

From: [songaid2](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Support for voting by MAIL -meeting October 29, 2025
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 7:21:21 PM
Attachments: Testimony in support of Voting by mail Oct 24.docx

Dear Elections Commission:

Please see my enclosed WORD DOC in support for voting by mail for the upcoming meeting on October 29, 2025.

Mahalo,

Bevin Parker-Evans
808-651-6793
3721 Omao ROAD
Koloa, Kaua'i
Hawaii 96756

October 24, 2025
Hawai'i State Elections Commission
Office of Elections, 802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782

Re: In Support of Hawaii's All-Mail Voting System

Aloha Chair and Members of the Commission:

As a Kaua'i member of the Official election volunteers on Kaua'i, and as a member of the Democratic Party of Hawaii including membership at the Democrat's SCC and the Women's Caucus as well as a member of the RULES and PLATFORM committee at the SCC, I am definitely advocating to support voting by mail.

Although I would like to add also that I believe, as a resident on Kaua'i, that we also need more locations for voting in person to support persons who would like to vote in person such as on the north and south side of our Island, as well as the central location in Lihue.

However, voting by mail is proven to be very legitimate and proven to be valuable, easy and very well organized and protected. I support all voter election policies that uphold justice, economic security, and inclusive democracy—values that are deeply tied to the fact that working people should have a voice, both at work and at the ballot box.

I strongly support voting by mail, especially as an older retired person, but I do understand that some people prefer voting in person, mostly due to our wonderful history of voting in person and enjoying the moment of our voter decisions in person. As an election volunteer who has gathered votes by mail in many locations, and counted votes by mail as well as observed serious protocols to make certain that votes are counted securely and always witnessed by more than four persons at a time, I urge the Elections Commission to continue strengthening voting by mail.

Mail-in voting has made civic participation more accessible, and secure for working people, including those with disabilities, multiple jobs, or caregiving responsibilities. Since its implementation statewide in 2020, this system has improved voter turnout and ensured that every eligible voter can make their voice heard safely and conveniently.

The Commission's efforts to maintain and enhance the integrity and efficiency of mail-in voting are crucial to sustaining public confidence in our democracy. We urge the Commission to continue educating the public about the safeguards and to also combat misinformation that undermines trust in the electoral process.

Thank you for continuing to strengthen the voting by mail process as well as considering adding more voting-in-person locations. We need both efforts to validate and make certain that all of our citizens' show up to vote, either by mail or in person. Trust me, as a volunteer, I will show up to help at in-person voter locations and also with counting the voting by mail and I know many others that will support these ideas. Volunteers have your back if you add more confidence and more resilience to our voting system.

Mahalo, [Bevin Parker-Evans](#), Election volunteer

From: [Peter Bernegger](#)
To: [mike@r7r.com](#); [leadingedgeofknownuniverse@gmail.com](#); [City Clerk Elections](#); [OE.Elections.Commission](#); [elections@kauai.gov](#); [OE.Elections](#); [Henricks, Jon](#); [Schulaner, Aaron H](#); [clerk-council@hawaiicounty.gov](#); [hiloelec@hawaiicounty.gov](#); [county.clerk@mauicounty.us](#); [Jade Tanigawa](#); [clerks@honolulu.gov](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reply to Mr Nago's letter OE-25-131
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 5:59:14 AM
Attachments: Hawaii REPLY letter to Nago"s OE-25-131 oct 25th 2025.docx

Your 'ten-ballot' comparison combines all voting methods and avoids the mail-envelope chain of custody that is the core issue. My four page letter is attached replying back to Mr. Nago, and all Respondents in my filed HAVA complaint.

Peter Bernegger
President - Election Watch, Inc.

To The Following Respondents:

October 25, 2025

State of Hawaii Office of Elections
Office of Elections – Aaron Schulaner
802 Lehua Avenue, Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
elections@hawaii.gov - sent via email
aaron.h.schulaner@hawaii.gov

Scott T. Nago
Chief Election Officer
(808) 453-6006 fax – sent via fax

Jon Henricks – County Clerk
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street Room 1502
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
hiloelec@hawaiicounty.gov sent via email
clerk-council@hawaiicounty.gov

County of Maui - sent via email
Moana Lutey – County Clerk
200 South High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
county.clerk@mauicounty.us sent via email

County of Kauai – sent via email
Jade Fountain-Tanigawa – County Clerk
4386 Rice Street Room 101
Lihue, Hawaii 96766
elections@kauai.gov – sent via email
jtanicgawa@kauai.gov

City & County of Honolulu
Glen Takahashi - City Clerk
530 South King Street Room 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
elections@honolulu.gov – sent via email
clerks@honolulu.gov

Re: Bernegger’s analysis of the **Hawai‘i Office of Elections letter OE-25-131** signed by Scott Nago; 4 pages in total

Analysis of the Hawaii Office of Elections Letter (OE-25-131)

The letter from the Hawaii Office of Elections reframes the issue(s) found in my HAVA complaint, and depends on data that the Office has not actually provided. Your ‘ten-ballot’ comparison combines all voting methods and avoids the mail-envelope chain of custody that is the core issue. Unless you produce the Statewide Voter Registration System daily accepted and rejected counts (by channel) with reason-code details, the county-to-state batch-linked manifests, and the electronic ballot duplication counts, the nineteen-thousand-forty-two envelope-to-ballot gap in Hawai‘i County remains unresolved; along with the other issues and concerns. Below I provide a plain-language explanation comparing what the Office (Respondents) claims with the evidence in my files and my Help America Vote Act complaint. “You” here means all Respondents.

What the Office of Elections claims and why it is wrong

“There is only a difference of 10”

The Office claims that 83,696 “voters who cast a ballot” are recorded in the Statewide Voter Registration System and that 83,686 “ballots were counted,” creating a difference of only ten. This mixes all types of voting together and avoids your specific question: mail-ballot chain of custody. The County of Hawaii’s own records show 76,595 mail ballots counted but only 57,553 return envelopes documented across all mail channels in Hawai‘i County - a gap of 19,042. The “ten-ballot” number does not answer the envelope-to-ballot reconciliation I, and others, raised.

“The Statewide Voter Registration System is the official record - trust it”

Scott Nago’s letter says the Statewide Voter Registration System is the authoritative record of who voted and suggests the postal and drop-box logs are incomplete. However, the Office has still not produced the daily accepted and rejected counts by channel or the reason-code tallies I, and others, requested, so its conclusion cannot be verified. My Help America Vote Act complaint documents that denial and the circular referral between the State and the County over who holds the data.

“Your postal receipts are incomplete; field counts are subjective”

Even if the postal paperwork were imperfect, that is why the reconciliation should depend on the Statewide Voter Registration System → transfer manifests → ballots counted sequence. No Respondent has supplied the county-to-state transfer manifests for Hawai‘i County and previously admitted that transfer forms were missing in Maui County. That weakens Respondents’ (Nago’s letter as of now) dismissal of my documentation while you all continue to withhold the ledgers that could settle the issue.

“You ignored electronic ballots from military and overseas voters that were duplicated onto paper”

If military, overseas, or accessible electronic ballots were duplicated onto paper, each and every Respondent should provide the number for each day and show how those ballots are recorded in the Statewide Voter Registration System and then transferred to the counting center. The letter mentions these ballots but does not give counts or connect them to manifests.

Nonsensical points in Nago's argument

1. **You changed the basis of comparison.**

You responded to a different question (total voters versus total ballots) instead of my evidence about mail-envelope reconciliation. County of Hawaii records, for one example, show 57,553 envelopes (27,912 from places of deposit and voter service centers plus 29,641 from postal receipts), while State results show 76,595 mail ballots counted - a 19,042 difference.

2. **You rely on the Statewide Voter Registration System but will not show the data.**

You claim it is accurate but have not produced the daily accepted and rejected counts for October through November 2024 (with reason codes and batch identifications) that would allow verification. My complaint on the other hand documents that the State issued Notice 1360 denying those counts and directing requesters to the counties, while the counties point back to the State as administrator.

3. **You dismiss field counts but refuse to release the primary chain-of-custody records.**

The normal method to verify the Statewide Voter Registration System is to tie each batch in that system to a physical handoff using county-to-state manifests that list containers, tray and seal numbers, counts, and signatures. These records remain unproduced for Hawaii County, and the State already admitted missing forms in Maui. No Respondent still is absolved from missing election envelopes along with other irregularities.

4. **Your earlier Over-Under letter contradicts your current claim.**

The State's March 17, 2025 Over-Under table shows Adjusted Mail 76,587 versus Mail Precinct 76,595 (difference of eight) and states that "invalid-condition adjustments" occur during opening. Those adjustments can only reduce ballot totals, not increase them, so they cannot explain a nineteen-thousand increase over documented envelopes.

Where my position remains correct

- I - and others - correctly define this as a mail-envelope reconciliation problem, not a total-voter problem.
- The Office/Respondents must provide daily accepted and rejected counts by channel, reason-code summaries, and the county-to-state manifests to reconcile 57,553 envelopes with 76,595 mail ballots counted.
- Until you do, your "ten-ballot" claim does not address the nineteen-thousand-forty-two-envelope gap. The same for all Respondents involved in this particular issue; but also for

all other issues such as not keeping election records (or destroying them) for a federal election

What the Office/Respondents would need to produce to disprove my claim

For Hawaii County (October 1 – November 30 2024), as the main example:

1. Daily accepted and rejected counts from the Statewide Voter Registration System with reason-code categories, separated by channel (postal business reply mail, place of deposit, voter service center, electronic or overseas ballots), and including batch identifiers and cumulative totals.
2. County-to-state transfer manifests linking each batch identifier to physical containers, trays, or sealed transport units with counts and signatures.
3. Daily counts of electronic and overseas ballot returns and the corresponding duplication logs showing how many were transferred onto paper ballots and how those appear in the Statewide Voter Registration System and the manifests.
4. Daily opening and verification tallies of invalid conditions (empty envelopes, wrong ballots, signature mismatches, duplicates) to show any legitimate reductions.

If those records bridge the 57,553 documented envelopes to 76,595 counted mail ballots with credible data, - and all the other irregularities - the nineteen-thousand-forty-two theory probably fails. If you do not, my Title III Help America Vote Act claim is confirmed. Know that we now have whistleblowers, plural. This reply is not meant to be all encompassing.

/s/ Peter Bernegger – Individually

/s/ Peter Bernegger – President Election Watch, Inc.
peter@electionwatch.info

1203 words

From: [Peter Bernegger](#)
To: mike@r7r.com; leadingedgeofknownuniverse@gmail.com; [City Clerk Elections](#); [OE.Elections.Commission](#); elections@kauai.gov; [OE.Elections](#); [Henricks, Jon](#); [Schulaner, Aaron H](#); clerk-council@hawaiiicounty.gov; hiloelec@hawaiiicounty.gov; county.clerk@mauicounty.us; [Jade Tanigawa](#); clerks@honolulu.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Reply to Mr Nago's letter OE-25-131
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 6:56:45 AM

BEFORE THE STATE OF HAWAI'I ELECTIONS COMMISSION, AND ALL RESPONDENTS

In re: HAVA Title III Administrative Complaint (52 U.S.C. § 21112) Of Bernegger, of Election Watch, Inc.

COMPLAINANT'S NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING ORDER AND HEARING ON THE RECORD

Complainant Election Watch, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission issue a Scheduling Order and set a hearing on the record in this proceeding pursuant to Section 402 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. § 21112). Federal law mandates that each State must issue a final determination within ninety (90) days of the filing of a HAVA complaint, unless the complainant consents in writing to a longer period. If the State does not issue a final determination by Day 90, the complaint must then be resolved within sixty (60) additional days under the State's alternative dispute-resolution procedure. See 52 U.S.C. § 21112(a)(2)(A) and (I).

Event Statutory Day Calendar Date

- Complaint filed Day 0 September 29, 2025
- Recommended hearing deadline Day 60 November 28, 2025
- Final determination due Day 90 December 28, 2025
- ADR process (if no decision by Day 90) must conclude by Day 150 February 26, 2026

Complainants do not consent to extending the ninety-day period. Further noting they object to the ADR imposed by the State HAVA plan, where it conflicts with HAVA's timeline(s). However, any attempt to postpone or relabel the statutory ninety-day deadline by invoking "alternative dispute resolution" before Day 90 would contravene the plain text of 52 U.S.C. § 21112(a)(2).

If no written determination is issued by Day 90, the State/Respondents will automatically be out of compliance and the sixty-day ADR window will begin by operation of federal law.

PROPOSED SCHEDULING ORDER

1. Respondents' Written Response: Respondents shall file and serve a consolidated written response to the complaint within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of this Order.

2. Rolling Production of Core Records: Within ten (10) business days of this Order, and continuing on a rolling basis, Respondents shall produce the following non-confidential, audit-enabling records for the November 5, 2024 General Election (Hawai‘i County, all Counties):

- a. Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) daily records showing ballots accepted and rejected between October 1 and November 30, 2024, including reason-code tallies and SVRS batch identifiers;
- b. Counties-to-State transfer or chain-of-custody manifests linking each SVRS batch identifier to a physical hand-off, with date, time, origin, destination, container, tray or seal numbers, counts, and initials of releasing and receiving personnel;
- c. United States Postal Service Business Reply Mail (PostalOne!) daily piece counts and monthly statements for all election accounts used by Hawai‘i County, and to include all counties, during October–November 2024;
- d. Place-of-Deposit and Voter Service Center intake logs for each location, with pickup times, seal numbers, and daily totals;
- e. Opening and verification tallies of ballots invalidated for conditions such as empty envelopes, wrong election, wrong ballot, mismatched signatures, or multiple ballots.

3. Hearing on the Record

- a. The Commission shall convene a hearing on the record no later than November 28, 2025 (Day 60), leaving sufficient time for a reasoned written decision by December 28, 2025 (Day 90).
- b. The hearing may be conducted in person or in a hybrid format and shall permit testimony from Respondents’ custodians of record and from Complainants’ witnesses.

4. Pre-Hearing Disclosures: No later than seven (7) calendar days before the hearing, each party shall exchange witness lists and exhibit lists, and lodge with the Commission a complete set of exhibits (electronic portable-document format permitted).

5. No Waiver of Federal Deadlines: Absent a written consent signed by Complainants, the ninety-day statutory deadline remains fixed. If no final determination issues by Day 90, Complainants will invoke the mandatory sixty-day alternative dispute-resolution process required by 52 U.S.C. § 21112(a)(2)(I). Any “ADR” commenced before Day 90 will be deemed non-compliant with the statute.

ARGUMENT

Section 402 of the Help America Vote Act was enacted to guarantee timely,

transparent, and uniform resolution of election-administration complaints. Its ninety-day deadline is a hard federal requirement, not a goal or guideline. The sixty-day ADR period is a separate fallback procedure triggered only by a State's/Respondents' failure to act within ninety days. Together they create an absolute outer limit of one hundred fifty (150) days unless the complainants consents otherwise.

The proposed schedule conforms to those statutory limits and ensures a meaningful record by requiring early, rolling production of the key reconciliation data that the State itself identifies as foundational:

- daily SVRS acceptance and rejection data,
- batch-linked transfer manifests,
- PostalOne! records, intake logs,
- and invalid-condition tallies.

Without those materials, the Commission cannot make a lawful finding on the complaint. Noticing again to all Respondents to preserve all evidence.

DATED: October 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Peter Bernegger, and, Election Watch, Inc.

Complainants

Email for both: peter@electionwatch.info

1-920-551-0510

On Sat, Oct 25, 2025 at 10:56 AM Peter Bernegger <peter@electionwatch.info> wrote:

Your 'ten-ballot' comparison combines all voting methods and avoids the mail-envelope chain of custody that is the core issue. My four page letter is attached replying back to Mr. Nago, and all Respondents in my filed HAVA complaint.

Peter Bernegger

President - Election Watch, Inc.

