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TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1752
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 3, 2020

Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1752. The purpose of this bill is to reinstate the definition of "precinct" and to amend the definition of "district," so as to facilitate the administration of elections.

The concept of a precinct is integral to the administration of elections and was previously defined as the "smallest political subdivision established by law." HRS § 11-1 (prior to Act 136, SLH 2019). In practice, this involved election administrators accounting for the intersecting boundaries associated with different offices or jurisdictions to establish the precincts that would be used for administrative and reporting purposes.

Each of these precincts would have a unique ballot type containing the contests and questions that voters in these areas were eligible to vote upon. These precincts typically were assigned a polling place at which voters could go to vote on election day. As a result of this, it is understandable how some may equate precinct with polling place.

The term "district" is ambiguous as it could be referring to a general district associated with an office, such as congressional districts, state senatorial district, state representative district, county council district, and so on. Additionally, depending on the context, it could be referring to a district of one or more of these previously mentioned districts, resulting in what was previously called a "precinct."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1752.