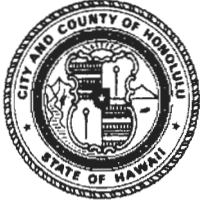


LATE

SB 310

RELATING TO ABSENTEE VOTING

Requires absentee ballots to be mailed not later than the closing of the polls on any election day and to be received by the clerk not later than three days following the closing of the polls on any election day.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

KIMBERLY L. RIBELLIA
Deputy City Clerk

ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3099
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3800 • FAX: (808) 768-3835

TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI
CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON SENATE BILL NO. 310
RELATING TO VOTING
February 2, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 310.

SB310 proposes to amend HRS §15-9 to allow the Clerk to continue to receive absentee mail ballots up to three days after election day, provided the ballot was mailed before the close of polls on election day.

If the intent of this measure is to allow voters to return a mail ballot via the postal service on election day, we recommend that the law make reference to a postmark to ensure that election officials can distinguish which ballots (returned by mail) are acceptable for processing.

We also request that the Legislature provide guidance on how to handle situations where a ballot return envelope may be received within the three-day window, but the postmark is either missing or illegible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB310.