COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is **HEREBY CERTIFIED** that **RESOLUTION NO. 14-34** was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 11th day of March, 2014, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Gladys C. BAISA	Robert CARROLL	Eleanora COCHRAN	Donald G. COUCH, JR.	S. Stacy CRIVELLO	Donald S. GUZMAN	G. Riki HOKAMA	Michael P. VICTORINO	Michael B. WHITE
ROLL CALL	Excused	Excused	Aye	Aye	Excused	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye



COUNTY CLERK

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HCR 178 / HR 136 – Urging the Office of Elections to Increase the Number of Early Walk-In Voting Locations

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for HCR 178 / HR 136 – Urging the Office of Elections to Increase the Number of Early Walk-In Voting Locations.

Hawaii is unique as it one of the few states, if not the only state, to make Election Day a state holiday; which encourages residents to engage in their civic duty. Unfortunately, poll numbers indicate that many residents are not turning out to vote. In fact, according to the United States Elections Project, only 44.5% of eligible Hawaii citizens turned out to vote in 2012.

HCR 178 / HR 136 would encourage the Office of Elections to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations. If the Office of Elections did comply with this request, the time frame in which people are able to vote during elections would be extended greatly. With such a variety of demanding work and family schedules, people often find it difficult to make adjustments in their daily plans, even when it comes to voting. By increasing the number of early voting locations in different areas around the island, many citizens will more easily be able to make time to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kyle Okamura
1531 Alencastre St.
Honolulu, HI 96816
kokamura8@hotmail.com



ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i

YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

LATE

Testimony Submitted Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
April 2, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

by

Richard Mizusawa, President
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
101st Senate

URGING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EARLY WALK-IN VOTING LOCATIONS

Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Richard Mizusawa and I serve as President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (ASUH), the undergraduate student government representing over 14,000+ full-time, classified undergraduates at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I submit testimony in support of HCR 178 / HR 136, which urges the Office of Elections to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations.

Currently, poll numbers indicate that many residents are not turning out to vote. According to the United States Elections Project, only 44.5% of eligible Hawai'i citizens turned out to vote in 2012. HCR 178 / HR 136 would encourage the Office of Elections to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations. If the Office of Elections did comply with this request, the time frame which people are able to vote in this year's elections would be extended greatly, and the number of voters would be significant because of the increased accessibility to vote outside of the actual Election Day. Although Election Day is a state holiday, sometimes it is difficult for people to adjust their schedules to come in to vote. As a response, I think it would be great to allow for more opportunities to participate in this process by allowing more early walk-in voting opportunities for the people of Hawai'i.

Additionally, it would be great to encourage more youth in Hawai'i to vote, and I would support additional voting locations to be held at University of Hawai'i campuses. Although not specified in the Resolution, this would be a great location to consider allowing for students of the University of Hawai'i to both learn about the elections as well as have the opportunity to vote somewhere that is convenient for them.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my testimony and for your support and leadership in ensuring you each play a role in increasing voter participation in our state. Should you have any questions about my testimony, please feel free to contact me at rmizusaw@hawaii.edu.

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

RE: HCR 178 / HR 136 – Urging the Office of Elections to Increase the Number of Early Walk-In Voting Locations

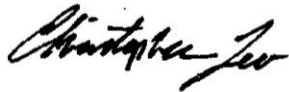
Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for HCR 178 / HR 136 – Urging the Office of Elections to Increase the Number of Early Walk-In Voting Locations.

HCR 178 / HR 136 would encourage the Office of Elections to increase the number of early walk-in voting locations. If the Office of Elections did comply with this request, the time frame in which people are able to vote during elections would be extended greatly. With such a variety of demanding work and family schedules, people often find it difficult to make adjustments in their daily plans, even when it comes to voting. By increasing the number of early voting locations in different areas around the island, many citizens will more easily be able to make time to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SINCERELY,



Christopher Loo
Director Corporate Finance, DFY Capital, LLC
Vice President, Honolulu Chinese Jaycees
Vice President, Asian American Jaycees
Vice President, US China People's Friendship Association