



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2736, HD 2
RELATING TO BALLOTS

February 25, 2016

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2736, HD 2. The purpose of this bill is to require a Hawaiian language ballot to be available upon request by a voter.

Our current voting system cannot provide an electronic ballot in Hawaiian at this time. Specifically, the Hawaiian language has not been federally certified for use on our electronic voting machines. The inability to provide access to all authorized ballots on our electronic voting machines may run afoul of the Help America Vote Act. For example, if a voter without a disability has a right to vote on a Hawaiian ballot, then not providing a voter with a disability the ability to vote on a Hawaiian ballot would put us in violation of the law.

In order to accommodate a Hawaiian language ballot as required by this bill, the voting system vendor would need to reprogram the system, and an independent testing authority would need to certify the voting system for this purpose. As to how much it would cost for these changes, we are unable to determine how much our vendor would charge, if it is capable of making these changes with the present system. Given that our current contract with our voting system vendor expires on December 31, 2020 and the current bill applies to all elections after January 1, 2021, we plan to incorporate the requirement for any new voting system to be able to support Hawaiian language on paper and electronic ballots.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2736, HD 2.



House Finance Committee
Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto

Thursday 02/25/2016 at 3:00 PM in Room 308
HB 2736 – Relating to Ballots

TESTIMONY
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Finance Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 2736 which would require that Hawaiian language ballots be made available in each election, as requested by the voter.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting HB 2736**.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2736 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2736

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an initial step, the approach by HD2 is reasonable and the bill supports the second language recognized by this state.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kahiwal@cs.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2736 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2736

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clarence Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: While other languages are printed that aren't official "state" languages - it seems that ballots should be printed automatically in the official "state" languages.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stephmanera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2736 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2736

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Manera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaulanad@ymail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2736 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2736

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 25, 2016

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 2736, HD2 Relating to Ballots**

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Nishimoto a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahī Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

House Bill 2736, HD2, relating to ballots, requires that Hawaiian language ballots be made available in each election upon voter request.

Driven by the third goal of our strategic plan for 2015-2020, which guides our educational institution to cultivate a strong Native Hawaiian identity to instill confidence and resiliency in learners, Kamehameha Schools stands in **support** of HB 2736, HD2. We prefer the original version of this measure which would have required that ballots be published in both Hawaiian and English language.

Native Hawaiians have a rich, oral culture that also embraced the written and printed word. We recognize however, that the 'ōlelo makuahine o Hawai'i, or Hawaiian language remains highly endangered even after decades of dedicated revitalization efforts and an ever-growing population of Hawaiian language speakers. Kamehameha Schools strongly supports measures that promote Hawaiian language.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian learners. We believe that by continuing to engage in dialog around Hawaiian language policies and proposals, we can contribute in a positive and meaningful way. **Please advance this measure.**
Mahalo nui.