

HB-626

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 12:25:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stefani jeremiah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-626

Submitted on: 2/16/2019 8:51:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The current procedure to fill the vacancies is adequate. This proposal will leave residents in the affected geographical area without representation for too long a period of time. That is especially true for U.S. senator, given that the senate meets throughout the year, and it would take months from the time a vacancy occurs until the election is held and certified. There are times when every vote counts in the Senate, especially when it is divided as it has been in recent years. When Sen. Inouye died there was an important vote coming up, and the Senate President urged Governor Abercrombie to fill it immediately, as the vote was needed.

On January 25th the Hawaii Supreme Court invalidated the election for Honolulu Council District IV and ordered a new election. That date is now set for April 13. Two and a half months from today. There are federal, state and county laws that have to be taken into account when setting the date. One of the considerations is sending ballots to military and other registered voters living out of the country. Those ballots will be mailed Feb. 27. Others in late March. You cannot hold an election overnight and disenfranchise residents from representation while you wait to hold the election, count the ballots, and get the results certified. At least the Council has the legal ability to appoint an interim councilmember until that election is held.

These arguments are more important when it comes to legislative vacancies, especially when they occur during the 60 day session. In that instance, the residents could well be without a representative or senator for most or all of the session.

This ramifications of this bill have not be thought out. This bill needs to die now. Please vote no.

Lynne Matusow