



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1474, HD 2
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 23, 2016

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1474, HD 2. The purpose of this bill is to encourage election day official recruitment by recognizing private employers who permit their employees to be absent with pay to work as election day workers, and those employees who serve as election day officials.

The Office of Elections and the County Clerks recruit over 4,600 volunteers for each election to service over 230 polling places, 4 counting centers and control centers, and over 100 delivery/collection teams. Our elections could not function without the dedication and assistance that these volunteers provide. This measure provides an additional incentive for private employers and their employees to support our elections.

We would ask that the bill remove any reference to polling places to allow employers, as well as employees, the designation of "kiwila pono" or "champion of democracy" for volunteering as any type of election day official. Additionally, we believe the bill should clarify that the employer "will allow" as opposed to "has allowed" employees to be election day workers if the designation is meant to be permitted in advance of an election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1474, HD 2.