From: [Georgia Kinney Bopp](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please keep mail-in voting!
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 10:33:24 AM

Regarding the Hawaii Elections Commission proposal to recommend the Hawaii state legislature eliminate mail-in voting in Hawaii. (Agenda item IV):

Please keep mail-in voting!

It's safe

It's secure

It's simple

Thank you,

Georgia Kinney Bopp

Ordinary citizen who likes avoiding traffic, lines, crowds, inclement weather, parking, etc.

From: [Rich Harper](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony for 10/29/25 meeting, attached
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 1:27:08 PM
Attachments: Pono elections-1.pdf

Michael, I'm going to send this testimony over to Josh Green, MD also. He likes election stuff and might get a few phone calls on matters discussed.

Thanks,

Richard Harper, MD
Kilauea, Kauai

Public Testimony
submitted to Michael Curtin, Elections Commission Chair

Office of Elections (OE)

Posted on its website, the OE mission statement is: **“To provide secure, accessible, and convenient election services to all citizens statewide.”**

This statement is accompanied by a flashing image of a comfortable chair and pillow captioned: “Cast your vote in comfort. Your ballot comes to you.” Accessibility, comfort, and convenience are the mission of the 7-Eleven store. The OE doesn’t seem to realize that it exists for a higher purpose.

Election integrity and freedom of speech are essential to creating peace and avoiding tyranny. This is serious business! We need to help the OE recognize its real mission: **“To conduct fair, honest, accurate, and secure (*Pono*) elections for the citizens of Hawaii.”**

A recent elections commission meeting passed a motion requesting an independent review of the 2024 election. While even a superb Governor has only 8 years, the current Chief Elections Officer has been in office for over a decade. The time for new leadership in the Office of Elections has arrived.

Elections Commission (EC)

Extensive recent public testimony before the EC has focused on possible election corruption, and sometimes on distrust of the commissioners appointed by elected political leaders in our legislature. The public often has very little information about those serving on the EC. Perhaps members should post personal statements on the EC website to provide information and to buffer that distrust. For example, the EC includes a lawyer who has sworn to tell the truth and to uphold the law. He has passed the ethics exam (MPRE), and should he lose his license, he would also lose his livelihood. As a medical doctor, I am also familiar with rigorous ethical standards.

It has become customary in medical meetings to disclose conflicts of interest, most often financial, before speaking or presenting data. Such disclosure would be a useful standard for the Office of Elections.

In meetings I conducted as Student Body President of my medical school, I always regarded the Agenda as a helpful guide to focus discussion, never as a weapon to silence free speech from a colleague.

Richard Harper, MD
Kilauea, Kauai

From: [Lorna Holmes](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony in favor of keeping mail-in voting
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 8:35:20 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Elections Commission,

I write to urge you not to consider eliminating mail-in voting in Hawaii. This is a clearly partisan attempt to undermine both voter participation and confidence in our elections, and should be rejected. There is no evidence to suggest that voting by mail is anything other than fair and above-board.

Mahalo,

Dr. Lorna Holmes

Honolulu 96826

From: [Beppie Shapiro](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Agenda Item IV: vote by mail
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:01:53 AM

Chair Michael Curtis, members of the Commission:

I am a life-long resident of Honolulu. I have voted in every state election since I became eligible. As soon as mail-in voting was adopted, I started voting by mail. Not only is mail-in voting more convenient (no parking, lines, flexible schedule) but most importantly it gives me time to study the ballot, and learn more about any choices before I have to mark my ballot.

The Commission has produced or displayed NO credible evidence that mail-in voting introduces more non-citizen voting compared to in-person voting.

And mail-in voting gives the elderly, the disabled, and those without easy access to transportation a chance to make their electoral choices count. (While helping voters at the Capitol during Hawaii elections, I twice talked to voters without cars who had made lengthy trips by foot and bus to reach a voting booth, only to be told they were in the wrong place and must make another long unfamiliar trip to the place they should vote).

Please, do not make this drastic and uncalled for change to our voting system - keep Vote by Mail.

Beppie Shapiro
Honolulu

From: [Judith's Email](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Cc: [Judith White](#); [CAPITOL2023-repnakamura](#); [CAPITOL2023-senkouchi](#); [CAPITOL2023-repmorikawa](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10-29-25 Elections Commission meeting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 1:52:05 PM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing, as a Kapaa community member and registered voter, to object to the Commission's October 6, 2025 letter to the Legislature. In this letter, the Elections Commission requested that the Officer of the Auditor conduct an audit of the Office of Elections, focusing on the 2024 general election. An audit of the Kauai votes in that election was done previously and found no discrepancies. By all appearances, this request appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to discredit Hawaii's historically secure elections and sow doubt on the entire democratic process. I will appeal to the reason and logic of our Legislature to reject this request.

In this same Oct 6 letter, the Commission also requested that the Legislature "return to in person voting in the precinct", for one day only, and using hand counted paper ballots. Again, this is almost so regressive as to be laughable, but I don't believe the commissioners who are pushing this nonsense are joking. Mail in voting has, for many years, been phenomenally successful in helping citizens across the US, including Hawaii, exercise their right to vote. It has also been secure to the point that 8 states and Washington, DC (including Colorado, where I lived for 20 years), have automatic mail in ballot systems. Making this request sows mistrust in our voting systems and discourages voting by any means. Again, I appeal to our Legislature to reject this offensive request.

Mahalo for accepting my testimony,

Judith C. White, Psy.D.

Clinical Psychologist, Kapaa

808-346-5859

Jcwhite54@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

From: [Brian Gilhooly](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 1:35:38 PM

Aloha,

My name is Patrick Brian Gilhooly II and I SUPPORT mail in ballots.

Thank you

From: [Ruth Robison](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re 10/29/2025 Agenda Item IV.a) Letter to Legislature regarding the Commission's motion to request the Legislature to return to polling place elections
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 1:58:26 PM

To the Elections Commission:

My name is Ruth Robison and I live in Hilo. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on agenda item IV. Updates relating to motions from Permitted Interaction Groups

a) Status of the audit of the Office of Elections

I am in strong opposition to the Commission's motion to request a return to polling place elections. I have been a member of the League of Women Voters for 15 years. I am not speaking for the League, but as a member, in concert with it. "The League strongly supports voting by mail and will oppose partisan undermining of elections."

When the COVID pandemic struck Hawaii in 2020, the Elections Office was prepared because the state legislature had passed voting by mail. The League had worked for many years to support this effort. Why? Because the League's mission is "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." This mission translates into several actions, including working to maintain, and increase where needed, citizens' access to voting. Voting by mail does this.

Some people argue, with consistent evidence to the contrary, that voting by mail increases voter fraud. However, the truth is that voter fraud is virtually non-existent in the US. The New York Times editorial board has stated, "states that use vote-by-mail have encountered essentially zero fraud: Oregon, the pioneer in this area, has sent out more than 100 million mail-in ballots since 2000, and has documented only about a dozen cases of proven fraud." That's 0.00001 percent of all votes cast. It is more likely for an American to be struck by lightning than to commit mail voting fraud.

If there are concerns that an eligible voter's mail ballots could be lost or uncounted, in-person polling sites still exist to provide a mechanism to correct problems, provide essential services, and ensure that every eligible voter can cast a valid ballot.

I have worked at the Hawaii County Elections Office counting center during elections, opening ballot envelopes and as an official observer. I urge anyone who has doubts about the security of the voting system in Hawaii to do the same. One cannot help but be struck by the careful, redundant procedures that are in place to ensure that every vote is counted correctly. The Elections Office staff are

professionals who care deeply about safeguarding our elections.

Do not take voting by mail away from the citizens of Hawaii. We want to have more eligible voters exercise their right to vote, not fewer.

Thank you.

--

Ruth E. Robison, Ph D
International Educator (Retired)
743 Kaumana Drive Bldg B * Hilo, HI 96720-1876 * USA
Phone (808) 935.7991

From: [Stonewall Caucus](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for 10/10 Meeting re: In Support of Hawai'i's All-Mail Voting System
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 2:55:30 PM
Attachments: StonewallCaucus_SupportMailVoting_AbbySimmons.docx

Aloha Commissioners,

Please see the attached testimony on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus.

Mahalo,

Abby Simmons (she/her)
Chair & SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
<https://linktr.ee/stonewalldph>



October 26, 2025

Hawai'i State Elections Commission
Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782

Re: In Strong Support of Hawai'i's All-Mail Voting System

Aloha Chair and Members of the Commission,

My name is Abby Simmons (she/her), and I serve as Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Our caucus represents LGBTQIA+ Democrats across our islands and stands for equality, inclusion, and justice for all. It is with deep gratitude and conviction that I submit this testimony in strong support of Hawai'i's all-mail voting system.

Voting by mail has made civic participation more accessible and equitable for countless people — especially for those who work multiple jobs, live in rural areas, have disabilities, or face barriers that make in-person voting difficult. For many in our LGBTQIA+ community, it has also provided a sense of dignity and safety, ensuring that everyone can exercise their right to vote without fear, discrimination, or hardship.

Since becoming the standard statewide in 2020, Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system has proven secure, reliable, and effective. It has strengthened our democracy and increased voter participation by making it easier for every voice to be heard. The continued success of this system depends on public confidence — which must be protected from misinformation and politically motivated attacks.

Recent attempts to cast doubt on the integrity of our mail-in voting system are not merely misguided; they are harmful to public trust. Spreading fear and falsehoods about our elections endangers the very foundation of democracy — one built on inclusion, fairness, and respect. We must stand united in rejecting these efforts and affirm our shared commitment to truth and transparency.

I also want to express my appreciation for Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago and the entire team at the Office of Elections. Their professionalism, integrity, and dedication ensure that every eligible voter in Hawai'i can participate fully and confidently. They deserve our support, not hostility or undue political pressure. The Elections Commission plays an essential role in modeling civility, fairness, and respect, and in ensuring that the Office can continue its work in a safe and supportive environment. Our democracy thrives when all people — regardless of background, gender identity, or political belief — have the ability to make their voices heard. The all-mail voting system is a cornerstone of that democracy, and I urge the Commission to continue defending and strengthening it.

In Strong Support of Hawai'i's All Mail Voting System

Mahalo nui loa for your service, for your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's democratic values, and for the opportunity to share this testimony.

With appreciation and aloha,

Abby Simmons (she/her)

Chair

Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

From: [Nancy Bondurant](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support Mail-In Voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 3:16:27 PM

Aloha!

You got to be kidding! Mail-in voting helps preserve the right to vote that so many of our families fought and died for. Why disenfranchise legitimate voters and make it harder to vote?

I live in Ocean View, Hawaii on the Big Island. Many people here do not have reliable transportation and/or funds for a special trip to cast their ballots. Some don't have current ID's. Some need to bring a family member, frequently a child, to help them read a ballot. There are seniors who are shut-ins who don't travel. The list goes on.

In short, if you are looking to help, then support mail-in voting. It is in the best interest of the communities of Hawaii to vote! I sincerely hope that you consider what is best for all of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bondurant
Ocean View, Hawaii

From: [Susan Irvine](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV Voting/Counting Ballots
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 4:11:50 PM

Dear Chair Curtis and Members of the EAC:

I am writing to oppose the motion before you “to return to in person voting in the precinct, hand counting paper ballots...”

I oppose any move to rescind or restrict Hawaii’s use of voting by mail. The Office of Elections spent years studying the merits of voting by mail before they adopted the system in Hawaii. Implementing a vote by mail system came about partly because so many voters had switched to absentee voting that the State was running two parallel voting systems (in person and by absentee mail) prior to adopting all mail voting. Essentially, Hawaii voters chose to vote by mail when so many used absentee ballots. Please do not force voters and the OE to return to antiquated procedures as the present system is working well. I say that the system is working well from the perspective of one who has volunteered as an “official observer” at elections in Hawaii County since the 1980’s so I have had some experience in monitoring the process. I have repeatedly been impressed with the procedures and audits done by the OE to assure that our election results accurately reflect the votes cast.

As one who has participated in hundreds of hand-counted elections for community associations, clubs, and unions over the years, hand counting is extremely slow and much more likely to initial inaccuracies than electronically counted ballots. Election results on a statewide basis would likely take weeks, rather than hours or days to be determined. This would be unlikely to increase voter’s confidence in our elections.

Thank you all for your service and for taking the time to read this.

Mahalo, Susan Irvine, Hilo

From: [Jeanne Alford](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 4:21:43 PM

Elections Commission,
Please do not take away our right to vote by mail.
It's safe, secure and there's no substantial proof of illegal voting.
Thank you,
Jeanne Alford

From: [Chaine, Llasmin M.](#) on behalf of [DHS HSCSW](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY - 10/29/25 Elections Commission Meeting (Agenda Item IV a))
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 7:59:08 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Testimony in Opposition of a Return to Polling Place Elections

To: Commissioner Michael Curtis, Chair
Members of the State of Hawaii Elections Commission

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I offer this testimony in strong opposition of a return to polling place elections, the loss of voting by mail, and any actions that may intentionally, or inadvertently, result in the disenfranchisement of female voters.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.

[Llasmin Chaine](#) | Executive Director

[Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women](#) | [Ka Komikina Kulana Olakino o Na Wahine](#)



NOTICE: This information and attachments are intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and/or confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be punishable under state and federal law. If you have received this communication and/or attachments in error, please notify the sender via email immediately and destroy all electronic and paper copies.

NOTICE: This information and attachments are intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and/or confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be punishable under state and federal law. If you have received this communication and/or attachments in error, please notify the sender via email immediately and destroy all electronic and paper copies.

From: [Maui Quizon](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Quizon: Written Testimony Elections Commission Meeting - October 29, 2025
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:03:53 PM
Attachments: 2025-10-29-EC-Agenda-FINAL.pdf
Quizon written testimony OE Commission Mtg 29 Oct 25.pdf

Evening State of Hawaii Office of Elections Commission Chair Nago,

Attached please find written testimony as it pertains to the OE Commission Meeting October 29, 2025.

//SIGNED//
RAMON MAUI QUIZON
Resident, Mililani Mauka, Hawaii

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **OE.Elections.Commission** <elections.commission@hawaii.gov>
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 2:21 PM
Subject: Elections Commission Meeting - October 29, 2025
To:
Cc: OE.Elections.Commission <elections.commission@hawaii.gov>

Aloha,

Attached please find the agenda for the next Elections Commission meeting on **October 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM**. It has also been:

- Posted to the [State Calendar](#)
- Posted to the [OE website](#)

Mahalo,

Office of Elections

elections.commission@hawaii.gov

(808) 453-VOTE (8683)

Ramon Maui Quizon
95-1074 Hoalia Street
Mililani, Hawaii 96789
rmquizon82@gmail.com

October 26, 2025

Scott T. Nago
Chief Election Officer
State of Hawaii Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782

Subject: Support for the Elections Commission Motion to Return to Polling Place Elections and Request for DOJ Election Monitors in Hawaii

Dear Mr. Nago,

On behalf of concerned citizens and election integrity advocates, I am writing to express strong support for the Elections Commission's October 1, 2025 motion, as documented in your correspondence OE-25-121 dated October 6, 2025, recommending that the Legislature direct the Chief Election Officer to return to in-person, precinct-based voting.

The Commission's motion specifically called for:

"In-person voting in the precinct, hand counting paper ballots, one-day voting, ID required, with the exceptions for absentee voting for military and special needs. Votes shall be counted where cast, then reported to the county before transferring ballots."

This motion reflects a growing concern among voters about transparency, accountability, and confidence in Hawaii's electoral process. Returning to traditional polling place elections, with local precinct-level oversight, ensures that ballots are properly handled, counted, and reported where they are cast. Such measures enhance the chain of custody, minimize opportunities for irregularities, and reinforce public confidence in our democratic process.

Need for Federal Oversight and DOJ Election Monitors

In addition to restoring precinct-based voting, I urge the Office of Elections and the State Legislature to formally request that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) deploy election monitors to Hawaii polling sites during the next statewide election.

