



**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.

HR-38

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

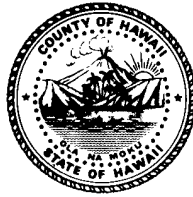
Aloha, all.

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.

STEWART MAEDA
County Clerk



LATE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elections Division
County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

TESTIMONY OF STEWART MAEDA

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 38 AND

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50

URGING AN INCREASE IN THE STIPEND AMOUNT 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 this resolutions is to urge an increase in the stipend amounts of Election Day officials.

Election Day Officials are an essential part of the election process. Each year, we see a decline in individuals willing to volunteer their time and effort to service the community. The County of Hawai'i recruits roughly 700 Election Day Officials to help oversee the election process at approximately 41 polling places around the island. Election Day Officials are asked to attend a training session and commit to an approximate 14 hour work day. They are tasked with many different duties to help make each election a success. The most recent increase in 2006 raised the stipend to \$85.00 which amounts to a little over \$6.00 an hour.

The County of Hawai'i strongly supports an increase in the stipend amount for Election Day Officials.

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

