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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: JDLTestimony
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB478 on Feb 26, 2013 10:00AM

SB478

Submitted on: 2/26/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 is not a permanent resident of a community the current law is so weak that the city clerks office has little power or ability to rule someone is 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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