



**STATE OF HAWAII  
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TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 160  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 19, 2021

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 160. This bill changes the deadline to file nomination papers for public office from the first Tuesday in June to the first Tuesday in May for certain elections.

In 2010, the date of the primary election was moved from the second to the last Saturday in September to the second Saturday in August. As such, the candidate filing deadline was moved from the "sixtieth calendar day prior" to "the first Tuesday in June," resulting in a similar time frame. The selection of this date was determined to ensure sufficient time to produce ballots to comply with federal law.

While we take no position on moving the date of the candidate filing deadline, we would note that provisions of HRS § 17-1 concerning the filling of vacancies in the United States Senate are tied into the statutory date of the close of candidate filing (i.e., "provided that vacancy occurs not later than 4:30 p.m. on the twenty-first day prior to the date specified in section 12-6 for the close of filing papers for regularly scheduled elections"). HRS § 17-1(a).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 160.

TO: Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 19, 2021

SUBJECT: SB 160 Candidate Registration Deadline - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 160, which would move the deadline for candidate registrations up from the first Tuesday in June to the first Tuesday in May.

I agree this would be a good idea, so that the public has one more month in which to research candidates' backgrounds.

Please vote **“yes”** on SB 160.