Since the 2020 elections, numerous reports and citizen complaints have surfaced regarding potential irregularities in mail-in voting procedures, ballot handling, and delays in vote reporting. These concerns—though sometimes localized—have eroded trust among voters. The deployment of DOJ

election monitors would provide an additional layer of impartial oversight and help ensure that Hawaii's elections are conducted in compliance with federal and state election laws.

This request is consistent with recent actions by the DOJ's Civil Rights Division. For example, the Department recently announced the deployment of federal election monitors to polling places in California and New Jersey following requests from state political organizations citing similar integrity concerns. Hawaii's voters deserve the same level of oversight and assurance that their elections are free from irregularities or procedural inconsistencies.

Rationale for Returning to In-Person, Paper-Ballot Voting

Transparency and Accountability – Hand counting paper ballots in public view restores community trust and provides a verifiable audit trail.

Chain of Custody – Counting ballots at the precinct before transfer to the county eliminates opportunities for error or tampering.

Voter Identification – Ensuring each voter presents valid identification upholds election security and fairness.

Equity and Accessibility – Maintaining absentee voting for military personnel and individuals with special needs continues to provide access for those unable to vote in person.

Conclusion

The integrity of Hawaii's elections is vital to maintaining public confidence in our democracy. The Office of Elections and Legislature should take decisive action to implement the Commission's recommendations and formally request DOJ oversight for upcoming elections.

By returning to precinct-based, in-person voting with transparent counting procedures and federal monitoring support, Hawaii can serve as a model for election integrity, fairness, and accountability.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to ensuring fair and transparent elections for the people of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramon Maui Quizon

Ramon Maui Quizon
(808) 228-0915
rmquizon82@gmail.com

From: [Mona Peck](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:10:41 PM

Aloha

I would like to write you about the mail-in voting that we use now in Hawaii.

It is easier for elders who no longer drive to mail in their vote, rather than plan a visit to where the polling station is.

When I first moved to Hawaii, we had to make a special trip out to go to the grade school to vote.

It is much easier to look over the ballot, choose wisely and mail it.

The US mail is secure! We can get our bills and packages without threat of falseness.

There has been no threat of “fake voters” or those who vote more than once in Hawaii.

Actually, any reports of falsification have been made by Republican voters who tried to vote for deceased family members.

Funny how the president and his lackey’s accuse others of devices that they themselves use.

I live in Waikoloa HI.

Sent from my iPhone

Mona Peck

From: [Jody Weidemann](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:24:36 PM

Aloha,
My name is Jody Weidemann, jodysacres@htva.net, 607-349-8375
16-2049 Vanda Drive
Pahoa, HI 96778

I am soon to be 70 years old, my husband is older than me. I prefer mail in ballot because transportation & mobility does not become an issue. Please do not change what has been working well!

Mahalo
Sent from my iPad

From: [Dwight Martin](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony: support for Hawaii mail-in voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:31:27 PM

I am a Hawaii resident, registered voter, and senior citizen. I vote in every election. I strongly support mail-in voting. It is very easy and extremely convenient. There's no chance of missing a vote because of bad weather or poor health.

I URGE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HAWAII MAIL-IN VOTING.

I am unavailable to participate in the hearing on October 29 either in person or virtually.

Thank you.

= Dwight Martin =

State House District: 26

Precinct: 01

State Senatorial District: 11

Congressional District: 1

City Council District: 6

From: [Carol Maxym](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT FOR MAIL-IN VOTING
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:32:50 PM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I would like to voice my strong and unwavering support for Hawaii's Mail-in Voting system. Mail-in voting is certainly the most secure means of voting and provides easy and equal opportunity for every citizen to vote. There is no reason to change our well-functioning system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol Maxym
Honolulu

--

Carol Maxym, Ph.D.

Co-Author: Iolani Palace: A Metaphor for Two Centuries of Hawaii History

From: [Jessie Mitchell](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] writing in strong support of maintaining and expanding access to mail-in voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:33:25 PM

Aloha elections commission, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Jessie Mitchell. I am Kama'āina and a resident of Hawai'i, and I live in Mililani. I am writing in strong support of maintaining and expanding access to mail-in voting.

Mail-in voting is one of the most secure, convenient, and inclusive ways to ensure every eligible voter has a voice in our democracy. It's not a partisan issue — it's a participation issue. Across the country, states that have implemented vote-by-mail systems report higher voter turnout, fewer errors, and strong verification safeguards.

For many people — including seniors, students, working parents, military members, and those with health or mobility challenges — mail-in voting is not just a convenience, it's a necessity. It ensures that every citizen, regardless of their schedule, health, or access to transportation, can exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Hawai'i has shown that when mail-in voting is made accessible and well-managed, participation increases and trust in the process grows. Voters can track their ballots, verify receipt, and have confidence that their vote is counted.

We should be focused on making voting easier, not harder. Strengthening mail-in voting — through clear communication, accessible drop boxes, and timely ballot processing — supports civic engagement and upholds the integrity of our elections.

In short, mail-in voting is safe, secure, and essential to a healthy democracy. Please continue supporting and improving this system so that every voice can be heard.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting the right to vote.

Respectfully,

Jessie Mitchell

jessiemitcheilbcba@gmail.com

From: [Nancy Worth](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - I Support Mail-In Voting!
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:56:17 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am a long-time Hawaii resident currently living in Kihei, Maui and I am strongly in favor of mail-in voting. Back in the 1980's, my husband and I owned The Lahaina News, a weekly newspaper serving West Maui. After we sold it to The Maui News, I worked as Assistant to the Campaign Director raising the funds to build the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. We were very involved in this community. After many years on the mainland, we returned to Maui after retiring to find the state had transitioned to mail-in voting. We were delighted. As retirees, we very much appreciate the fact that we don't have to drive to a polling place, stand in a long line, and stand in a polling booth, all in order to cast our vote. After registering to vote when we moved back to Maui, we now have a ballot mailed to us and we can fill it out at our convenience in the privacy of our home and then mail it back or drop it off at a designated drop point. Please DO NOT eliminate mail-in ballots. It will be very hard on the elderly and/or home bound people in this state. It works. It helps more people be involved in their right to choose who represents them. Don't take this right away!

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Nancy K. Worth

Nancy Worth
(808) 283-2294 (cell)
nworth2000@yahoo.com

From: [JEAN DOBASHI](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] KEEP Mail-In Ballot for ELECTIONS
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:58:12 PM

Aloha Everyone,

My name is Jean Dobashi and I live on the island of Kauai. I have voted in every election for as far back as I can remember. For several years I was the County of Kauai Election Precinct Workers Trainer. Yes, all Precinct Workers had to take my Training Session in order to work on Election Day on Kauai.

Now I have the honor & pleasure to vote in the comfort of my home. In fact, when my ballot arrives, I usually vote that day @ drop it off @ the County Clerk's Office or mail it back.

Making VOTING easier is the best way!!! No need to fight long lines, driving to the voting center & then looking for parking. It is a pain & honestly, time consuming. You just can't beat voting by mail! It is a no brainer!

PLEASE keep "mail-in" voting especially for us older senior citizens who are finding it very difficult to walk. I know that other Seniors in my County of Kauai agrees that VOTING BY MAIL is the best thing ever. Thank you and please KEEP MAIL-IN BALLOTS. Mahalo.

Love & Aloha,
Jean Dobashi.
Had a total R knee replacement, also.

From: [Dale VanderBrink](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony for 10/29 Meeting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:10:47 PM
Attachments: Statement of Strong Support of Hawai'i All-Mail Voting System..pdf

Aloha,

Please see the attached personal testimony I am submitting for the upcoming commission meeting on 10/29.

--

Thanks,

-Dale

October 26, 2025

Hawai'i State Elections Commission

Re: Statement of Strong Support of Hawai'i All-Mail Voting System.

Aloha Chair and Members of the Commission,

My Name is Dale VanderBrink. I currently serve as the Second Vice Chair on the Ala-Moana Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board but these views I am sharing here are my own opinions.

I am writing this statement in strong support of our all-mail voting system, which has made it easier for many, including myself, to participate in our elections. I am deeply saddened by the unfounded attacks on this system, which appear to mirror the politically motivated narratives we've seen at the federal level.

I have no objection to investigations or reasonable security measures that strengthen election integrity, or even to expanding in person voting options for those who prefer to vote that way. However, these efforts should not come at the expense of the ability to vote freely and conveniently by mail, as provided under our current system.

I support the all-mail voting system because it greatly expands the ability for people to vote. I personally know people who can not vote in person because of work, or college, children, or disability without the all mail voting system. There are those that say because it is a state holiday then it allows people to vote, but that is simply not true. Many businesses do not observe state holidays which means many work on election day. Allowances to give people time to vote in person are detached from the reality of many people's situation.

Take myself as an example. Before the transition to an all-mail system, I lived in Wahiawā and worked downtown, commuting by TheBus. Even with several hours off, I would not have had enough time to travel to Wahiawā to vote and return to work. Attempting to vote in a different precinct closer to my workplace would likely have led to accusations of "fraudulent voting" from some of the same individuals who now oppose mail-in voting.

I would like to express my appreciation for Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago and the entire team at the Office of Elections for their work in implementing this system and working free of political pressure.

I respectfully urge this Commission to reconsider and retract its prior letter calling for a "return to in-person voting," and instead to reaffirm its support for Hawai'i's proven and accessible all-mail voting system.

Mahalo,
Dale

From: [Bill Worth](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Ballots
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:14:57 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am a long-time Hawaii resident currently living in Kihei, Maui and am strongly in favor of mail-in voting. In the 1980's, my wife and I owned The Lahaina News, a weekly newspaper serving West Maui. After we sold it to The Maui News, my wife, Nancy Worth, worked as Assistant to the Campaign Director, helping raise the funds to build the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. We were very involved in the Maui community. After many years on the mainland, we returned to Maui after retiring to find the state had transitioned to mail-in voting. We were delighted. As retirees, we very much appreciate the fact that we don't have to drive to a polling place, stand in a long line, and stand in a polling booth in order to cast our vote. After registering to vote when we moved back to Maui, we now have a ballot mailed to us and we can fill it out at our convenience in the privacy of our home and then mail it back or drop it off at a designated drop point. Please DO NOT eliminate mail-in ballots. I am disabled, and it will be very hard on me to vote in Hawaii. Republicans, of course, favor making it harder for anyone to vote in any state. Please do not take away my voting rights!

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
William E. Worth

(808) 359-0865 (cell)
wworth18@yahoo.com

From: [Carolyn O'Mahony](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Elections Committee Meeting October 29, 2025
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:19:25 PM

To: Hawai'i State Elections Commission
Subject: Motion passed on October 1, 2025 to reduce opportunities to vote

Dear Chair Curtis and Commissioners,

I was extremely concerned to read that on October 1, 2025, the Elections Commission passed a motion to return to in-person voting only, hand-counting paper ballots, one day voting, etc.

1

As a member of the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, in early 2025 I was involved in audit of ballots. After days of hand counting and checking ballots, it was determined there was no difference from the computer counted ballots. This project cost Hawaiian taxpayers thousands of dollars and was extra work for the staff of the Office of Elections. I have increased appreciation for the workers, the leadership of Scott Nago, and the processes they have in place to ensure the integrity of voters' choices.

2

Research undertaken on recent elections shows vote-by mail increases voter participation by younger voters and less-educated people.

Bonica, Adam, Jacob Grumbach, and Hakeem Jefferson. 2020. All-Mail voting in Colorado increases turnout and reduces turnout inequality. *Electoral Studies* 72:1–12

3

Other research finds that when people vote by mail they are more likely to choose candidates aligned with their stated preferences. The in-person voting process requires that people hold large amounts of information in memory about their choices on many different decisions.

Wolak, J., Stapleton, C.E. The Effects of Voting by Mail on Correct Voting. *Political Behavior* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-025-10067-x>

Sincerely,
Carolyn O'Mahony PhD

From: [steven w](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting support
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:34:44 PM

Dear Elections Commission,

My name is Steven Whaley.

I live in Pahoa, Hawaii and my email is stevenwhy55@yahoo.com.

I strongly support mail in voting so that the elderly, the sick and those without easy access to transportation may still have access to voting, the cornerstone of our democratic republic.

Please make note of my response.

Mahalo,

Steven Whaley

*Give me silence, water, hope
Give me struggle, iron, volcanoes
- Pablo Neruda*

From: [Bob Duffer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by mail
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:40:47 PM

I am 86 years old and I have voted in every election since I was old enough to vote. The last few years, my 86-year-old wife and I have voted by mail. It is much easier than standing in line, waiting for people to get finished so we can vote. I have a handicap tag, which helps, but not every voting place has convenient parking near the voting booths. Please do not change the vote by mail.

Thank you,

Bobby Duffer
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Cheryl Beery](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Balloting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:00:33 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I am a registered voter in Hawaii. I live on the Big Island and want to stress how comforting it is to mail in my ballot early. Too many things could keep me from voting on election day like an automobile accident that stops traffic for several hours on a key access road to the voting site, a flash flood, a fallen tree or power poll that blocks an access road for hours, a tsunami warning. All of these things have happened in the last year on our island and could happen again. I am 77 years old and still drive a car so I would still be able to reach the polling place if mail-in ballots are no longer available but that might not be true in future years.

Please retain the mail-in system that has worked so well. I believe it is a Republican political ploy to attempt to restrict mail-in votes because they want to exert more control at the voting sites. Please don't be swayed by their tactics. Our voting rights could be in jeopardy.

Mahalo for reading this email.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Beery

From: [Hugh Jones](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Mail in Voting: Please Continue Vote by Mail/Commission Hearing on 10/29/2025
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:13:54 PM

I am a retired senior citizen and mail in voting is fundamentally important to seniors, disabled individuals, working individuals working long shifts and/or two jobs.

Mail in voting is effective, safe and has worked well in Hawaii.

Don't return us to the Dark Ages

Hugh Jones

Kailua Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone, please excuse brevity, abbreviations and possible typos.

Hugh Jones

From: [Kimberly Gibbons](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] VOTE BY MAIL
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:19:55 PM

Please retain VOTE BY MAIL! It's convenient and ensures that everyone has an opportunity to vote from the comfort of their home. Maintaining elections will help us keep our democracy, which is currently under threat by the authoritarian Trump regime.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Gibbons
Resident of Pahoehoe, HI on the Big Island

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Evelyn Billington](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting & Elections Integrity Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:41:04 PM

My name is Evelyn Billington, my email is aukai.tutu@gmail.com, and I live on the island of Maui.

I am 81 years old and have been disabled for the majority of my adult life. The ability to vote is an extremely important privilege and responsibility to me--I have voted in every single election--local, state, and Federal--since I was 18 years old.

When Hawaii made mail-in voting possible, it literally changed my life. There simply are no words to convey what a difference it has made to be able to vote from home and mail my ballot, knowing that it is a safe, honest, and reliable way to participate in elections. Research has repeatedly shown, over and over, that mail-in voting is safe from tampering and increases participation among eligible voters. It's not only safe and convenient, it has saved me from hours of pain transporting me and my wheelchair to my correct precinct, then often waiting hours in line to cast my ballot.

PLEASE, PLEASE--for the sake of all of the eligible voters of Hawaii, not just those of us who are older and/or disabled, continue to maintain mail-in voting in our State. We need every single person to participate in our most important contribution to strengthen democracy--the right (and ability) to vote.

Thank you, and aloha,
Evelyn B Billington

From: [CATHY LAU](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:44:24 PM

I am writing to testify that mail in voting is important in Hawaii. It's especially important for people who live in rural areas or those who work to be able to have their voice heard in our state. We've been doing mail in voting for decades and it works well.

Thank you,
Catherine Lau
Kakaako in Honolulu
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nan Porterfield](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support vote by mail
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:46:58 PM

I'm Nancy Porterfield

Nan.porterfield@gmail.com

I live in Mo'ili'ili. At 76 years old, I want to sit at the kitchen table and go over the ballot. I want to see the latest info on candidates. Who's saying what. Research over many days. No hurry. Then put ballot in the mail. No driving. No lines. No weather. Easy. Easy.

