

hee2 - Kathleen

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 7:46 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** matt\_lopresti@yahoo.com  
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## **SB225**

Submitted on: 2/26/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew LoPresti	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill. State law is unbelievably weak when it comes to requirements that someone actually be a member of a community they are looking to represent. The very foundation of civic engagement and democratically elected officials is premised upon the assumption that the people who stand for election actually live in and are members of the community themselves. It has been a long-standing and deeply unethical and self-serving practice in this state for people with political ambitions to lie about where they live just in an attempt to get elected. Such practices disenfranchise voters and undermine our entire democratic system of government. Even when voter residency is challenged and it is obvious that a person has a huge expensive home somewhere outside a district but rents out a tiny apartment or claims to live with a family of five in an already over-crowded home just to claim "residency" the current law is so weak that the city clerks office has little power or authority to rule them ineligible to run for just about any seat they like in any district they like -which is in direct contradiction of the spirit of the law meant to curb such carpetbagging practices. Please pass this bill without delay, the integrity of our local government depends upon it.

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