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TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI  
CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2117  
RELATING TO ABSENTEE BALLOTS

LATE TESTIMONY

January 29, 2016

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2117. The purpose of this bill is to allow the electronic transmission of absentee ballots within 5 days of an election.

As the number of absentee mail voters continue to rise, so does the potential need to replace a voter's ballot for reasons of spoilage, postal non-delivery, etc. This bill would authorize the electronic delivery of replacement ballots during the final week prior to the election and allow the option to return a voted ballot electronically (e.g. as an email attachment).

In 2014, the Office of the City Clerk's Elections Division partnered with the Hawaii Information Consortium to create a secure web-based ballot delivery system for use by overseas voters in 2014 (see attached screenshots). The system was launched for the first time in the last General Election in anticipation that the 2016 presidential election will be accompanied by an increase in requests originating from military voters and expatriates overseas that face unique challenges with postal delivery.

The City's online delivery system notifies the voter by email when ballots are ready for retrieval. The email contains a link to his or her personalized voting documents that include:

- A personalized waiver of secrecy/affirmation statement;
- The correct precinct ballot for that voter; and
- Additional voting instructions as necessary.

The voter is responsible for printing the documents and either mailing or faxing the completed documents to election officials by the close of polls on election day.

Allowing replacement ballots by electronic delivery to an additional category of voter would require some programming modifications but is otherwise possible if this legislation were to be enacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2117.

# Honolulu Online Ballot Delivery System Screen Captures

This screenshot shows the initial page of the Honolulu Online Absentee Ballots website. The browser address bar shows the URL [ehawaii.gov](http://ehawaii.gov). The page header includes the text "Online Absentee Ballots" and "Office of the City Clerk, City & County of Honolulu". A large checkmark icon is visible in the top right corner. The main content area features a "Welcome to Honolulu's online ballot website" message, followed by a sub-header: "This service is for Honolulu's military/overseas absentee voters who have requested an absentee ballot." Below this, a form prompts the user to "Enter your Application Number, District, and Precinct to download your Absentee Voter Ballot PDF\*". The form fields are: "Application #", "District" (with the value "42" entered), and "Precinct" (with the value "01" entered). A "Submit" button is located below the form. To the right of the form, a list of contents for the PDF is provided: "1. Waiver (This must be signed and submitted with your ballot for the ballot to be counted.)", "2. Ballot form", and "3. Envelope facsimile for mailing back your Waiver & Ballot". A "Questions?" section follows, with a link to "Frequently Asked Questions" and contact information: "email [clerk@honolulu.gov](mailto:clerk@honolulu.gov) or call (808) 768-3800 on weekdays between 7:45 AM-4:30 PM HST". The footer contains the address "Office of the City Clerk, 530 South King Street, Room 100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813", copyright information "Copyright © 2014. All rights reserved.", and the text "Powered by HLC".

This screenshot shows the same website after the user has submitted the form. The "Submit" button has been replaced by a "Download" button. The form fields now show "Name" (with a text input field), "District" (with the value "42" entered), and "Precinct" (with the value "01" entered). The "Download" button is positioned below these fields. The rest of the page content, including the welcome message, PDF contents list, and footer, remains identical to the first screenshot. The browser address bar still shows [ehawaii.gov](http://ehawaii.gov). The system clock in the bottom right corner of the browser shows "4:40 PM 1/26/2016".

LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2117 on Jan 29, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2016 2:56:37 AM

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**SB2117**

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for JDL on Jan 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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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