Support mail in ballots. Allow people choices to vote. Make it easy so more people come out.

Thank you.

Nancy Porterfield

From: [Beth McD](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do NOT eliminate mail-in voting!
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 11:30:26 PM

I am writing to voice my **strong support** for retaining mail-in voting in Hawai`i. Hawai`i has one of the lowest voter turn out rates in the entire country! Shameful. Why would anyone even consider eliminating mail-in voting when this will only make that even worse.

There have been no cases of voter fraud here. If anything the commission's task should be to make voting MORE accessible not less. Because for most any hurdle; trying to figure out where their polling place is, having to fight traffic, find parking etc will be enough to get them to say "why bother".

My mom never missed an election ever in her 88 years, and in her last years that was wholly thanks to mail-in voting. Probably a third of the residents at her senior residence, Kahala Nui, use walkers or wheelchairs or had mobility issues. If those seniors had to again go wait in a long line to physically cast their vote many would likely be excluded.

I also LOVE mail in voting because it gives me the time to examine and research before casting my votes. Because inevitably there is some ballot measure added, written in such convoluted language that it takes me a few days to figure out what hell it even means. In a voting booth under pressure to decide I'll likely make a rash choice or leave it blank. At home I can consider more carefully.

Don't you dare discard mail in voting!!! It's essential to

upholding our democracy, making it possible, and more probable, that all will participate.

Beth McDermott

Resident in Hawaii since 1969

Aina Haina

808-782-7502

From: [Erin Rhatigan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 11:34:13 PM

My name is Erin Rhatigan and I am a 64 year old registered nurse who appreciates having mail in ballots. I believe everyone deserves to vote and due to illness, injuries or disability many of our Ohana especially our elderly here in our islands are unable to stand or walk to the polls, but they can fill out a mail in ballot to vote by mail. By doing away with mail in ballots we are denying voting rights to our disabled, our elderly and our ill community members. Voting is our right and our duty as citizens of the United States of America. Don't take away our rights. Do not take away voting by mail.

From: [amy.sullivan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support mail-in voting
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 11:57:26 PM

I am a Hawai'i resident and registered voter. I vote in every election. I strongly support mail-in voting. It is very easy and extremely convenient. There's no chance of missing a vote because of bad weather, poor health, or travel.

I URGE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HAWAII MAIL-IN VOTING.

I am unavailable to participate in the hearing on October 29 either in person or virtually.

Thank you.

Amy Sullivan
Amyksullivan@yahoo.com
Hawai'i Kai

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [gail.morrison](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:36:43 AM

I strongly support mail-in voting! I'm 78 years old and I have trouble getting around. I am politically savvy and read about all of the issues. Please keep mail in voting to ensure that elders are equally represented!

Thank you, Gail Morrison from Honolulu

From: [Darryl Nordstrom](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Mail in Voting and Save Democracy
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:27:39 AM

Aloha,

My name is Darryl Toshio Nordstrom, I live in Manoa and have been voting by mail since it became available.

Voting by mail makes it much more convenient for voters like me to vote.

Being a busy healthcare professional always made voting in person very difficult.

Voting by mail allows many more people to participate in democracy! It's clear the many republicans for years have tried and tried to suppress voting in many ways. This clearly is undemocratic and UnAmerican!!!

Keep democracy alive and functional by making it easier for more citizens to vote. I know many elderly, physically challenged and others that are not able to vote in person or it is extremely difficult to vote in person.

Do the right thing and don't let Undemocratic and UnAmerican actors destroy mail in voting!

Mahalo,

Darryl

daigoro007@me.com

From: [Denise Martinez](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i VOTE BY MAIL & Integrity of Elections
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:33:49 AM

Aloha,

I live in Kihei and I'm writing to urge you to keep our voting by mail system.

Voting by mail is safe. Voting by mail is equitable. Voting by mail is fair. Voting by mail is easy. Voting by mail is Pono.

Residents of Hawaii have voted by mail for decades and our system works well. Voter fraud is virtually nonexistent. Voting by mail allows time to study our voters pamphlets and therefore, make wise decisions for our county, state, and federal governments.

Our Kupuna, working citizens, disabled, students, and those without transportation have the right to vote and eliminating voting by mail would strip them of their rights.

We the people of Hawaii deserve to vote by mail and I urge you to stop the Republican Party from destroying this right.

Mahalo

Denise Martinez
Kihei, HI

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Samantha Wilcox-Zimmer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Appreciation for Mail-In Voting Convenience
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:32:12 AM

Dear Voter Commission,

I wanted to take a moment to share my appreciation for the mail-in voting option. It has been an incredibly convenient and accessible way for me to participate in elections, allowing me to carefully review my ballot, research each candidate and issue, and submit my vote without time constraints or scheduling conflicts.

Voting by mail has made it much easier for me to stay engaged in the democratic process, especially when balancing work and personal responsibilities. I truly value having this option available and hope it continues to be offered in future elections.

Thank you for your continued efforts to make voting accessible and secure for all.

Warm regards,

Samantha Wilcox

5333 Likini St Honolulu HI

From: [Dan Freund](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater (keep mail-in voting)
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:41:06 AM

Aloha e Hawai'i State Elections Commission,

The more citizens participate in our elections the more democratic (small d) our government will be. Mail in voting makes it possible for folks who can't get to the polls - caretakers, folks with disabilities, folks with long hours at work, etc. - to vote. That's a good thing!

Are there problems with mail-in voting as it is conducted in Hawaii? Perhaps. If there are, **the solution is to work with the elections office to fix the problems**, not to make it more difficult for folks to participate in the election process by doing away with mail-in voting altogether.

- Dan Freund
5609A Honua Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Haley Van Noord](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Writing in support for vote by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:45:27 AM

Aloha my name is Haley van Weemen van Noord and I am a teacher on the island of Maui. I live in Kihei and I work in Lahaina.

As a resident of Maui since 2005, I see the importance for voters to be able to vote by mail. Some of the reasons voting by mail is so important include but are not limited to;

Providing convenience and accessibility. Voting by mail removes many potential barriers to in-person voting, such as long lines, difficulties with transportation, getting time off work, or bad weather on Election Day. This flexibility is especially important for voters who are military personnel or living overseas, individuals with disabilities or health conditions, essential workers, students, or caregivers with time-consuming commitments.

Voting by mail also gives voters more time to make informed decisions.

Receiving a ballot by mail well before Election Day gives voters an "election period" rather than just a single day to vote. This allows them more time to research the candidates and issues, potentially leading to more informed voting decisions.

There is also the added benefit of administrative efficiency and cost savings. For election officials, handling ballots over a longer period can spread out the workload and reduce the need for as many in-person polling places and staff, which may result in financial savings for jurisdictions in some cases.

Thank you for your support
Haley van Weemen van Noord

From: [Melissa Wheeler](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] trumps efforts to destroy voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:52:45 AM

Ending mail in voting will put many thousands of Hawaii residents simply unable to vote! It's absurd and unnecessary! We've been in Hawaii for 18 years and have voted in every primary and local and national elections since then. The reduction in polling places, ridiculous requirements to satisfy citizenship and no mail in option will destroy the small percentage of voters already who DO participate! There has never been any proven incidents of illegality in voting here....much as there has been NONE nationally.

We believe that ultimately, the electoral college will be eliminated and the popular vote will be instituted in all states...it's unnecessary to do it any other way in this modern age!

STATES have the constitutional right to determine voting protocol and this should remain inviolate!

PLEASE do not support the president attempts to restrict voting in any way!!

melissa

residential data below in footer

--

Jeff Purser and Melissa Wheeler
94-1673 Hae Hae Loop
P.O.Box 382
Naalehu, HI 96772
808-238-6135 missi
808-785-2643 jeff

From: [Emily Robinson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:04:10 AM

To whom it may concern: The mail-in voting system has served Hawaii well for a long time now. There are no honest reasons to change the system; it is just a political move by Donald Trump to try and suppress the vote. I'm sure the commission will resist the vocal minority and their nefarious agenda. We the vast majority of the Hawaiian people are behind you.

Sincerely,

Emily & Max Robinson
Kailua-Kona 96740

From: [Sue Feutz](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:10:50 AM

Husband Joseph and I overwhelming support mail in voting. The goal of a representative republic is to support its citizens- mail in allows voices to be heard. It is safe and trusted. Leave Hawaii representative government alone.

Mahalo

Sue Feutz

843-415-6445

6240 Olohena

96746-8705

From: [ilona.yaeger](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:23:21 AM

Hello. My name is Ilona Yaeger and I am 70 years old. I use a cane as I cannot stand for long periods of time or walk very far due to back, hip, incontinence and heart issues. It is important for me to be able to do my civic duty and participation in our society through the voting by mail process. There are many like me that have conditions that voting by mail is important, such as cancer patients, myasthenia gravis, and parkinson patients to name a few. Please don't deny their right to cast their vote.

P.s. If there so much election fraud as some people say, why do Republicans control the Senate, House and Presidency. President Trump has been elected president 2x in spite of such alleged fraud.

Thank you for your time.

From: [Ken Forbes](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting is not a problem that needs to be fixed
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:34:43 AM

I am Ken Forbes from Hakalau, Big Island.

What evidence has been offered to show that mail-in voting is a problem that needs fixing? Or is it just fuzzy suspicion that's driving these testimonies? Maybe triggered by an anecdote that can't be verified? Or is this something worse, something cynical? Would these "concerns" be present if it weren't for Trump's rhetoric?

The burden of proof should be on those advocating for the elimination of mail-in voting.

From: [Helen Cox](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Mail-In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:53:43 AM

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing to support the continuation of mail-in voting. As a 74 year old with many friends for whom travel is now difficult, I believe that removing mail-in voting clearly reduces the number of those voting. In addition to the elderly who may find it difficult to vote in person, there are also many who have jobs that make voting in person difficult, even when there is a holiday on voting day. A healthy democracy demands participation from as many of its citizens as possible, so that we truly are hearing the voice of the people.

Particularly in this moment in history when the country is so polarized, Hawaii needs to be a place where all voices have access and are heard in our voting.

Mahalo for reading my testimony.

Helen Cox
Kalaheo, Hawaii
helencox.kcc@gmail.com

From: [Jeannie Jewell](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hawaii Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:58:56 AM

Aloha Election Commissioners,

I do not support any bill or action that threatens hawaii's mail in voting. Please do not show support for this action.

We have been using mail in voting for many years now. It has helped our many kupuna (senior citizens) and other folks who would otherwise be unable to cast their vote. Their voices are important. All of our citizen's voices are important!

I personally have been relieved that I am able to vote by mail when travel for business or pleasure has taken me out of state.

Please vote no on this action.

Mahalo,
Jean Jewell
Holualoa 96725

From: [Maryalice Woody](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:04:37 AM

Aloha,

I live in Kailua and feel extremely strongly about keeping our current mail in balloting process. My husband and I both feel that our vote is more secure than even the walk in voting we did in the past. There is a paper trail and we have always tracked our ballots and known our vote counted. Mail in ballots are more secure, more accessible, more convenient, therefore more democratic. How could that be wrong? Unless, we as a democracy, actually want less people voting?? That IS wrong. Our democracy depends on free and fair elections, which we have now with mail in voting.

Mahalo,

Maryalice Woody

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Latkiewicz](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:05:12 AM

Short and sweet: Please support democracy including extending the franchise to all via mail-in voting.

John Latkiewicz
4266 Kalaheo Dr.
Kalaheo, HI
808-212-3828

From: [Celeste Mau](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:10:24 AM

I believe that the voting by mail system is safe and secure, as I have been doing it for years. I have faith in the integrity of this process and see it as a huge convenience for citizens who travel often, as I do. Please do not allow the Republicans to cast doubt upon a tried and true democratic election process!

Respectfully Celeste Mau

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ellen Lubrano](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] mail in ballots are necessary - why fix something that's not broke
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:31:58 AM

As a registered voter in Kailua Kona Hawaii I believe it's time to stand up for Mail in Ballots.

Just because Trump says it's a broken system doesn't mean it's real. Time to stand up for Mail in Ballots - which helps many get their vote counted

Mail in voting has been around since the Civil War. And these days, when election day is not a day off, when because of current policies polling places are far and few between, because the population is aging and the younger families are busy, mail in ballots are a necessity and makes life a little easier.

Mail in voting is safer than poll place voting, where people are harassed outside the polling places, when weather can turn bad and voters not able to get out.

The most important part of Mail In Voting is that more people are voting. Below are other proven reasons why mail in voting works. Please keep your senses about you and stop wasting voters time on these issues. Ellen Lubrano, lnlubrano53@gmail.com.

In addition to being a secure method, mail-in voting offers several benefits for voters and election administration:

Expanded access: It increases accessibility for voters with disabilities, the elderly, military members, overseas citizens, and those who may face challenges getting to a polling place due to work or family obligations.

Reduced wait times: Increasing mail-in voting can reduce lines at polling places, making the experience more efficient for those who still choose to vote in person.

Greater convenience: Voters can fill out their ballots at home, at their convenience, and have more time to research candidates and ballot measures.

Improved turnout: Research has shown that universal vote-by-mail systems can modestly increase voter turnout.

Cost savings: For election administrators, higher rates of mail-in voting can lead to reduced costs associated with staffing and equipping physical polling places.

From: [Karen Lofstrom](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Banning mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:44:16 AM

Dear folks,

I'm seventy-eight and disabled. I cannot stand long or walk too far. I would not be able to vote by going to a polling place and standing in line.

I have enjoyed voting by mail for many years. I love it, not just because I *can* do it, but because I can put the ballot on my computer desk and research all the candidates and initiatives. I'm sure I'm a more informed voter thanks to mail-in voting.

Don't listen to the \$%^\$%^ Republicans. They are trying to overthrow democracy and install a dictator.

--

Karen Lofstrom
lower Makiki

From: [Christine Dobrowolski](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:44:35 AM

Aloha,

I'm writing in regard to the upcoming Elections Commission meeting to voice my strong support for maintaining mail-in voting.

Mail-in elections make voting more accessible to a wider range of people, helping ensure that our elections represent the entire electorate. While the integrity of the elections is of utmost importance to our democracy, it would be more effective to strengthen protections of the current system than eliminating mail-in voting.

Mahalo,

Christine Dobrowolski
christine.c.dobrowolski@gmail.com
Kailua

From: [Diane Halford](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:53:50 AM

I live in Manoa. I support mail in voting for several reasons. Mail in voting is more flexible for voters who work full time and multiple jobs as well as busy parents. It's also better, safer for people who have disabilities or health conditions that are compromised by being in large gatherings.

With mail in voting constituents can take the time to thoroughly read proposed amendments and research who is running from home.

Mail in voting reduces the stress of long lines at the polls. Mail in voting also increases voter turn out especially in local elections and primaries.

Mail in voting is more efficient and lower costs than in person voting.

Mail in voting is secure in that it as a form of paper ballot that can be tracked and audited.

Most states use signature verification, and many have a "cure" process that allows voters to fix mismatched or missing signatures.

There are penalties for ballot tampering and fraud.

For all these reasons and more we should fully support mail in voting!

Thank you,
Diane Halford

From: [Bowie Mandelbaum](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Hearing 10/29
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:54:15 AM

Aloha,

My name is Bowie Mandelbaum and I am writing in as testimony for the October 29 hearing on eliminating mail-in ballots. I want to strongly oppose the elimination of mail in ballots. Vote by mail is a huge asset to our state and our electorate. I live in rural Waimea, on the Big Island, and it is helpful to everyone in our community to vote by mail. No one has to travel to find their nearest polling place; no one has to take time off work or plan to vote. It's as simple as getting your mail. This is a solved issue, and going back to voting in person would only limit our ability to participate in democracy as a state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Bowie Mandelbaum

From: [WENDY DAME](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:03:38 AM

My name is Wendy Dame and my email is wedame@comcast.net. I am a Hawaii resident and I live in Kailua.

