



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 364, SD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 27, 2015

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 364, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to require the Office of Elections to conduct recounts for elections decided by less than one thousand votes or one-half of one percent of all votes cast for the office, whichever is less.

While one-half of one percent may be an objective standard to use to permit a request for a recount, we would recommend dropping the alternate standard of less than 1,000 votes, as such an amount could constitute a significant percentage for a typical state representative contest or similar contest. Additionally, in regard to the standard "one-half of one per cent of all votes cast for the office" the term "all votes cast" should be clearly defined either in the statute or the legislative committee reports to reflect that "all votes cast" refers to only the votes cast for individual candidates, as opposed to including blank and over votes, if that is the intent of the legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 364, SD 1.