

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

**HB 199****RELATING TO ELECTION PROCLAMATIONS.**

Chair NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports, with suggested amendments, HB 199, which (1) amends the content to be included in an election proclamation that is required to be filed not later than 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day prior to the close of filing and (2) specifies that the county clerk, not the chief election officer, shall issue a proclamation on voter service centers and places of deposit.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts and elections reform.

With Hawaii's new vote-by-mail process, signed into law as Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, it is the county clerks who determine the number and location of voter service centers and drop boxes. Hawaii Revised Statutes § 11-102. It is, therefore, reasonable to have the county clerks issue a proclamation listing all voter services and places of deposit as well.

Common Cause Hawaii suggests that HB 199 be amended to provide that the clerk's proclamation, for the benefit of the public, list (1) the days each voter service center and place of deposit are open, with their opening and closing hours of operations and (2) the location of each voter service center and place of deposit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 199 with suggested amendments. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 199  
RELATING TO ELECTION PROCLAMATIONS

February 9, 2021

Chair Nakashima and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 199. This bill amends the content to be included in an election proclamation that is required to be filed not later than 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day prior to the close of filing; and specifies that the county clerk, not the chief election officer, shall issue a proclamation on voter service centers and places of deposit.

Our office supports this bill as it improves the administration of elections by mail by clarifying that the county clerk issues proclamations relating to the voter service centers and places of deposit they have established. This will ensure timely issuance and dissemination of information to voters. For example, in the case of a natural disaster impacting a location or hours of operation at a voter service center or place of deposit, the county clerk should be able to quickly determine their course of action and inform the public rather than coordinate with our office to provide the information.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 199.