I grew up in Kailua and moved to the Mainland when I went off to college, eventually settling in Oregon for 40 years before moving back to Hawaii 8 years ago. In Oregon, I had the experience of voting by mail beginning in 1998. After voting by mail for almost 20 years in Oregon, I can't imagine now having to go back to stand in line at the polls.

Voting by mail has so many advantages. It increases voter participation. Many people are disabled or cannot drive or may be too busy with their daily lives to devote a day on Election Day, so being able to mail in their ballot ensures their participation. By having a period of time in which to vote after they have received their ballots, the voters can take their time to review the ballots and the candidates to access the info they need to make informed choices.

Security can be ensured through locked ballot boxes, verification of signatures, etc.
PLEASE SUPPORT MAIL-IN VOTING!!!

Mahalo,
Wendy Dame

From: [Albert Hamai](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE MAINTAIN MAIL-IN BALLOTS
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:08:24 AM

October 27, 2025

Aloha Members, Election Commission,

My name is Albert Hamai of Honolulu. I belong to the senior citizens age group which is growing in size in proportion to the general population. The ability to cast our ballot by mail has made it so much easier for us older Americans to exercise our hard earned right to vote. Also as a proud U.S. Army veteran, I believe that the easier it is to vote, the better it is for our country and our democracy. I have lived through the difficult period in our country when citizens of color, many who fought for our country, were denied the right to vote by unconstitutional state laws whose intent was to restrict the number of citizens who can vote. Let's not go back to making it more difficult to vote, as a move to abolish mail-in ballots will surely do.

Our mail-in ballot procedure has worked very well. Most of my family and friends vote by mail from the sanctuary of our homes. So easy to vote and mail the ballot. No need to arrange for transportation to get to the polls, find parking, sign in, show ID, wait in the lines and return home.

PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE A VERY DEMOCRATIC, WORKING MAIL-IN BALLOT SYSTEM. PLEASE MAINTAIN MAIL BALLOT! MAHALO.

Aloha and best wishes.

Albert Hamai
1457 Ala Aolani Street
Honolulu, Hi 95819

808 839-4437

From: [Liz Pullen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting Hawai
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:11:48 AM

Dear Commission,

We live on the Big Island and fully support mail in voting as the right way to go on our island state

1. It serves the needs of all voters in our state no matter where we live
2. It works for the voters who have transportation and those who don't
3. It was been in place for years without problems as a proven method
4. This issue is a thinly veiled attempt to limit voting as working people may not get the time off to vote on Voting Day
5. Getting rid of mail in ballot is a made up problem. "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

Please do not cave to dissembling our democracy by limiting our right to vote

Sincerely
Elizabeth Louise Pullen
68-1851 Lina Poepoe Street
Waikoloa HI. 96738

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [malia eversole](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Regarding VOTE BY MAIL & Integrity of Elections Commission
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:14:48 AM

Testimony by Malia Eversole (maliahi@yahoo.com):

I am a resident of Waialae-Kahala, Honolulu, Hawaii and I strongly support the vote-by-mail process. I have an 88-year-old mother whose only way to vote is by mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots are an important way to include everyone in the voting process who are house-bound, live remotely, or are out-of-state during an election.

Here are five reasons why anyone can vote by mail with confidence.

1. Voting by mail isn't new.

Absentee voting dates to the Civil War, when several states granted members of the military the opportunity to vote when they were "absent" from their home districts. Now, every state has some type of vote-by-mail process. In five states—Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Utah, and Colorado—mail balloting is the primary method of voting. In 2018, a quarter of the electorate voted by mail.

Source: [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#).

2. It's difficult to request a mail-in ballot or cast a vote by mail using someone else's name.

It's a misconception that because there's no way of knowing who's requesting or voting a ballot, it would be easy to apply for or vote a ballot by mail in someone else's name. Every step of the vote-by-mail process includes security procedures to ensure the voter requesting the ballot is the voter receiving and voting the ballot.

The most common way to verify that mail ballots are coming from the intended voter is through signature verification. Voters must sign an affidavit on the ballot envelope. When the ballot is returned to the election office, election officials examine and verify every signature, comparing it with voter registration records or other documents that contain the voter's signature.

Some states require copies of identification documents or that their

envelopes are signed before witnesses or are notarized.

Source: [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

3. Nationwide security procedures protect the delivery of mail-in ballots. Mailed ballots typically are delivered to and picked up from the post office by two election office staff and transported in a secure container. These ballots are also processed by teams of trained election staff to ensure the integrity of the counting process.

Source: [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#)

4. Vote-by-mail programs do not favor one political party over another. Researchers have conducted many studies to determine whether a partisan bias results from election reforms designed to make it easier to vote, of which vote-by-mail is one. A recent study by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research found that “(1) vote-by-mail does not appear to affect either party’s share of turnout; (2) vote-by-mail does not appear to increase either party’s vote share; and (3) vote-by-mail modestly increases overall average turnout rates, in line with previous estimates.”

The researchers say their findings essentially dispel concerns that mail-in voting would cause a major electoral shift toward one party.

Source: [Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research](#)

5. Voter impersonation and ballot falsification are exceedingly rare. Based on a meticulous review of elections that were investigated for voter fraud, the Brennan Center for Justice found minuscule incident rates of ineligible individuals casting ballots at the polls – no more than 0.0025 percent. Numerous reports have confirmed this finding that voter impersonation is exceedingly rare. Research shows that voter fraud is similarly rare with mail ballots.

Source: [Brennan Center for Justice](#)

Aloha,

Malia Eversole

maliahi@yahoo.com

From: [Lynne Brunetto](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:15:34 AM

My husband and I are profoundly against eliminating mail in election voting. We have done mail in voting for years and years. There are several strong reasons for this. The first is getting to a place to vote is difficult to my husband at 77 and it's hard to drive safely at times and I have multiple sclerosis. So I am no better.

So it's extra burden on us to do what we wish to do which is to express our voting rights.

Additionally, having the ballot at home, we can study the issues more clearly and answer more appropriately. Which is good for our country. Both my husband and I are 100% against eliminating mail in voting. This method has proven beyond a doubt to definitely be a secure way to vote. Security's are and have been in place. There is no reason to remove this except to unbalance the populations voting rights.

I strongly hope that you heed the majority's request to keep safe elections as they are in our state of Hawaii.

There are many many of us in the same predicament. Most of us are quiet about this issue, that does not mean it's irrelevant. It's lack of access for communication and travel.

Please do not make our voting rights unfair and change the system for the minority.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patricia Fallbeck](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:19:45 AM

Election Committee Members:

Mail in ballots are a true sign of Democracy! They reach every voter—urban workers, rural farmers, work at home parents, and retired residents alike—and give them a chance to review their choices and cast their votes in a thoughtful and deliberate manner. And this, in a process that doesn't disrupt their work schedule, the economy, nor their transportation budgets. PLEASE KEEP MAIL IN BALLOTS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Fallbeck
1341 Kapiolani Blvd #18-B
Honolulu, HI, 96814
Sent from my iPhone

From: suellen@maui.net
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:19:46 AM

Please support mail-in voting but insure that it's done correctly - needs a detailed audit - thank you

From: [mark](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for the Election Commission of Hawaii
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:30:52 AM

To whomever has the power to defend democracy;

Please continue democracy in Hawaii and continue to allow us to vote by mail. Not only am I disabled, but also live in a very rural area of Hawaii County.

Mail in ballots allow me to participate in our democracy. DO NOT allow MAGA to destroy any more than they already have!!

Mark Sidmore

markinhaiku@aol.com
12-7208 Kalapana Kapoho Beach Rd
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

808-214-2078

From: [surfergirl808](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I SUPPORT MAIL-IN VOTING
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:32:16 AM

Aloha:

I'm emailing to show my support for Mail-In Voting.

We cannot let Maga/Repubs kill Mail-In voting, it immensely helps the elderly and/or disabled who cannot drive to drop off the ballots at Honolulu Hale, but want to exercise their right to vote.

I personally use Mail-In voting, I've used it since its inception, it's easy, convenient, secure and I like how I can see the progress in processing my ballot. As a rule, I drop my ballot off at the local post office and my voting is done!

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS VALUABLE SERVICE BE DISCONTINUED, IT
WOULD BE A HUGE INJUSTICE TO THOSE THAT RELY ON IT TO CAST
THEIR VOTES, AS IS THEIR RIGHT!

--

Mahalo,
Jan Hayashi for Jim Schmit
J.A. Schmit - Architect

From: [Kanishka Agarwal](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony in support of mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:38:19 AM

Hi, my name is Kanishka Agarwal and I live 25 mins south of Pahoa, near Kapoho, on the Big Island. I would like to strongly express support for mail-in voting. It is so important for voters like me living in more remote areas, not having access to transportation and/or being unable to drive. It is also a big help to many an elderly neighbor in my area. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Kanishka Agarwal
Email: agarwal_kanishka@yahoo.com

From: [Shana Laririt](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:41:08 AM

Aloha,

I am a resident of Makawao, HI and I am writing in support of continuing mail in voting. I strongly oppose any efforts to end mail in voting. In addition to being a busy Mom, I am also a Social Worker who has supported the Maui community for the past 17 years. Eliminating mail in voting will disproportionately negatively impact Kupuna, disabled people, as well as those living very rurally without transportation. Mail in voting ensures democratic values of equal access to voting.

Mahalo
Shana Laririt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Leinaala Davis](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting By Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:44:00 AM

Aloha:

I am writing to voice my support if voting by mail.

Voting should be accessible to everyone and eliminating this option imposes a hardship on those with transportation and mobility issues.

Please support voting by mail.

Leina'ala Davis

From: [harmony bentosino](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:46:18 AM

I am testifying that voting by mail is wonderful in Hawaii. It is SO convenient and assures that others who might not be able to vote get to do so.

We have had this privilege in Hawaii for a long time, and we want to keep it.

It works well.

Harmony Bentosino
harmonyrainbow5@yahoo.com
Makakilo

From: [Candace Decker](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/29/2025
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:47:40 AM

Aloha Elections Commission,

I am writing in support of continuing mail-in voting for Hawaii. As a mostly homebound 100% disabled Veteran (toxic exposures cancer), I appreciate having mail-in voting to allow my vote to be counted from our Waipahu home. I validated my identity with multiple documents when I applied for a Hawaii driver's license and at the same appointment, I registered to vote. Getting out of the house and waiting in lines can be a physical challenge for me, so it is much easier to sign my ballot, seal it, and then either get to our mailbox or drive to the Kapolei secure ballot box to drop my ballot there. After hearing how the voting certification team opens each letter and ensures no ballots are missed, I feel confident that my vote is securely counted. Other populations benefit, too. Our fellow service members deserve the right to vote by mail, especially if they are deployed and voting in an absentee status. We have come so far to make voting inclusive for the homebound, those having to work on election day, those living in rural areas, or those working away from home. Please keep mail-in voting!

For liberty and justice for all,
Candace Decker
Waipahu
candace_decker@hotmail.com

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Cristina Jutsum](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Absentee Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:50:52 AM

To the Elections Commission:

I am imploring you to retain absentee voting. As a critical care ER nurse with very long hospital shifts, absentee voting has assured my ability to participate in my constitutional right to vote.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Cristina Jutsum

From: [Alisa Mills](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:51:59 AM

Aloha,

I am a Honolulu resident in Nuuanu, a local architect, homeowner, tax payer, and a busy mom of two very young kids.

In the past four years, I have voted both by mail and in person.

In person, I was once stuck in traffic with a crying baby for 30 minutes, unable to find close parking, and had to carry the baby through drizzling rain to drop off my ballot. Hiring childcare is financially difficult for our family, and my kids are not used to babysitters so it is emotionally difficult as well.

The years I voted by mail were so much easier and more convenient, and I found it safe and secure.

Please keep the mail-in ballot option for folks who might otherwise not be able to make it to the polls, including moms like me or the kupuna in our neighborhood.
Everyone eligible deserves to vote.

Thank you,
-Alisa



Alisa Mills, AIA, MEM

Architect

111 S. King Street, Suite 170
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

o 808.523.5866

f 808.523.5874

m 808.366.0288

t 808.441.1628

e alisam@g70.design

www.g70.design

From: [Andrew Black](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] One person one vote
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:57:43 AM

Aloha,

I reported my first hand experience of my neighbor voting multiple times using mail in voting. When I told her she was stealing other people's votes, she said it didn't matter. Meanwhile my house, a multi l family house, received 6 ballots for people not living in the house!! We could have voted 6 extra times!!

In what way is this democracy?? It's completely unsecure and criminal.

We need voting in person with a real identification check. If not , there is zero faith in the system, in the election and no faith in the government. Please restore our system!!

Imagine if any other institution operated that way! No one does that. Every institution needs a real identity. What on earth would make voting different?

Unless you encourage fraudulent results .

Thank you for your time
Andrew plack
Hilo

From: [Lois Crozer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting!
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:02:10 AM

WHY on earth would we cancel mail-in voting!!?? It's worked perfectly well and it's easy to do. PLEASE do not listen to the lies that are being told to you. This is all just to rig the elections. It's B.S. plain and simple. Keep things the way they are, it took us years to get here.

Lois Crozer
LBC@hawaiiintel.net
Kailua Oahu

From: [Jane W Taylor](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Why I am In support of mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:06:40 AM

When you receive your ballot ahead of time and can take it seriously through the thought process over a period of days, researching what needs to be understood, and confirming what you think you know about the options, you can make a more considered and well thought-out vote. I am 75 years old. I remember the panic in the voting booth when an option seemed ambiguous and no way to find out. This allows for research and care and is therefore going to produce a well-informed voter base over time. Also it is convenient and not as subject to the whims of the last moment or traffic etc.

Anybody not in favor of mail in voting simply wants a less informed group of voters, or to actually suppress the vote entirely by making it harder.

Please protect our mail in voting!

Sincerely
Jane

Jane Taylor
artteachers@mac.com

808 756-5240

<https://www.janewordtaylor.com/>

<https://janewordtaylor.blogspot.com/>

“Wisdom demands a new orientation of science and technology towards the organic, the gentle, the non-violent, the elegant and beautiful.” E.F. Schumacher.

From: [Noel J Kent](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:11:35 AM

Aloha. I am an 81 year old man who does not drive and has some difficulty negotiating the way to downtown. I am also an avid voter. Thus, I would much prefer the option of a mail-in ballot. Please keep this option open for would-be voters like myself.
Mahalo. Noel Kent.

From: [Maile Andrus-Price](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WHY I support mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:24:28 AM

Aloha,
My name is Maile Andrus-Price. I live in Kailua, O'ahu.

I support mail-in voting because every vote counts. There are a lot of elderly who cannot make it to the polls. This provides them with an easy way to exercise their right to vote.

It saves time for full-time workers and is a convenient and simple way to cast their vote.

Please ensure that mail-in voting is an option for all of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,
Maile

From: donrdoerr@comcast.net
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Vote by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:29:37 AM

My name is Don R Doerr. I live in Kailua on Oahu and am 83 years old. At my age I can see it becoming more difficult to always being able to drive to a polling location. I'm sure this can be a challenge for many older persons who remain passionate about continuing to express their civic duties. The vote by mail is a wonderful option.

Please keep this as a method to afford the most available method for comprehensive voting.

Thank you.

Don R Doerr

From: bobbibecker@mindspring.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Remote Testimony for October 29, 2025 - SUPPORT mail-in ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:33:51 AM

Good morning Elections Commissioners,

My name is Bobbie Becker. I have been a full-time resident of Upcountry Maui since June of 2001.

I am writing today in SUPPORT of MAIL-IN Ballots.

In 2004 my mother came to live with me. We have always been very politically engaged, studying the issues and the candidates before voting.

When mail-in voting was instituted in 2020 by then Governor Ige, it was a relief. It was so much easier for us to study the ballot at home, fill it in and then mail it, than to gather all of the necessary equipment and drive to our polling location. We have found mail-in voting to be tremendously convenient.

