



**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 SENATE BILL NO. 176  
RELATING TO RECOUNTS

February 5, 2025

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 176. This bill increases the qualifying criteria for an automatic election recount.

As the Legislature considers amending automatic recounts, we propose that this bill also adjusts the initial tabulation of the voted ballots included in the recount under HRS § 11-108. We would ask that HRS § 11-108(d) be amended as follows:

Any initial recount provided by law shall include only ballots verified for the purpose of the initial tabulation. ~~[In no event shall a recount of an initial tabulation include ballots the validity of which could not be verified by 6:00 a.m. on the day following an election day.]~~ The initial tabulation shall include any ballots designated by the county clerks for inclusion. The initial tabulation may not include any ballots that the county clerks initially determine are deficient under section 11-106 and need additional time to be corrected by the voter, or any ballots that the county clerks determine under section 11-108 need up to five business days after the election to be validated to include in the final tabulation.

As background, the initial tabulation of results is conducted over the course of the night of the election and into the following evening. For example, as it relates to the 2024 General Election, various statewide and county specific reports were issued throughout that period with the final

statewide report being printed at 7:29:58 p.m. on the day after the election and posted that evening on our website.

The first statewide report was printed on November 5, 2024, at 11:41:05 p.m. and was published on our website after the voter service centers statewide were confirmed to be closed. It included the majority of the validated return identification envelopes provided to the counting centers prior to the close of voting. The next statewide report that was printed on November 6, 2024, at 12:26:44 a.m. included most voter service center ballots that had been counted at the voter service centers. The final report was printed on November 6, 2024, at 7:29:58 p.m. This report accounted for the final ballots that the county clerks delivered to the state counting centers across the state. We consider this to constitute the initial tabulation of results.

The delay in the completion of the initial tabulation is caused by the significant volume of ballots received by the county clerks, with an emphasis on Oahu, that are then processed by them that evening and the next day. A significant portion of the additional ballots in the final report are provided to the state counting center on Oahu in the afternoon on the day after the election. Those are then tabulated and processed that same day.

After the issuance of the report that we consider to be the initial tabulation of results, we review it to see if any recounts had been triggered under HRS § 11-158 for the initial tabulation of results. For the 2024 General Election, a recount was determined to be applicable for the State Representative, District 39 contest. The recount was conducted on November 7 and 8, 2024, with the results being exactly the same as had been reported in the last statewide report.

After the initial tabulation of ballots was completed, there remained the counting of the additional ballots that had been received by the deadline to vote and that needed to be validated by the county clerks within five business days of the election. As an example, to the extent the county clerks found deficiencies with a voter's return identification envelope, such as a missing signature or it not matching what was on file, the voter had the ability to cure the deficiency by the fifth business day after the election. The fifth business day deadline was November 13, 2024 (Wednesday), due to November 11, 2024 (Monday) having been a state holiday.

The final tabulation occurred on November 13, 2024, with the counting of these ballots in the four counting centers across the state and the printing of the final statewide report at 6:51:06 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 176.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:32:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gene Lamkin	Testifying for East Hawaii Republican Party	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Oppose. This legislation will lead to less transparency and integrity.



Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard and committee members

February 5, 2025, 9:15 AM, Rm. 016  
SB176 Relating to Recounts

TESTIMONY

Amy Monk, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

1.

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB176**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and committee members,

Thank you for considering testimony in **support of SB176** which would require recounts for electoral races that are won by less one-half of one percent rather than one-quarter of one percent or 100 votes, whichever is less.

Recounts of closely contested elections assure voters that election outcomes are fair and accurate. Please pass SB114.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:35:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alika Valdez	Testifying for The Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.



Committee on JUDICIARY  
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Name

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 9:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 015 & Videoconference  
SB 176 — RELATING TO RECOUNTS

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 177 that clarifies the threshold for a mandatory recount in close elections.**

The recount threshold should be strict enough so that it correctly identifies races that are genuinely close, allowing for both a percentage difference and a “number of votes” difference. Currently if there are 100 votes or less between candidates or between votes in the affirmative and negative in a general election, a recount will be conducted. OR, if the difference between votes is .25% or less, a recount occurs.

This bill changes this percentage threshold for recounts from .25% to .5% of votes cast, making it more likely recounts would occur. The League hopes this change underscores how carefully close elections are counted in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:34:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I STRONGLY OPPOSE** this Bill which would result in elections with less transparency and integrity. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 2:34:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. Another law drafted because of the narrow view of a single person.



**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:17:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J S	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What is the reason for WIDENING the margin?

Hawaii needs more transparency in our already broken election, not less.

OPPOSED

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:39:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this Bill as transparency is very important.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:54:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:02:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of this bill, we need transparency for all elections

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:25:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is crazy!!! As a voter, I am disgusted and tired of your constant efforts to corrupt our already flawed voting process! STOP already!

