

**MINUTES
OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

**LEIOPAPA A KAMEHAMEHA BUILDING, ROOM 204
235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Mr. John Chan
Mr. William Marston, Chair
Mr. Brian Nakashima
Mr. Harold Nelson
Ms. Zale Okazaki
Ms. Donna Soares
Mr. Richard Swift
Mr. Daniel Young

Technical Support Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Robyn Chun, Department of the Attorney General
Mr. Kevin Cronin, Chief Election Officer
Ms. Ciress Cuevo, Office of Elections
Mr. Scott Nago, Office of Elections
Mr. Aaron Schulaner, Office of Elections

Guests in Attendance:

Ms. Jean Aoki, League of Women Voters
Mr. Bart Dame, Democratic Party of Hawaii
Mr. Adam Deguire, Hawaii Republican Party
Ms. JoAnn Maruoka, League of Women Voters

PROCEEDINGS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Marston at 10:00 a.m. on February 18, 2009 at the Leiopapa a Kamehameha Building in room 204.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Ms. Ciress Cuevo, Elections Commission Secretary conducted roll call. Ms. Yuki Lei Sugimura was absent and Ms. Zale Okazaki was late.

III. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 20, 2008

Ms. Donna Soares moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2008. Mr. John Chan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Public Testimony – Any interested person may submit data, views or arguments on any agenda item

There was no public testimony.

V. Office of Elections Status Report from the Chief Election Officer

The Commission was informed of the challenges that the Office of Elections is facing with regard to staffing, obtaining a voting system, and funding.

The Chief Election Officer (CEO) provided the status of vacancies in the office and noted his request to fill those positions. It was also reported that the state needs to acquire a voting system for 2010 and must secure funds from the Legislature for the cost to conduct the elections. The Commission was asked to recognize the need of the state's support to acquire the voting system.

Ms. Okazaki moved that the Elections Commission, after hearing the current financial requirements of holding elections in 2010, is concerned that the necessary funding from the state and counties is uncertain. The Elections Commission, recognizing that the CEO is a non-discretionary agency, endorses the efforts of the CEO in seeking the most advantageous solution to secure the required funding for the conduct of the 2010 elections. Mr. Harold Nelson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bart Dame recommended that the Elections Commission speak to leadership to better strengthen the argument.

VI. Discussion of Pending Legislation Relating to the Office of Elections and the Elections Commission

The Commission reviewed and discussed the pending election related bills.

Ms. Soares moved that the Commission not support HB750 relating to the appointment of the Chief Election Officer and recommended that each Commissioner contact the necessary representatives to ask that they not support the bill. Mr. Richard Swift seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

In response to Mr. Nelson's inquiry regarding the procurement related bills, the CEO provided an update on the status of those house and senate bills.

Ms. Soares inquired about the office's position regarding HB1476, which allows Election Day voter registration. The CEO noted that the testimony provided that that it is a policy decision for the Legislature and noted the administrative impacts if it is allowed.

Ms. Okazaki moved for the Elections Commission to support both the house and senate bills regarding the procurement systems for the CEO. Ms. Soares seconded, and the motion carried unanimously

There was a discussion regarding the status of the budget for the Elections Commission. Mr. Nelson reported that he communicated the budget needs to the Office of Elections. In response, the CEO noted that the Office of Elections was not asked to submit a budget. The Department of Accounting & General Services applied the office's previous biennium budget to this biennium budget. Chair Marston asked the CEO to put together ideas for the Commission on how it could work with the Office of Elections to pursue a budget.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Marston adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ciress Cuevo
Elections Commission Secretary