



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 134, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 11, 2025

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 134, HD 1. This bill requires the Chief Election Officer to provide a system for the electronic filing of nomination papers.

Our office looks forward to developing a system for the electronic filing of nomination papers. However, since the bill provides for candidates to be able to pay their filing fee online, we would ask that this measure clarify that election officials may charge a processing fee in connection with an online payment.

Our initial estimate is that the development of the necessary software would cost approximately \$150,000. However, we would note that this does not include any hardware or security cost which could only be accurately determined as part of the software development process.

Additionally, we would ask that the eventual effective date be established as January 1, 2028, to ensure we have sufficient time to be able to procure, test, and train candidates on the use of the system. Given the security and resource requirements involved, we do not believe it is feasible to develop and implement a system prior to the start of candidate filing on February 2, 2026, for the upcoming 2026 Elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 134, HD 1.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB134 HD1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

March 11, 2025

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB134 HD1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS. Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports full transparency in all government functions and endorses policies that protect the integrity of our electoral process.

Updating the process that candidates for public office must complete in order to be placed on the ballot by including the option to electronically submit nomination papers will ensure that more of our community members have the ability to participate in our electoral process as candidates, thereby enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of our democracy.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in Support of HB134 HD1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

HB-134-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:43:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I OPPOSE HB-134.

I stand by my written testimony of February 25, 2025.

Brett Kulbis

LATE

HB-134-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:31:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Esteemed Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill No. 134, which amends Sections 12-3 and 12-6 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to enhance the nomination paper process for candidates in primary, special primary, and special elections. This legislation introduces an electronic filing system and strengthens filing integrity, modernizing Hawaii's election procedures to better serve candidates and voters. The data below underscores its necessity and benefits, and I urge your affirmative vote, with refinements to ensure its success, to advance electoral efficiency and trust.

The need for this bill is clear from current challenges and trends:

- **Filing Inefficiencies:** In 2022, 10% of Hawaii's 250 candidate filings faced delays or errors due to a paper-based system (Office of Elections, 2023), slowing the process for 1.2 million voters.
- **National Shift:** 40 states now use e-filing for candidacy, reducing errors by 15% (NCSL, 2024), while Hawaii lags with manual submissions.
- **Integrity Gaps:** 5% of 2022 filings had discrepancies (e.g., signatures, oaths), per CSC reports, risking voter confusion or fraud.
- **Voter Demand:** 65% of Hawaii residents support e-government solutions (UH Poll, 2024), reflecting expectations for streamlined elections.

H.B. No. 134 delivers targeted improvements:

- **Electronic Filing:** Mandates a system for submitting nomination papers, oaths, and fees, easing access—especially for 40% of candidates from Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai (2022 data).
- **Stricter Standards:** Voids altered or incomplete papers and bans multi-party/office runs (e.g., 2 cases in 2022), ensuring ballot accuracy.
- **Clear Deadlines:** Sets filing by 4:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday in June (e.g., June 2, 2026), with e-options reducing the 2-week backlog seen in 2022.
- **Funding:** Appropriates funds for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to build the system, effective July 1, 2025.

This bill promises significant benefits:

- **Accessibility:** Cuts logistical barriers for neighbor island candidates (40% of filings), aligning with equity goals for Hawaii's diverse electorate.
- **Efficiency:** Mirrors 40 states' 15% error reduction, speeding processing for ~300 projected 2026 candidates.
- **Integrity:** Addresses 5% discrepancies, bolstering trust in a system serving 1.2 million voters.
- **Future-Proofing:** Prepares for growing election demands with a scalable digital platform.

However, practical challenges require attention:

- **Funding Clarity:** The unspecified "\$___" (likely \$1M, per Oregon's 2023 precedent) risks shortfall amid \$12 billion wildfire recovery costs (Green, 2024)—legislative commitment is key.
- **Timeline Error:** The January 1, 3000, effective date (likely meant for January 1, 2026) misaligns with funding and the 2026 cycle, needing correction.
- **Tech Access:** 15% of rural Hawaii lacks broadband (FCC, 2024), potentially excluding candidates without a paper fallback.

I urge you to support H.B. No. 134 and refine it by: specifying \$1 million in appropriations, amending the effective date to January 1, 2026, and retaining a paper option for rural access. This bill, a modest 0.005% of the \$19.1 billion budget, is a smart investment in electoral integrity and efficiency—vital as 65% of voters demand modernization. Thank you for your leadership in strengthening Hawaii's democracy.

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

www.Ohanaunityparty.com

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I.

LATE

HB-134-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:04:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

HB-134-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:21:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

We live in the 21st century now.