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**SCOTT T. NAGO**  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 134, HD 1

RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 25, 2025

Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, 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.

**HB-134-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:55:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Brett Kulbis        | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I OPPOSE HB-134.

HB-134 requires the Chief Election Officer to provide a system for the electronic filing of nomination papers and appropriates funds for this purpose.

While the intention to modernize the election process is commendable, there are several concerns with implementing an electronic filing system for nomination papers:

1. Security risks: Electronic systems are vulnerable to hacking and cyber attacks, potentially compromising the integrity of the nomination process<sup>3</sup>.
2. Technical issues: Software and hardware malfunctions could lead to delays or errors in filing, potentially disenfranchising candidates<sup>3</sup>.
3. Loss of personal interaction: The current in-person filing process allows for direct communication between candidates and election officials, which can be valuable for addressing questions or concerns<sup>3</sup>.
4. Cost concerns: The appropriation of \$500,000 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 may not be sufficient to develop, implement, and maintain a secure and reliable electronic filing system<sup>1</sup>.
5. Digital divide: An electronic-only system may disadvantage candidates who lack access to or familiarity with technology, potentially reducing the diversity of candidates.
6. Verification challenges: Electronic submission may make it more difficult to verify the authenticity of signatures and other required documentation<sup>1</sup>.

Instead of rushing to implement an electronic filing system, I urge the committee to consider:

1. Conducting a thorough security and feasibility study before proceeding.
2. Implementing a pilot program to test the system before full deployment.
3. Maintaining a paper-based option alongside any electronic system to ensure accessibility for all candidates.

Respectfully, I encourage you to vote NO on HB-134 until a thorough study can be conducted.

**HB-134-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:34:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Keith Neal          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

**Strong support for HB134\_HD1**

Respectively submitted,

Keith Neal

Waimea