



**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 JUDICIARY  
ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 38 AND  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50  
URGING AN INCREASE IN THE STIPEND AMOUNTS OF  
ELECTION DAY OFFICIALS

March 21, 2018

Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Resolution 38 and House Concurrent Resolution 50. The purpose of these resolutions is to urge an increase in the stipend amounts of election day officials.

Our elections and the democracy they support depend on the service of more than 4,000 volunteers statewide. These volunteers ensure that the electoral process is secure, accessible, and convenient to all citizens.

In exchange for their time and effort, most precinct officials receive a stipend of \$85.00. This amount has remained unchanged since 2006, when \$96,542 was appropriated by the Legislature, to support a \$10.00 increase. Even with this increase, it equates to a little over \$6.00 an hour, excluding the time they must commit for the mandatory training.

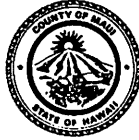
We heavily rely on one's sense of "civic duty" to recruit election day officials. However, election administrators nationwide have continued to see a decline in the sense of "civic duty" and willingness to serve one's community as "volunteers" in the polling place. It is worth mentioning that the stipend for the majority of our election day officials is not why they volunteer. Our volunteers have expressed countless times that our democracy depends on the work they provide and the integrity of the voting process, more than the amount of any

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stipend. One of our precinct officials, who has been volunteering since 1988 expressed, "*I love to just do the work, say hello to my neighbors (who are always saying, 'you're still here!'), close up and go home.*"

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Resolution 38 and House Concurrent Resolution 50.

DANNY A. MATEO  
County Clerk



JOSIAH K. NISHITA  
Deputy County Clerk

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
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TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO  
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50

AND

HOUSE RESOLUTION 38

RELATING TO URGING AN INCREASE IN THE STIPEND AMOUNTS OF  
ELECTION DAY OFFICIALS

MARCH 21, 2018

Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 50 and House Resolution 38. The purpose of this resolution is to urge an increase in the stipend amounts of election day officials.

Election day officials play an extremely important role in our voting process and it is very difficult to recruit the hundreds of workers that are needed to staff the many polling places and other positions necessary to conduct the elections. It is not unusual for election day officials to work more than 12 hours on election day. In addition to their election day responsibilities, they must also attend a mandatory training session to learn about the procedures for their role on election day.

Our office feels strongly that the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 50 and House Resolution 38 is long overdue. We believe that an increase is necessary in order to recruit the necessary election day workers and to ensure that our elections are secure, open, and accessible to all voters. Without the dedication of our election day officials we would not be able to operate using the polling place module of voting because of the many different positions it takes to conduct the elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 50 and House Resolution 38.

**HCR-50**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:31:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/21/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

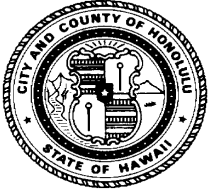
Aloha, all.

These public-spirited volunteers are working a long, hard day for *manini* money. No raise since 2006? It's hard to recruit and retain them? No wonder.

Yes, please, let's give them a raise. It's time.

Thank you.

**LATE**



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI  
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077 TELEPHONE (808) 768-3810

TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI  
CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50 /  
HOUSE RESOLUTION 38  
URGING AN INCREASE IN THE STIPEND AMOUNTS  
OF ELECTION DAY OFFICIALS  
March 21, 2018

Chair Nishimoto and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 50 / House Resolution 38 urging an increase in the stipend amounts of election day officials.

Election day workers are asked to grasp federal and state elections laws, polling place procedures, and to re-familiarize themselves with voting machines they last used two years ago. Despite this, thousands continue to sign up and work on our behalf to ensure our electoral process runs smoothly.

Recognizing that stipends do not adequately compensate for these workers' efforts, they are nevertheless an important expression of our gratitude. As such, the Office of City Clerk supports this effort to consider increasing the stipend for election day workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 50 / HR 38.