Thank-you for considering my opinion.

Bobbie Becker, Olinda Maui

From: [Peggy Brandt](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Vote by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:46:48 AM

Aloha Elections Commission,

My name is Peggy Brandt. I live at 3288 Pamakani Place, Honolulu in Manoa. I am writing to you with great concern as I learned that the possibility of voting by mail may be removed as an option for our state. **I am opposed to any change that diminishes the option for voting by mail.** Voting by mail increases access to voting rights to those who have a regular job (as I do), who are disabled or burdened by childcare or elder care responsibilities. For those of us in these categories, it can be difficult to take the time out to stand in a line to vote.

Mail-in voting supports elections that represent everyone. This is the foundation of democracy.

Mahalo for your attention.
Peggy Brandt

From: [Pamela Everett](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:47:08 AM

Aloha Commission Members,

I wholeheartedly support mail-in voting! As a Senior Citizen, almost 80 years old, living in a rural area, Hawaiian Acres, Kurtistown, Big Island, I appreciate, and depend on, the ease and convenience of mailing in my ballot. Please continue to support this much needed and very valued service.

Mahalo, Pamela Everett

From: [Kate Lloyd](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:47:13 AM

Dear commission:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to any move to limit mail in voting in the state of Hawaii. Mail in allows more people's voices to be heard and there is absolutely no credible evidence of increased voter fraud in States that utilize mail in voting. Any attempt to limit or curb the number of people who vote in a democracy cannot be seen as anything other than oppression.

Sincerely, Kate LLoyd, Kailua, Hawaii, 808-349-9681
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathryn Kirley](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:51:14 AM

Aloha Election Commissioners,

My name is Kathryn Kirley and I am a resident of the state of Hawaii. I have used mail in voting numerous times without issue. I recently retired after a long career as a NICU nurse at Kapiolani. Mail in voting was a necessity for me as a nurse. Not everyone is able to get the day off, come into work late or leave early to vote.

Many nurses and hospital workers start work before the polls open and get off work after the polls close. For shift workers, mail in voting is a necessity. Taking away this option would decrease voter participation for many Hawaii residents in similar situations.

In addition, my in laws had mobility issues and mail in voting was their only option.

Please maintain access to the ballot for all residents of this great state!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kirley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Beth Rasmussen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots hearing
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:00:12 AM

Dear Commission,

I fully support MAIL-IN BALLOT VOTING! I live in Kailua and I know my postal carrier personally and trust her integrity and the integrity of the system.

On a daily basis "We, the People", & businesses entrust the US Postal System to carry sensitive, PRIVATE, PERSONAL information to us. Bank statements, financial documents, legal documents, the IRS, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, local and mainland and international business rely on the Postal System.

Mail in voting allows me time to consider my ballot, to talk it over with family, to learn about the ramifications of my vote. It is convenient and EFFICIENT.

Republicans should volunteer for an election cycle before believing unfounded accusations.

Keep MAIL IN BALLOTS!

Thank you, Beth Rasmussen

bethlynras9@gmail.com

From: [Edith Bikle](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:10:57 AM

To whom it may concern;

I am vehemently opposed to mail-in voting for the state of Hawaii. It leaves our elections wide open for voter fraud.

Just a small example, I had a guy staying at my home and using my address. He moved away and I still get his ballots in the mail. I could have forged his signature and voted for the candidate of my choice.

There is a nationwide move to make election day a holiday so everyone will have the chance to vote in person. There needs to be voter ID and only US citizens are eligible.

Please discontinue mail in voting for the state of Hawaii. Mahalo.

Edie Bikle
tarogifts@aol.com
PO Box 1888
Honokaa, Hi 96727
808765-7391

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

From: [Alice Sherer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:11:11 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

The right to vote in these United States, and therefore the State of Hawaii, is sacrosanct and should be protected against any effort to obstruct, interfere or impede that right.

I live in rural South Kona District, Captain Cook area. There are many farms and ranches here, so traveling to a polling station is taking time away from daily work. Voting by mail is popular, convenient and effective. I ask that the Hawaii Legislature continues to protect access to voting by mail.

Party Republican (MAGA) initiatives to restrict this method are hurting themselves, as there are Republican residents in rural areas.

Thanks very much for your attention to this.

Aloha,

Alice Sherer

From: [Mark](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Elections
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:12:41 AM

Eliminating the option of mail-in ballots would create hardship for many of us older residents: people who do not drive or have difficulty moving about.

Voting should be easy as well as accurate.

Thank you.

Mark Van Horne
in Makiki

From: [Shirley Thompson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:22:42 AM

Aloha,

My name is Shirley Thompson and I have been a voter in Hawai'i since I moved here in 2010.

I am writing in support of Mail in Voting. I have to travel frequently to assist caring for aging parents on the continent. Sometimes I am called to care for them on short notice. I prefer to vote by mail because I know my vote will be counted fairly, and I don't have to worry about missing important elections due to my caregiving schedule.

There is NO credible evidence that mail in voting has ever failed us in Hawai'i. All credible evidence from respected non-partisan organizations like the League of Women Voters says that mail in voting is safe, secure and increases voter participation. We need to make it easier for busy citizens like me to vote, not harder.

Please continue to support mailing voting and the good honest work that our election commissioners do.

Thank you,
Shirley Thompson
Honolulu, HI

--

Shirley Thompson (she/her/ella)
cell: 808-457-7924
web: <https://shirleythompson.net>

From: [Alice S](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:26:00 AM

I heard that there is a move by some Republican Legislators to stop mail in voting here in Hawaii. Having that option here in rural areas on the Big Island is important and encourages voters to participate. It will be difficult for me to travel to a polling place as I am elderly and unwell. Please keep mail in voting access for Hawaii.

Thank you,

J. Carroll Jr

Captain Cook, HI

From: [bruce mirken](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:38:27 AM

Aloha,

Individuals and groups seeking to make voting more difficult have been lobbying you to push for an end to mail-in voting in Hawaii. That would be a terrible idea. As a kupuna who's had some health challenges over the last year, I greatly appreciate the ease and convenience of mail-in voting. While I could presently get to a physical polling place if needed, one can never assume that this will always be the case. Ending mail voting is certain to decrease participation by students, the elderly, and working parents juggling the responsibilities of jobs -- often multiple jobs -- and child care.

That, of course, is precisely what those who want to end voting by mail seek. Don't be fooled. There is no problem with election security in Hawaii, and the notion of "voter fraud" on any meaningful scale is a myth put forward by those who would prefer that we not have elections at all. Do not be cowed by anti-democratic forces!

Mahalo for your consideration of this message

Bruce Mirken

Communications Consultant, Writer, Troublemaker
sftroubl@att.net
2672 Ainaola Drive, Hilo, HI 96720

From: [H.K. Oney](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please protect mail-in voting for citizens of Hawaii
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:39:40 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to ask our Hawaii Election Commission to protect mail-in voting.

I am a US born citizen and retired US Navy veteran.

Many Big Island residents live far from any voting service center, including myself. To access a voting center would require a commute of at least 90 minutes round trip.

I believe that proponents of ending mail-in voting want to stop (disenfranchise) rural/remote Hawaii residents from voting because they are largely lower income.

Please protect mail-in voting for citizens of Hawaii. Mahalo!!

Henry Keith Oney, CPO USN (ret)
12-6870 Kalapana Kapoho Road
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

From: [Eileen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:45:45 AM

Aloha Election Commission,

I am writing to encourage you all to support the ease of voting by mail. I have been voting this way for years, and I cherish this easy way to have my voice heard. I don't understand why the commission would even consider going backwards on this issue. The State of Hawai'i has an extremely low voter turnout. Why would anyone even consider making it harder to be heard?

This must be coming from those 2020 election deniers. Why can't they just move on already? The minority should not be ruling the majority.

Please stand strong and firm that mail-in voting is the way to go moving forward. Let's step into the present and not return to the past.

Sincerely,
Eileen McKee
Kihei
meileen@yahoo.com

From: [Steven L Price](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:53:21 AM

I would like to testify in support of Mail In Voting. From the time I moved to Hawaii in 1999 I have always voted absentee or mail in. The past 25 years I have worked at sea on various research vessels, mostly with the University of Hawaii. Our busiest time of year was the fall when most elections take place. It was very convenient for me to receive my ballot in the mail a few weeks before the deadline. This gave me the opportunity to research the propositions and the lesser known candidates in lower profile elections. It also allowed me to vote when I was out to sea on election day. Because of Mail In Voting I don't think I've missed a single election since I moved here. I don't ever remember voting at a local precinct and to be honest I don't have a clue as to where mine is. When I lived in Louisiana, I worked offshore and I never once participated in elections. It was just too difficult to make it to the voting booth.

If you want people like me to continue to participate in elections, then keep doing Mail In Voting. I don't have the slightest concern in regards to the integrity in this system. I do have concerns that by not having Mail In Voting that it will discourage people in Hawaii from voting at all and that is exactly the reason some people want to see it done away with, not its accuracy and honesty.
aloha and mahalo,

Steve Price
1443 Kiukee Pl.
Kailua, HI

From: [K C-A](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPPOSE MAIL IN VOITING
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:55:42 AM

I Aloha Commissioners,

I **oppose** voting by mail.

Hawaii needs to return to in-person, one day voting.

It's a matter of integrity and transparency for every Election Commissioners and Chair by which you have been sworn to uphold.

Mahalo,

D Kim Stroud

Hawaii County, Upper Puna District.

From: [Mike/Stephanie Anfinson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:56:27 AM

Hello,

It is imperative that we continue to have mail in voting in Hawaii! So many of us live rurally and less people will vote if we eliminate this. There is no proof that this is not safe and accurate.

Thank you,

Stephanie Anfinson

Kahuku, Hi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Gierlach](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:09:26 AM

Dear elections commission,

I write in support of continuing Hawaii's mail in voting system. It is well known that this voting process is very secure and because it is far more convenient than in person voting it has helped increase the number of people participating in our democratic republic. Currently the Trump administration is continuing with its lies about mail in voting as somehow being insecure. These are the same lies that they have used to justify seeking to overturn the free and fair election of 2020. Please do not be persuaded by these lies. Please continue to permit mail in voting in our system of state government because it is fair, equitable and increases the numbers of folks participating. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.
david+

The Rev David J Gierlach, SCP
Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i Social Justice Task Force
231 Miloiki Pl
Honolulu HI 96825
(808)673-8930

“I could not turn back the time for the political change, but there is still time to save our heritage. You must remember never to cease to act because you fear you fail. The way to lose any earthly kingdom is to be inflexible, intolerant, and prejudicial. Another way is to be too flexible, tolerant of too many wrongs and without judgement at all. It is a razors edge. It is the width of a blade of pili grass. To gain the kingdom of heaven is to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen, and to know the unknowable - that is Aloha. All things in this world are two; in heaven there is but One”
Lili'uokalani, 1917

The Lord's Prayer from the Aramaic

Creator of the cosmos, focus your light within us. Create your reign of unity now, using our burning hearts and willing hands so that our acts may mirror yours.

Grant our needs each day for bread and for wisdom.

Loosen the chords of our mistakes that bind us as we release the chords with which we have bound others.

Don't let us become unmindful, but free us from immaturity.

From: [angela leigh](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:10:19 AM

Please don't let the Maga zealots take away our mail in voting. That would be taking us back to the dark ages. We know why they want to do this, they can't win in a fair election.

Angela Leigh
Hilo, HI
Sent from my eyePhone

From: [Joan Ohlmacher](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting rights for all
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:12:05 AM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a proud Hawai'i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state's vote-by-mail system. Hawai'i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai'i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it's a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai'i's mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Joan Ohlmacher
Keaau, Hi

From: [eve.furchgott](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:13:29 AM

To whom it may concern -

I understand that members of the Hawaii Elections Commission are pushing for a law that would eliminate mail-in voting in our state. As a resident of Hilo I object strongly to this. Voting is our most essential right in a democracy – we should make it easier, not harder, for citizens to exercise this right. For some folks mail-in voting is essential. My mother-in-law, for instance, also a Hilo resident, has serious health problems that make leaving her home extremely difficult, yet she wants to be able to vote. Illness, trips away from home, unexpected emergencies – all can create situations that prevent any of us from getting to the polls.

Do not let this move to cut us off from voting by mail to go through.

Sincerely,

Susan Furchgott

1555 Wailuku Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720
808) 896-8015

From: [Janet Mason](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:16:48 AM
Attachments: LWWHI Oct 29 2025 testimony Elections Commission.pdf

Attached is my written testimony for Wednesday's meeting. I will have summary oral testimony as well. Thank you.



0.00000

P. O. Box 235026 | Honolulu, HI 96823-3500
808.531.7448 | voters@lwvhi.org

Hawaii Elections Commission
October 29, 2025
Janet Mason, Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Curtis and Commissioners:

Regarding item IV a) of today's agenda, in your October 6 letter to the Legislature you did not provide any explanation of your outlandish request to

“advise the Chief Election Officer to return to in person voting in the precinct, hand counting paper ballots, one day voting, ID required, with the exceptions for absentee voting for military and special needs.”

Standing by itself, this motion seeks to bypass the normal approach to lawmaking. It was a hasty, ill-conceived idea that took place after more than three and a half hours of your seven-hour October 1 meeting.

The motion is serious, completely unacceptable to the League of Women Voters, and unlikely to succeed. It reflects nothing more than the opinion of certain members of your Commission.

You already know that Hawaii voters like mail voting. Some form of voting by mail has been available here for more than twenty years. Though voters have an opportunity to vote in person if they wish, only 5% of them used this option in the 2024 General Election. ***Why would you want to suppress voting by the remaining 483,000 people who voted by mail?***

Regarding hand counting, you already know that hand counting 400-500 thousand plus ballots accurately and efficiently is impossible, without the use of the best available scanner and software technology pre-approved by the Federal Elections Assistance Commission.

Do you think it is important for voters and candidates to have accurate and timely announcements of election outcomes? This would also be impossible without machine scanning and software tabulation of our large volume of paper election ballots.

The League of Women Voters supports the legitimate oversight of our elections by the State's Elections Commission. Oversight should only be exercised by entities with legitimate authority, like your Permitted Interaction Groups (PIG's) and a possible forthcoming audit of the 2024 elections by the State Auditor.

We must have oversight that is data-driven and includes recommendations for corrective action that correspond with the issue at hand.

Regarding Item IV b) of today's agenda.

This motion requests that the Hawaii County Elections Division “obtain and provide the complete set of USPS business reply mail receipts accounting for all mail ballots received from the Hawaii County postal service during the 2024 General Election.”

Beginning with your Kauai Permitted Interaction Group report of August 27, 2025, you mischaracterized postal service records of ballot envelopes; to allegedly show it was impossible to “independently” validate the official ballot count using these postal service records. The Office of Elections refuted this charge in their August 22, 2025, report, which describes the statewide process for reconciling ballot counts between the State and counties. This report is available to the public: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/OE-25-114.pdf>

The USPS receipts are merely provided to election officials for billing purposes and cannot be relied upon as audit documents. The League calls on you to accept that the Statewide Voter Registration System and its associated reports provide the official record of ballot envelopes received and counted.

We think it would be ill-advised for our Legislature to rescind Act 136 that enacted voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: [Nathan Leo Braulick](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting: Democracy In Action
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:20:54 AM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a proud Hawai'i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state's vote-by-mail system. Hawai'i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai'i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it's a matter of democracy in action. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai'i's mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Nathan Leo Braulick

Honolulu, O'ahu / 96826

braulick@gmail.com

From: [Gretchen Klungness](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:22:48 AM

Elections Commission Members:

My name is Gretchen H. Klungness. I am a 25-year resident of Mountain View, Hawai'i, and a life-long Democrat.

I fully support mail-in voting and have complete confidence that my vote is being counted accurately and efficiently. It has been used effectively for years in absentee and military balloting; using it for the general public is completely safe and tamper-proof.

