

RICKY R. WATANABE
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ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
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LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON SENATE BILL NO. 854
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 8, 2013

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill No. 854. This bill would require the Office of Elections to implement a program allowing voters to register to vote on Election Day and to vote by mail for all elections beginning in 2016.

We take no position on the Bill but offer some thoughts on proposed provisions and their impacts to our office and operations.

As the counties are statutorily responsible for absentee mail voting, we wish to note that establishing a vote-by-mail (VBM) process will not be as simple as it would appear. Identifying and implementing an efficient, expeditious, and cost-effective process for handling the huge volume of outgoing and incoming mail-pieces will be a challenge which will require a complete overhaul of our current operations. We are also concerned about the limited in-state resources capable of supporting a project the scope of a statewide VBM operation.

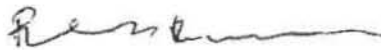
Election Day registration (EDR) could be just as, if not more, challenging than establishing VBM. To simply allow someone to register and vote on the same day is easy, the real issue is to ensure that the established process is not overly burdensome for voters and poll workers, yet is sound enough to ensure that the overall voting process is not compromised.

We are also concerned with the additional burden being placed on poll workers. Though the EDR process for most voters will be fairly straightforward, situations involving questionable voter residency and related issues frequently occur, and are sometimes quite difficult to resolve. Since poll workers are essentially volunteers, we do not believe they should be handling such complex and potentially contentious issues.

Senate Bill No. 854
Testimony of Ricky R. Watanabe
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Ideally, we would prefer to concentrate all effort and resources on transitioning solely to a VBM operation but understand the desire to maximize voter participation by allowing last-minute registrants to cast a ballot.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill No. 854.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky R. Watanabe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

ON SENATE BILL NO. 854

RELATING TO ELECTIONS

FEBRUARY 8, 2013

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill No. 854. The purpose of this bill is to implement a program to allow voters to register to vote on election day and to vote by mail for all elections beginning in 2016.

The Office of the County Clerk (Clerk's Office), County of Maui, understands that this is a policy matter for the Legislature. However, the Clerk's Office respectfully questions whether the appropriation of \$250,000 in fiscal year 2013-2014 and fiscal year 2014-2015 will be sufficient to hire personnel and acquire the processing space and processing equipment necessary to implement vote by mail statewide for all elections beginning in 2016. At a minimum, an automated electronic ballot processing and counting system must be acquired. Every effort must be made to minimize human handling of voting materials. Human handling of voting materials, if allowed to occur, will undoubtedly result in human error and longer processing time requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill No. 854.



P.O. Box 3141
Honolulu, HI 96802
Feb. 8, 2013

Sen. Clayton Hee
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI

Re: Senate Bill 465

Sen. Hee and Committee Members:

I am Stirling Morita, president of the Hawaii chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. I am testifying in opposition to this measure popularly dubbed the "Paparazzi bill." It should be called "Anybody with a Camera bill."

SB 465 would affect far more people than just paparazzi – from conventional TV and print photographers to a tourist taking pictures with a cell phone.

This bill is overly broad and vague, and most likely unconstitutional. What are the definitions of the following terms: offensive to a reasonable person, personal and familial activities, reasonable expectation of privacy? What is offensive to one person may not be offensive to another; what is personal to one person may not be personal to another.

Would a celebrity playing with his family on a public beach be able to sue? Or a celebrity walking nude on a public sidewalk?

This bill sets up a constructive invasion of privacy for an image taken anyplace, any time in Hawaii.

The conventional media oppose this measure, not because they want to intrude on a celebrity's privacy. They oppose it because the measure might give a photographer pause before shooting a photo and lose the shot that would tell the story or capture everyone's interest. One moment the photo is there, a moment later the photo is gone.

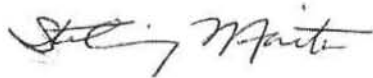
Or it will expose publications and other outlets to unneeded lawsuits.

Current state criminal and civil laws already provide a course of action for invasion of privacy, trespass and harassment. We firmly believe this bill is not needed.

If you are inclined to move this bill, we ask that you remove the preamble. It is sad to see a bill saying that people's First Amendment rights should be given away so more celebrities would want to buy homes on Maui.

Before you say yes to this bill, please keep in mind it could affect you the next time you take a photo with your cell phone or home camera.

Thank you for your time and attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stirling Morita". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stirling Morita

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 7:30 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc: bwseaton99@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB854 on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM

SB854

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
william seaton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Election day is for voting not a day to register to vote. There is enough going on at the polls that day. The election board was so incompetent at the last election they couldn't even figure out who could be poll watchers. VOTE BY MAIL????? YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. SOUNDS LIKE A OPEN DOOR POLICY FOR MORE VOTER FRAUD

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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hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 10:48 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Mack127osu@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB854 on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM*

SB854

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 9:39 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: rondavis@prettyrocks.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB854 on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM*

SB854

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Davis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 10:21 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB854 on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM*

SB854

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 8, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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