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:03:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sally Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I oppose this bill. It is not in the best interest of the people of Hawaii. This bill would lead to elections with less transparency and less integrity.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:08:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This has election integrity written all over it. If 'How to cheat an election' was a thing. Simple enough to oppose. We need transparency. You guys are slick afor trying to slide this bill through.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:13:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill



**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:15:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:17:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:01:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Text

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:15:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB176 is a needed course correction from the current recount cutoff percentage which is too stringent.

To further improve this bill, I recommend amending to include verbiage that recounts be done in a different method than the original count. Rescanning ballots for a recount will not detect any election management system software errors or ballot image manipulation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:33:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this bill, Mahalo.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:05:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to this bill. Hawaii elections clearly needs more transparency.this bill does not promote more transparency. It in facts does the opposite!

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:08:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB176 because this will lead to elections with less transparency and integrity.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:29:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Testimony in Opposition to Hawaii Senate Bill 176 (SB176) I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 176 (SB176), which proposes to modify the criteria for automatic election recounts in the State of Hawaii. While the intent to ensure fair and accurate election outcomes is commendable, I believe that SB176 will have several unintended consequences that could undermine the transparency and integrity of our electoral process. Key Points of Opposition: Higher Threshold for Recounts: By increasing the vote difference threshold for automatic recounts from one-quarter of one percent to one-half of one percent, SB176 will result in fewer races qualifying for recounts. This means that some close races, which might have benefited from a recount under the current threshold, will not be subject to additional scrutiny. This could lead to a perception that the electoral process is less transparent and that close races are not being adequately verified. Perception of Fairness: The new threshold may be seen as too high by the public, leading to concerns about the fairness of the election process. Voters might feel that the system is designed to favor certain outcomes and that it is less responsive to the will of the electorate in tightly contested races. Potential for Political Manipulation: The higher threshold for automatic recounts could open the door for strategic behavior by candidates and political parties. They may focus their efforts on races where the margin is just below the new threshold, knowing that a recount is less likely to be triggered. This could lead to prolonged legal battles and further erode public trust in the electoral system. Inconsistencies in Recount Process: The lack of clear and uniform standards for conducting recounts could lead to inconsistencies across different counties. This could undermine the perceived integrity of the recount process and create doubts about the uniformity and fairness of the election system as a whole. Reduced Voter Confidence: Frequent recounts can help reinforce voter confidence in the accuracy of election outcomes. By reducing the number of automatic recounts, SB176 may inadvertently decrease voter confidence in the overall electoral process, especially in close races where a recount might have been warranted under the current threshold. In conclusion, while the goal of ensuring fair and accurate election outcomes is important, I believe that SB176 is not the right approach. Instead, I urge the legislature to consider alternative measures that address concerns about election integrity without compromising transparency, fairness, and public trust in the electoral system. Thank you for considering my testimony. Sincerely, Larry Duclayan



**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:47:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:55:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bradle Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 176, which proposes to raise the criteria for an automatic recount of elections. This bill threatens to undermine the transparency and integrity of our electoral process.

Automatic recounts are a crucial safeguard to ensure the accuracy and fairness of election outcomes. By raising the criteria for an automatic recount, SB176 would limit the number of races eligible for recounts, potentially allowing errors or irregularities to go unchecked. This reduction in oversight could further erode public trust in the electoral system and diminish the perceived legitimacy of election results.

Moreover, the current criteria for automatic recounts, which include a vote difference of less than one hundred votes or one-quarter of one percent of the total votes cast, have proven effective in maintaining election integrity. Increasing these thresholds would only serve to disenfranchise voters and reduce accountability in our democratic process.

In conclusion, SB176 poses a significant threat to the transparency and integrity of our elections. I urge you to reject this bill and uphold the principles of fair and accurate elections.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:06:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Langton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. Our election process needs a complete revamping and clean up. This is going in the opposite direction of transparency and honesty.

We The People want fair and honest elections. This will only serve to increase the already 'thumb on the scale' that the democrat party uses.

Do Not Pass this bill

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:06:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB176. This will lead to elections with less transparency and integrity.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:17:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose the intent of this bill. I don't trust Hawaii's election process nor those who run it. Do not weaken an already weak system/process.

Do not pass SB176

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:26:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:33:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB176 because I believe it will lead to the damaging of election integrity.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:48:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Jordan Hall oppose this bill.

Thank You.



**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:48:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need more transparency and integrity not less. Karl should be ashamed of himself.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:50:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:22:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It's hard enough to get a recount when needed, we don't need to make it more difficult. This will lead to less transparency and integrity.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:31:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb176,

Paul Giles

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:01:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB176.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:46:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE- Do Not change current rule. We have too much of a one sided Govt in Hawaii as it is. Voting should be in person, & the corrupted mail in ballot system discontinued.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:18:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
L.C.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB176. Not surprising Sen. Rhodes introduced this bill which further decreases election integrity and transparency. Hell no to this bill.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:32:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose SB176.