I am completely horrified by the MAGA effort to have any say on how elections work in Hawai'i, and I urge the State Elections Commission to stand firm that mail-in ballots are the standard in Hawai'i and will remain in perpetuity.

Thank you.

Gretchen H. Klungness

18-4133 Komo Street, P. O. Box 364

Mountain View, HI 96771

(808) 896-9972

From: [Dawn Webster](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO VOTE/MAIL-IN VOTING
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:24:17 AM

Dear Chair and Commission members:

I have long worked with other advocates for voting rights to make sure that EVERYONE has access to the ballot-box and can make their voice heard. Our efforts to pass Automatic Voter Registration a few years ago was consistent with the spirit of making it easier for people in rural areas, those who are working multiple jobs and those facing other challenges to exercise their rights in our democracy that is now under threat from MAGA extremists.

Please continue to do all you can to keep MAGA extremism in check.

Hawai‘i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure and efficient, and **PEOPLE LIKE IT!**

Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States.

We cannot let the coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself to succeed. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

We are counting on you to defend VOTE BY MAIL And help protect our democracy.

Mahalo for all you do.

Dawn Morais Ph.D.
Hawaii Kai
808-383-7581

From: [Carlynn Wolfe](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:24:21 AM

To the Elections Commission:

I strongly support mail in voting as an option for the hard working people of our State: particularly those in rural areas. Here in the city, we are fortunate to have that option. Traffic prevents many of us from leaving our workplaces to go to the polling places. Mail in voting is secure, allows us to participate in our democracy safely and with ease. I am a senior in "not-the-best-of-health". Walking up that hill to Stevenson Middle School is not for me. I appreciate the option to study my voter guide at home and submit my vote like the good citizen I want to be.

Thank you.

Carlynn Wolfe
1020 Green Street #108
Honolulu, 96822

From: [Bram Denhaan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support mail in ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:27:02 AM

Please do not eliminate the option of mailing election ballots in. It's very convenient and you can take your time going over all the proposed amendments and do your research

Thank you

Bram Denhaan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lorn Douglas](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:27:51 AM

I strongly support mail in voting which allow 'working people' much convenience.

Lorn DOuglas

------(o)(o)
-----oOO--()--OOo

Albert Einstein: "What I most admire about your art is your universality. You don't say a word, yet the world understands you!"
Charlie Chaplin: "True. But your glory is even greater! The whole world admires you, even though they don't understand a word of what you say."

From: [Diane Revell](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Oct. 29th Elections Commission Meeting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:33:02 AM
Attachments: Vote by mail signed support.pdf

Attached is the signed letter with our testimony relative to vote by mail. We want the state to retain the vote by mail system.

See the details in our letter attached.

Diane B. Revell
Richard A.Revell

October 27, 2025

State of Hawaii Election Commission
Elections Commission Chair

This testimony is being submitted relative to the coming Election Commission Meeting and specific to the agenda item "Request for the Legislature to return to polling place elections".

Prior to moving to Hawi, Hawaii eleven years ago, we voted in every Washington State election for our 50 years there. Washington State has many years of voting by mail, and the integrity of the vote has been validated. We were glad when Hawaii adopted voting by mail in 2019 as the primary means of voting as it is convenient, accessible, and was shown to increase voter turnout. It provides voters with more time to research the ballot issues and allows for use of a voter to receive status of their ballot through the process from mailing to being received and counted. The hand marked paper ballots provide a paper trail for audits and is considered a gold standard. Signature matching with the voter's registration record provide verification of the voter being registered to vote in Hawaii.

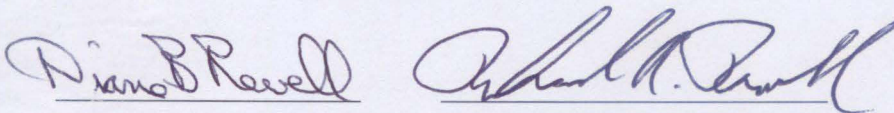
The fact that President Trump was citing Valdimir Putin as saying vote by mail is a bad system shows our president's poor judgement on this topic. Putin as the the dictator of Russia that is not a democracy and it is known for rigging elections so his statement was more likely intended to do harm to our elections than not..

If there is a specific issue determined with the Hawaiian vote by mail process that should be addressed, but not by throwing out the whole process that is used in many other states with more experience with the process. Those states could offer how they avoid the issue, if one is found, based on their years of experience.

Please consider these comments in your consideration and in our support against the legislature to return polling to place elections.

Sincerely,

Diane B. Revell and Richard A. Revell

The block contains two handwritten signatures in dark ink. The signature on the left is 'Diane B. Revell' and the signature on the right is 'Richard A. Revell'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

diane.b.revell@gmail.com and richrevell51@gmail.com

From: [Betty Kamida](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:38:59 AM
Attachments: Testimony in support of mail-in voting.docx

Re: Elections Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 29, 2025 @ 10:00 am

Testimony in support of
Mail-in Voting and in support of
Chair of the Elections Commission, Scott Nago

Via email:
Elections.commission@hawaii.gov

I am submitting this written testimony as a private citizen who has lived in Hawaii since 1981 and voted in every election since I was of voting age.

It is appalling that Trump sycophants, even in "the Aloha State," are trying to make it more difficult for Hawaii citizens to vote. They are so desperate for the Tyrant's approval and trying to block "blue" votes, that they would harm the people they are supposed to be serving.

Eliminating mail-in voting would be undemocratic and would severely limit our constitutional right to vote. Many people here work 2 or 3 jobs just to get by. To expect them to get time off from work and go stand in ridiculously long lines when mail-in voting is a reasonable alternative, is outrageous. And don't even get me started about traffic and parking to get to polling places!

If there are problems here and there, work together and fix them. Don't throw out the existing system for no reason other than to deter people from voting. Similarly, the Chair, Scott Nago has the benefit of years of experience managing and coordinating voting in our unique multi-island setting -- leave him alone too.

Hands off our mail-in voting!

Elizabeth Kamida
Hawaii Kai
Bkamida@yahoo.com

From: [Patrick Schafer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:40:20 AM

Aloha Sound and Sane People of the Hawaii Election Commission,
As a registered voter here in Keaau, I am writing over my concerns of eliminating mail-in voting. As a senior, I have voted through mail-in for years and it has been safe & sound here in Hawaii. It would be a hardship for me to get to a polling place. Please do everything in your power to keep mail-in voting here in Hawaii. My vote counts ! Why are they even thinking of eliminating mail-in voting? Please inform.

Mahalo, Patrick

From: [Wendy Chase](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] voting by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:16:07 PM

I am 83 years old and choose to vote by mail as i will not have to drive to a poling place and stand in line. So many communities in Hawaii are rural so a vote by mail insures better participation which i have always believed is the goal. Making voting easier especially for older people is essential. What is the problem???

Thank you for your time, Wendy Chase in Laupahoe.

From: [Lauretta L McKeon](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Cc: [Laurie Mckeon](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting testimony
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:17:06 PM

Aloha,

My name is Lauretta L. McKeon and I am a resident of Oahu (Kahala area). I've lived in Hawaii for 30 + years.

My husband died 3 yrs ago from Parkinsons's disease. He was highly educated, informed and politically engaged his entire life.

The last several elections he voted by mail out of necessity. In order to get him to an "in-person" voting facility, I would have needed to utilize two stairs lifts, TWO WHEELCHAIRS, and a walker.

I also would have needed to hire a CNA to assist me getting him in and out of the house, car, voting booth etc. In other words, it could not have been done!

MAIL IN VOTING IS NOT A PRIVILEGE. It is a necessity

Please preserve our mail in voting rights

Lauretta McKeon

From: lmklungness@gmail.com
To: OE.Elections.Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save Mail-in voting!
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:19:54 PM

To: Election Commission Members

From: Lester M. Klungness, Democratic Dist. 5 Chair

P.O. box 364

18-4133 Komo St.

Mountain View Hawaii 96771

Hm phone 808-968-6789

iPhone 909-895-3075

email: lmklungness@gmail.com

Mail in voting is the greatest advance in American Democracy since WWII. The infighting between Republicans and Democrats over the past 79 years has seen disputes over ballot counting, voting machines, voter intimidation at the polls, etc., etc., etc. The advance of mail-in voting in progressive states has single handedly reduced or eliminated all such cheating (which is what they were doing!).

Now, an elderly person with physical limitation, like me and my wife, can easily vote. Over the history of the country, Tuesday was the designated voting day. This left everyone, with job or teaching or medical service obligation, unable to vote. The Republicans would never have agreed to move the voting day to Saturday (which was a standard workday until the Democrats legislated the 5-day work week). Problems solved! Mail-in voting gives no American Citizen an excuse not to vote.

Please do not take away this, hard won, fundamental voting right!

Mahalo, nui loa,
Lester M. Klungness

Lester M. Klungness, Dist. 5 Chair

P.O. box 364

18-4133 Komo St.

Mountain View Hawaii 96771

Hm phone 808-968-6789

IPhone 909-895-3075

eMail: lmklungness@gmail.com

Website www.LesterFisher.com

Facebook classic Lester M. Klungness

Page Lester M Fisher

Instagram @lestermfisher

Pinterest Lester Fisher

From: [Liedeke Bulder](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding Voting by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:23:34 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing out of deep concern about the current efforts to eliminate our state's vote-by-mail system.

Having lived in this amazing state now for 20 years, I have always been impressed by how you have made voting more accessible to everyone by providing mail in ballots. Filling out the ballots in the privacy of my home, gives me time to study the ballot measures and candidates carefully and thus make informed choices.

The vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and very popular among the Hawaii residents. It is not only a matter of convenience – it also is DEMOCRACY IN ACTION.

Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawaii's mail in voting systems or anywhere else in the United States.

This is simply another attempt to undermine access for folks who have family obligations, work multiple jobs or are homebound for health or other reasons.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha, I am,

Liedeke Bulder, Kalaheo, Kauai (lbulderart@gmail.com)

From: [Aj Jaeger](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:27:35 PM

Aloha Election Commissioners,

As a voter in Hawaii, 96734 Kailua, I urge you to KEEP MAIL IN VOTING.

Voting is the #1 thing we can do to be involved with our local and federal government. Making it easy to participate is the best way to have that. This is important for working families as the old days of waiting in lines for voting places that weren't always conveniently located, open late enough to accommodate workers and families or enough of them to make it quick enough are a hinderance to voting.

There is also NO CREDIBLE Fraud. Hawaii has been doing this for a number of years now, let's keep it that way.

I urge you to reject any change to the mail in voting.

-Annalouise Jaeger

Kailua, Hawaii

From: [Hugh Baker](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony RE: Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:42:49 PM

Aloha Commissioners:

There is NO massive fraud with respect to mail in voting in the State of Hawaii.

Those claiming so have offered no evidence.

Mail-in voting offers the greatest opportunity for citizens to participate in the democratic process. **PROTECT MAIL-IN VOTING IN HAWAII.**

Sincerely,

Hugh Baker
Kailua Kona, HI

From: [Michael Garsva](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Retain Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:52:49 PM

Elections Commission:

I live in Hawaii (Ala Moana) and have for the last 15 years. I believe that retaining the commission chair and keeping mail in voting is important to a robust democracy. Please do not allow a loud minority dissuade you from the obvious. Protect our voting rights!

Mahalo,

Michael Garsva

From: [Deborah Luce](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting - Meeting on October 29
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:53:24 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Please keep mail-in voting in Hawaii. To bow the knee to the Trump Administration by discontinuing mail-in voting is just a way to oppress voter turnout. I do not need to spell out the benefits of this method of voting.

Trump has never shown how mail-in voting raises the instances of fraud. This is another example of how Trump repeating the same lie over and over and eventually some people believe it as true. Please Please Please do not give in. If you/we do not fight against this NOW, you will allow our country to continue our fall into Fascism. Please meet the moment.

Sincerely,

Deborah Luce
612-240-9183
My area code is 96749 on Big Island.

From: [Brian Belet](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:57:12 PM

Dear Hawai'i Elections Commission,

My name is Brian Belet (beletbrian@gmail.com), a retired university professor living in Mililani, O'ahu. I write to express my very strong support for voting by mail. There is little to no evidence that voting by mail is unsafe or unsecure, or that it encourages voter fraud. In contrast, voting by mail encourages voter participation, which is the foundation of any democracy. It is convenient, removes the difficulty of leaving work in order to vote, and is essential for many older voters, those living in more remote rural areas, and those who have health or mobility issues that make voting in person at a polling place difficult. There really is no concrete reason to oppose voting by mail, and so I urge all members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission to support voting by mail for all residents of our state.

There is no sensible reason for making this voting function a partisan issue, yet there are those of a particular persuasion who seem bent on making everything partisan. One need only recall the parting advice of President George Washington to continually guard against such partisan rhetoric. We need clear thinking, nonpartisan thinking, and fully democratic thinking to keep our state on an even keel of protecting the voting rights of all of our citizens.

Please preserve our right to vote by mail; it has served us well for many years and will continue to do so in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Belet
95-1150 Ahoka Street
Mililani, HI 96789

--

Brian Belet
beletbrian@gmail.com
www.BeletMusic.com

From: [James Raymond](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Oct. 29, 2025 Elections Comm. Mtg.
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:09:46 PM

Written Testimony in Strong Support of Mail-In Voting

Aloha Chair Curtis and elections commissioners.

My name is James Raymond. I am a retired Deputy Attorney General, but testify purely as an individual citizen and resident of Kailua. I'm submitting this testimony in support of mail-in voting.

I retired earlier than planned due to mobility issues that made it increasingly difficult to navigate downtown courthouses. This would also make it difficult to vote in person.

But today, I want to discuss pretexts. Pretexts are designed to hide a bad motive underneath a good one. Pretexts allow attorneys to advance what appear on the surface to be reasonable arguments in the hope of persuading a judge or jury. But the pretext is really just cover for bad intentions.

Gov't attorneys are well acquainted with pretextual arguments because while they don't have to advance them, they frequently have to defend against them.

This is true because our laws, often described as blunt instruments, are so often used in unintended ways to justify all manner of bad actions -- and pretexts are well-suited to covering over bad motives under the guise of good intentions.

Fact finders: judges, juries, even commissions for example, that are confronted with pretexts, may be persuaded by the fact that a well-crafted pretext sounds reasonable. Some fact finders may even know that the pretext is hiding a bad motive, but they are on board with the goals of those advancing the pretext and are happy to use the cover they provide.

I, and most of Hawai'i, know that while not perfect, our current system provides free and fair elections and maximizes a citizen's opportunity to exercise the franchise.

I, and most of Hawai'i (indeed most of America) know the attempts to restrict or eliminate mail-in ballots are advanced under pretextual arguments claiming they are addressing election fraud and integrity when the real motive is to advance the maga agenda to disproportionately disenfranchise Democratic voters.

I'll conclude with some questions: Which category of fact finder are you commissioners? Do you recognize and reject the pretext? Or, do you unwittingly accept the pretext? Or are you actively working to advance the maga agenda knowing the pretext is false?

And finally, are you comfortable knowing your grandchildren will learn what you did to either save or subvert our democracy?

Sincerely,
James Raymond
Kailua

From: [Sharon Esser](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:18:36 PM

To the elections commission,

I am writing to support mail-in voting for Hawaii. There are many reasons, but I believe the most important are as follows:

Mail-in voting enables greater voter access and participation due to its convenience and the inclusion of individuals who face challenges when voting in person. For example, those with disabilities (I have 2 friends in wheelchairs who vote by mail) and people with work or caregiver responsibilities. I wasn't able to vote years ago when I had a toddler and an infant and no car, and no child help. I would have voted if mail-in voting was an option. Don't we want everyone's vote?

Another aspect of mail-in voting is the additional time given to compare options and research candidates. In addition, mail-in voting reduces traffic and is cost-effective.

Please do not end the Hawaii vote by mail program.

