**STATE OF HAWAII**
**OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**
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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

March 19, 2014

To: Elections Commission

From: Scott T. Nago
Chief Election Officer

Re: STATUS OF OPERATIONS

Since our last meeting, on February 5, 2014, the Office of Elections has been focused on legislation, the statewide voter registration project, issuing a solicitation for the production of a series of television commercials promoting elections, and preparations for the 2014 Elections.

Legislation

The Office of Elections has been testifying and monitoring a variety of bills this legislative session that relate to elections. A handful have met the crossover deadline of having passed third reading in one chamber and been sent to the other chamber for further consideration. Additionally, a variety of resolutions regarding voter registration have been recently been initiated by each chamber.

1. HB 452, HD 1 Relating to Election Frauds

The purpose of this bill is to deem any person who provides false information regarding the details of voting guilty of an election fraud. Our office has provided testimony in the form of technical comments. We have noted that there is no recent history of election fraud that we are aware of that has been prosecuted by the Department of the Attorney General or the county prosecutors.

2. HCR 43/HR 25/SCR 41 Requesting the Department of Education and Department of Human Services to Assist with Increasing Voter Registration Among Young Adults

The purpose of these resolutions is to request the Department of Education to provide public school seniors with voter registration information prior to graduation and to similarly request the Department of Human Services to

provide such information to young adults in the young adult voluntary foster care program.

We have testified in support of these measures and noted in our testimony the limited results of our current Young Voter Registration Program in the public school system and the distribution of voter registration forms by the Department of Human Services to all of its clients that receive public assistance.

We believe the present measures are useful in that it will result in the Department of Human Services and Department of Education revisiting their present voter registration programs with the Office of Elections, to see if there are better ways to firmly incorporate voter registration into the operations of these departments.

3. HB 2408, HD 1 Relating to Elections

The purpose of this bill is to require the Chief Election Officer to establish procedures to select a letter of the alphabet by lot and arrange candidate names on ballots in alphabetical order of the last names, beginning with the randomly selected letter. Our office provided technical comments on this bill. We explained how the bill in practice would be implemented when a random letter was selected.

4. HB 2590, HD 1 Relating to Elections

The purpose of this bill is to allow voter registration at absentee polling places beginning in 2016 and voter registration at polling places on election day beginning in 2018.

The Office of Elections has testified in support of this bill, as any qualified member of the public wishing to vote should be able to register and vote. Our testimony has noted a variety of technical matters, which resulted in us submitting draft legislation for the Legislature's consideration. Additionally, we have noted that the bill needs to be properly funded as this legislation will create an ongoing financial obligation for the counties, as they are statutorily responsible for voter registration. The financial obligation is primarily related to appropriate staffing in each polling place and real time access to the statewide voter registration system in each polling place, so as to permit the county clerks to accurately update the voter registration rolls and to ensure their integrity.

5. SB 2118, HD 1 Relating to Campaign Spending

The purpose of this bill is, in part, to substitute the Office of Elections for the Chief Election Officer, as it relates to who candidates have to notify by telephone and in writing, when they exceed the expenditure limit for an election. We testified in support of this bill, as we consider the substitution of Chief Election Officer with Office of Elections in HRS § 11-426 to be an appropriate housekeeping matter that is consistent with the statute's present reference to candidates notifying the Campaign Spending Commission, as opposed to its Executive Director, by telephone.

Voter Education Campaign

On February 4, 2014, a request for proposals (RFP) for the production of a series of television commercials promoting elections was issued. The deadline for proposals was March 14, 2014, and we expect that a contract will be awarded by the end of the month. The commercials are expected cover voter registration, precinct recruitment, election dates, the single party primary, early voting, and permanent absentee voting. Additionally, it is expected that these commercials will be used during the 2014 Elections and that they can be edited to reflect new dates and information in future elections.

Statewide Voter Registration System

On March 4, 2014, the Office of Elections issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a new statewide voter registration system that would include an online voter registration system and an election management system. The final version of the RFP followed our utilization of the request for information (RFI) process, provided for in the state procurement code, to seek out comments from the technology community on a draft RFP that had been developed.

As noted in our previous status report, the purpose of RFP is to migrate the statewide voter registration system from the City and County of Honolulu to the State of Hawaii, comply with the legal requirement to have an online voter registration system in place for use in the 2016 Elections, and to upgrade our election management system.

A pre-proposal conference was held on March 17, 2014. The deadline for the submission of proposals is April 4, 2014 and the tentative award date is May 2, 2014. As we are currently in a procurement, other than what we have previously stated, we are not able to discuss much at this point, without possibly compromising the solicitation.

Preparations for the 2014 Elections

As reported in our status report last month, things have been running well as our standard preparations have been moving forward. Most of our seasonal staff has been hired. As such, we are actively recruiting precinct officials, ordering supplies, finalizing logistical matters, and working with the counties and the voting system vendor to have everything in place.

General speaking, the preparations of the elections community are not high profile and the results of those preparations are only realized on the day of the election, when everything must work like clockwork. The exception to this is normal candidate filing and the formation of political parties, which occur well in advance of the election and are frequently reported by the media to the public.

Specifically, candidate filing opened on February 3, 2013, and there has been a steady flow of candidates filing since that time and few news reports about those filings. Additionally, since our last meeting, the Hawaii Independent Party filed a petition to be recognized as a political party for ballot purposes. There was a lot of media attention at the time of the filing. The deadline for any objections to the petition is March 20, 2014. Assuming there are no objections the party will be recognized and will appear on the 2014 ballot.

Candidate filing will continue until 4:30 p.m. on June 3, 2014. As mentioned in our last report, we will be opening a satellite location at the State Office Tower on April 1, 2014, which will serve the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays until May 15, 2014 and daily from May 19, 2014 to June 3, 2014.

Test Plan for Split Shift Workers

At our last meeting, on February 5, 2014, the Office of Elections presented its finding on whether the utilization of split shift precincts as a pilot project would be appropriate. The Elections Commission asked for additional information about the proposed pilot project. With that in mind, on February 11, 2014, our office submitted a report to the Elections Commission on how we plan to implement shift precincts.

The plan noted, in summary, that we would target larger sized precincts (i.e. 3 unit to 6 unit precincts). In the City and County of Honolulu, this amounts to 108 precincts. Additionally, no more than one team of precinct officials in the form of one morning shift worker and one afternoon shift worker would be permitted per precinct. Further, precinct chairs would be consulted to obtain input as to the appropriateness of a split shift team in their precinct. Finally, only non-profits would be permitted to provide a split shift team for a precinct. The

actual plan and standard operating procedures are elaborated on in greater detail in the report and its enclosure.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or 1-800-442-VOTE (8683).