Thank you,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae Resident



**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:33:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB176. Mahalo.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:16:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:36:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martin Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:44:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:53:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:03:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB176.

if a recount shall be done, it shall be done by humans.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:38:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ***OPPOSE*** bill ***SB176***.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:24:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelvien Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

increasesing the qualifying citerira would show that there are something hide. and would make our elections less transparet and have no ingegrity



**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:42:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lowering the recount margin from 0.25% to 0.5% is a **disastrous idea** that reeks of **carelessness** and **indifference** to the integrity of our elections. Here’s why this move is so **infuriating** and dangerous:

1. **It’s a Slap in the Face to Voters**:

Raising the threshold to 0.5% means **ignoring** razor-thin margins where every vote truly matters. This is a blatant **betrayal** of voters who expect their voices to be heard and their ballots to be counted accurately. It sends the message that their votes are disposable, which is **outrageous** in a democracy.

2. **Increased Risk of Errors Going Unchecked**:

By making recounts less frequent, we’re **inviting mistakes** to slip through the cracks. Elections are complex, and errors happen—whether from machine malfunctions, human error, or other issues. A 0.5% margin is too wide to catch these problems, leaving results **potentially flawed** and **unfair**.

3. **Eroding Trust in the System**:

This move is a **gift to conspiracy theorists** and bad actors who thrive on sowing doubt. When voters see that close races aren’t being scrutinized, they’ll question the legitimacy of the results. It’s a **reckless** decision that fuels distrust and division, playing right into the hands of those who want to undermine democracy.

4. **Partisan Manipulation**:

Raising the recount threshold is a **transparent power grab** by those who benefit from fewer checks on election outcomes. It's a way to **rig the system** in favor of incumbents or dominant parties, silencing the will of the people in close races. This isn't just unfair—it's **unconscionable**.

#### 5. **Undermining Accountability**:

Recounts are a critical tool for ensuring accountability in our elections. By making them less likely, we're **handing a free pass** to election officials and systems that might otherwise be held to higher standards. This is a **dangerous precedent** that weakens the entire electoral process.

#### 6. **Ignoring the Lessons of History**:

History is full of examples where recounts in close races revealed critical errors or even changed outcomes. Raising the threshold to 0.5% is a **willful disregard** of these lessons, prioritizing convenience over accuracy. It's a **shortsighted** and **irresponsible** move that puts the entire democratic process at risk.

#### 7. **A Blow to Fairness**:

Elections are the foundation of democracy, and fairness should be non-negotiable. By raising the recount margin, we're **sacrificing fairness** for the sake of expediency. This is a **cowardly** and **unacceptable** compromise that undermines the very principles of free and fair elections.

#### **Conclusion**:

Lowering the recount margin from 0.25% to 0.5% is a **disgraceful** decision that prioritizes cost-cutting and convenience over the integrity of our elections. It's a **direct attack** on voter confidence, fairness, and accountability. If we allow this to happen, we're **failing** the voters and **betraying** the democratic ideals we claim to uphold. This isn't just a bad idea.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:24:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB176.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:41:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shani Hough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB176! This will lead to elections with less transparency and integrity.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:16:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Senate Bill 176 (SB176) due to its potential to introduce several significant drawbacks to Hawaii's election process. Firstly, the bill would lead to an increase in financial burdens by necessitating more automatic recounts, straining state and county budgets without a clear plan for funding these additional activities. Secondly, the implementation of this bill could result in considerable delays in certifying election results, which might disrupt political transitions and planning, causing unnecessary uncertainty. The additional workload from increased recounts would also heavily strain the resources of election officials, potentially leading to inefficiencies or errors under pressure. There's also the concern of overuse; the higher threshold might trigger recounts in races where the outcome is not genuinely in dispute, thus wasting resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Moreover, the frequency of recounts could lead to voter and official fatigue, potentially eroding trust in the electoral system if the outcomes do not change significantly. Finally, changing the recount criteria could introduce new legal and administrative complexities, opening the door to unforeseen legal challenges or complications in the electoral process. For these reasons, we strongly oppose SB176, as it does not adequately address the balance between election integrity and the practical implications of its implementation.

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:50:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB176. We need transparency in our elections.

Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:00:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:02:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lolita Keni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill...we need full transparency and integrity.



**LATE**

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:17:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Righteous elections are transparent elections! This bill limits transparency and integrity. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness, please stop putting forth unrighteous bills.

**LATE**

**SB-176**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:57:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2025 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mr. Rhoads,

I am submitting written testimony in regards to SB176. I OPPOSE this bill and ask that it remain at it's current status of 0.25%. A closer look at all elections is needed for the integrity of all elections.

Thank you,

Jason Kimura