Sharon Esser
Lifetime Kailua resident

From: [Mimi Beams](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:25:30 PM

Please! Please! Please! Do NOT change in-mail voting!

It is wonderful! Both my husband and I vote by mail and find it greatly efficient and convenient. Not only is it an excellent way to vote, but we both appreciate the opportunity to review any issues we are voting on and confirm all candidates for consideration.

thank you,
Miriam Beams

--

Mimi Beams
3760A Old Pali Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
mimibeams@gmail.com
(808) 341-7963

From: [Valerie Wayne](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:32:25 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I have lived in Hawai'i for most of my life and voted in every major election. The introduction of mail-in voting made participating in our democracy easier and safer. The process was carefully monitored and I was impressed with how responsibly it was handled by election officials. It also offered more opportunities for those who are less mobile to let their voices be heard. I am now 80 years old, and I prefer to vote by mail.

But it's not only a preference. The attempts to challenge our election integrity right now are highly suspicious. Those who are opposed to mail-in voting are actually opposed to a fully open, democratic process. They are introducing fear into the process and trying to intimidate voters. Please don't be duped by the agenda of these efforts.

I ask you to uphold mail-in voting in Hawai'i and oppose these efforts to question the fairness of Hawai'i's elections. Mahalo for doing what you can to preserve mail-in voting.

With respect and aloha,

Valerie Wayne

Punchbowl, O'ahu resident

valeriewayne808@gmail.com

From: [Janine Myers](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:34:21 PM

Aloha Commissioners,

I'm writing in SUPPORT of Vote by Mail in Hawaii. I've been receiving my ballot by mail for years now, and I find it far superior to in-person voting. I'm a registered voter in the Honolulu area.

Firstly, it is more convenient. A ballot is delivered to me at home, I fill it out, and put it back in the mail. What could be easier?

Secondly, it allows for more informed voting. I don't always do my research on every candidate or ballot measure before Election Day (or, when I get my ballot delivered) and being able to look at the ballot while I'm researching my choices makes me a better informed voter.

Thirdly, Vote by Mail allows persons with disabilities to be able to vote without impediment. It allows people with less flexible work schedules to vote without impediment. It allows everyone the same access to the ballot.

Keep Mail in Voting!

Janine Myers
she/her/hers

myerslights@gmail.com

From: [Maile Nakano](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in ballots- YES PLEASE
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:34:23 PM

Hi- please don't send us back into dark ages and let us continue to have mail-in ballots.

Thank you!

Maile Nakano

Manoa

510-333-5290

From: [MADELEINE MCKAY](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Retaining mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:34:48 PM

Elections Commission:

I am a resident Honolulu and have been for the last 47 years. I believe that retaining the commission chair and keeping mail in voting is crucial to our democracy.

Please protect our democracy and our voting rights.

Mahalo,

MADELEINE MCKAY

<http://madeleinemckay.com>

<http://gardnermckay.com>

From: [M.B](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Mail-In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:36:40 PM

Dear Hawai'i Elections Commission:

My name is Marianne Bickett (mariartcart@gmail.com), a retired teacher, grandmother, author, and artist living in Mililani, O'ahu.

I am stunned at the low level Republicans are going to thwart democracy. **Voting by mail has made voting accessible to millions** who otherwise might not vote, due to various reasons. For me, it has been because of my health. **Anything that increases the number of people who are able to vote is a GOOD THING for our country.**

Because the current administration in Washington wants to carve away at democracy so there will be a United States of Dictatorship, this issue is being pushed upon you to decide. Please do not fall for their poor reasoning to abolish mail-in voting. The politically motivated reasons do NOT represent the majority of this state or this country. If a poll were to be taken, I am certain you would see how people **value their ability to vote by mail and do not want that right to be taken away.**

Please preserve a cornerstone of our democracy, the right to vote!!

Mahalo,
Marianne Bickett

--

www.MarianneBickett.com

From: [Eileen Donahue Robinson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Mail-In Ballotting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:40:00 PM

Mail-in balloting assures that the greatest number of voters will have the time in their schedule to make their voice heard. It also allows them to spend as much time as necessary to understand who and what they are voting for. In the comfort of your own home, you may look up each candidate and question as you go before you mark your ballot. In sum, mail-in voting ensures we have the greatest representation of voters and that their ballot choices are carefully considered.

Eileen Robinson
133 Kailulu Way
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 223-7464

From: [Candice Lanette](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony regarding mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:41:25 PM

Aloha,

My name is Candice Lanette. I live outside of Pahoa, HI on the Big Island of Hawaii. I have been a Hawaii resident for ten years now. I am also a business owner and step mother. I am writing testimony IN FAVOR and in support of mail-in voting.

You can imagine, as a step mother and business owner, my days are full. Mail-in voting allows me the flexibility to research candidates on my own time. Furthermore, not having to schedule a time to come in-person, day-of elections also provides me with a lot of flexibility.

It is my understanding that mail-in voting reduces costs and also shows very low cases of fraud. There are no reasonable explanations as to why we would eliminate mail-in voting. Pahoa is one of the most rural towns in Hawaii County. Where I used to live, in Kalapana, was over a 30 minute drive one-way to town. Also, we have a very high concentration of Kapuna who cannot for various reasons (health, access, financial) drive over 1 hour round trip to vote.

Please be considerate of this. Let's keep our elections safe and fair, and by fair I hope I have illustrated that I mean equitable ACCESS for all those who wish to vote.

Mahalo,

Candice Lanette
14-731 Seaview Rd.
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [d.f. singleton](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:41:43 PM

Let's not let Hawaii so-called republicans rubber stamp Trump, the Heritage Foundation and Project 2025's legislative efforts to enact Voter Suppression by any and all means necessary.

We all know that alleged voter fraud itself, through mail-in ballots, is a fraudulent effort to put up unnecessary roadblocks in the election process.

I love and I'm confident that the majority of Hawaii's citizens love mail-in voting. It's an efficient, convenient and a well done process that helps to insure maximum participation in free and fair elections.

Thank you,

Darryl F. Singleton
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Rosanne Shank](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:49:15 PM

Rosanne Shank
jingleshell@hotmail.com

I live in Kailua Kona on the Big Island for 27 years. Over the years I have voted in person and by mail. I 100% believe mail in voting is the best. The main reason being I get a chance to look at the ballot and review, search and seek information in order to be fully informed when I make my selection. When I had to vote in person, besides having to wait in a line, I often would be caught off guard with regards to a local race I didn't know much about or an amendment, etc. There would be no way for me to do any research while at the polling place.

Please keep the mail in voting!!

Turtle On!

From: [Sara Ward](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:54:38 PM

I am a Hawaii resident, registered voter, and I walk with a cane. I vote in every election. I strongly support mail-in voting. It is very easy and extremely convenient. There's no chance of missing a vote because of bad weather or poor health.

I URGE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HAWAII MAIL-IN VOTING.

I am unavailable to participate in the hearing on October 29 either in person or virtually.

Thank you.

= Sara Ward =

State House District: 26
Precinct: 01
State Senatorial District: 11
Congressional District: 1
City Council District: 6

From: [Barbara Jackson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:56:02 PM

Aloha,mail in ballots have been used in Hawai'i effectively since 2020.The Republican Party is attempting to undermine voting.Trump cast his vote by mail in ballot.Hawai'i should keep the current voting system.The counting is honest.mahaloBarb Jackson.

From: [CINDY MUSCATEL](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 1:59:50 PM

To the Hawaii Elections Commission members:

I live on the Big Island of Hawaii so cannot come to the meeting on Wednesday in person. I will attend remotely.

I am a strong supporter of mail-in voting and it's not just because I will be 80 in December. Being older, it certainly helps not to have to go to the polls! But also, having a mail-in ballot allows me to take my time in voting. I can read the Voters Pamphlet thoroughly and be a better informed voter.

Please do not eliminate this up-to-date method of voting.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Muscatel
72-110 B,
Waiulu ST, 96740

From: [Robin Burke](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We want to save mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:00:36 PM

I am writing as a proud Hawai‘i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state’s vote-by-mail system. Hawai‘i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai‘i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it’s a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai‘i’s voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Robin and Lawrence K. Burke
3181 Akala Dr Kihei HI
Maui

robinburkemaui@hotmail.com

From: icec002@hawaii.rr.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony for October 29, 10 am meeting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:04:47 PM
Attachments: Office of Elections - supporting ballot by mail.docx

Charley



Restore the Commons

The fiduciary duty of business is to share the wealth



Restore the Commons

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 10:00 am

State of Hawaii
Office of Elections

In Support of Investigating Incorrect Ballot-Counting and Assuring Accurate Voting by Mail

I applaud the Commission's determination to identify causes and solutions to erroneous ballot counting reported from the previous election. The Commission has provided reliable, accurate, and popular voting by mail over the years, and any discrepancies should be eliminated.

I worked several election cycles as a Precinct President and VAO, and am fully aware of the challenges of in-person voting. We always had double-checking to insure accuracy in our election counts. At that time I always voted "absentee", as I was monitoring a voting site other than my own.

In the ensuing decades, I have found voting by mail to be convenient and reliable, and find that it is also a hit nationwide, with repeatedly proven reliability and accuracy. False claims of election fraud have been routinely and repeatedly defeated by the facts. Ballot counting has proven to be improved through voting by mail.

I have also served on union elections, which are closely monitored, and I testify to their sophistication and accuracy. We always have observers, including cranks looking for excuses to overturn results they don't like, and they typically struggle to make a case, even though they can see everything out in the open with their own eyes. The processing centers likewise are advanced, closely monitored, and transparent.

In today's world, many voters are required to be working throughout elections, and of course many are sick or injured. For all of them, voting by mail is the obvious, reliable, and accurate solution. If certain voting stations are inadequately supported in this effort, your investigation should prove thorough and remedial. Voting by mail also provides more time to assure correct and intentional choices among the candidates, and especially when other ballot measures are considered. It also allows for better focus by double-checking, ballot-curing, and less-pressured observation at every stage. It has proven popular, reliable, and instrumental for today's higher levels of political conflict.

In general, mail-in balloting is a great success, with very minor discrepancies ever detected in follow-up non-partisan investigations. It has only recently, during the Trump insurrection era, been turned into a fable for bad-faith sour grapes and cheating partisans of unpopular measures. We see it creeping into Hawaii politics, as well, and urge you to reject such claims. Your investigation should clarify the picture to the satisfaction of normal, mature voters.

Mahalo for your dedication and commitment to free and fair elections,

/s/ Charley Ice, Waimalu 33-02

From: [Respiratory and Environmental Disabilities Assoc of HI](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:05:20 PM

For those of us disabled this is imperative. We're tired of being jerked around by people who fear fair elections! Every day it's something new based in fear. It's horrifying. Please don't give in to it. Mahalo for your time, B. A. McClintock, Honolulu

From: [AKShario](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:05:40 PM

Aloha

As a senior citizen, I have found mail in voting to be the best innovation for voting in our country. It helps many people to have a say in our government.

Traveling to vote can be an impediment to voting for many, and then there are the disabled (permanently or temporarily) and our elderly who cannot go stand in line for indefinite periods of time that maybe required to vote. There are also situations where people are not able to be on the island the day of voting due to business or personal reasons. All legal citizens need to be allowed to vote. And mail- in voting makes that possible.

Please continue the mail-in ballots.

Mahalo.

Shari Olander
Keaau, Hawai'i

Sent from my iPhone

From: laurajackson1@comcast.net
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In voting Testimony
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:06:13 PM
Attachments: LJvoting.docx

Dear Election Commission:

See my attached testimony regarding my view that Hawaii should maintain mail in ballot voting.

Mahalo.

Laura Jackson Coury
510-410-1696

My name is Laura Jackson Coury and I am a resident of Kailua. I am writing this email testimony in support of my view that mail in ballot voting in Hawaii should not be eliminated. There are a great many reasons for continuing to support vote by mail. The major reason is that a greater turnout can be expected because of the convenience and accessibility of voting by mail. One study found that Hawaii saw a 14 percent increase in turnout in 2020 compared to 2016, the first election conducted entirely by mail.

Also, since the ballots are mailed ahead of time, Hawaii voters have ample time to research and become well informed about voting issues. Further, there are multiple options for returning a mail in ballot in Hawaii. A voter can use the mail, use a drop box, or drop off the ballot at a voter service center. Again, the flexibility of mail ballot voting only leads to a more robust voting turnout. With mail-in voting, voters who lack access to transportation, the elderly, those traveling out of state, or at college, or working night jobs or long hours can all participate in the voting process.

Further, the mail in ballot is a physical piece of evidence which creates a paper trail for any post-election audits. Hawaii mail in ballots require a signature which can then be verified with the signature on file with the voter registration agencies. This built in verification process minimizes the prospect of mail fraud. Many experts on election results agree that voter fraud is rare, and the risk of widespread fraud is minimal, even with all mail elections. See the Heritage Foundation's review of Oregon mail elections which found 14 cases of attempted fraud out of 15.5 Million ballots cast. See e.g., opinions of Univ of Chicago Prof. Anthony Fowler, and others.

In addition, many studies have shown that states have saved considerable sums of money by using mail in ballots. For example, the state of Colorado saved 40 percent of its election costs after resorting to all mail in voting. Although there isn't any current data yet on whether Hawaii has had any election cost savings since going to all mail voting, it is likely that in the long term, evidence will show overall cost savings to the state.

From: [Dale Franzen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:21:38 PM

To whom it may concern,
Please keep our country fair and democratic and continue Mail in voting. In 2025 nothing could be more important than having as many ways to access a fair democratic election as possible.

Best,
Dale Franzen

“If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.” —Martin Luther King Jr.

DaleFranzen.com
Hadestown.Com

From: [Constance Donnelly](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Mail-In Voting Option Should Be Be Protected!
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:26:39 PM

I live in Pahoehoe, HI in the Puna District.

Constance Donnelly, RN
cdonnelly@sedonahawaii.com
928 202 2857

From: Constance Donnelly <cdonnelly@sedonahawaii.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:24 PM
To: elections.commission@hawaii.gov <elections.commission@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Mail-In Voting Option Should Be Be Protected!

I wholeheartedly support mail-in voting. Currently, I am my mother's primary caregiver. She suffers with severe dementia and has mobility issues. She lives in my home and needs care around the clock and can't be left alone.

It would be quite a hardship for me to vote in person. Please consider the efforts required of all caregivers and our limitations when deciding on this matter.

Kind Regards,

Constance Donnelly, RN
cdonnelly@sedonahawaii.com

From: [Morris Muscatel](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] mail in voting supporter
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:25:22 PM

To the Hawaii Elections Commission members:

I live on the Big Island of Hawaii so cannot attend the upcoming meeting in person. We have lived in California and Washington so have been doing mail-in voting for years. It is the most efficient way to vote. Being a 83, it certainly helps not to have to go to the polls! But also, having a mail-in ballot allows me to take my time in voting.

Please do not eliminate this up-to-date method of voting.

Sincerely,
Morris Muscatel
72-110 B,
Waiulu ST, 96740

From: [Amanda Hess](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Vote-by-Mail Submitted to the Hawai'i Elections Commission
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:26:03 PM

Aloha Commissioners,

My name is **Amanda Hess**, and I'm a **licensed marriage and family therapist** based on O'ahu. Much of my work centers on **disaster mental health and family resilience**: helping people stay grounded and functional when systems are under strain. From that lens, I want to express my strong support for **vote-by-mail** as an essential component of psychological, civic, and community resilience in Hawai'i.

Vote-by-mail is not a convenience; it's a *continuity system*. Families I serve across the islands often juggle multiple jobs, caregiving duties, and limited transportation. Our state isn't one landmass; it's a chain of communities separated by ocean. A family in Ka'u or Moloka'i can't simply "pop over" to a polling place quite as easily as say, Honolulu. Mail-in voting levels the playing field so participation doesn't depend on gas money, work schedules, or the weather.

We also know that in times of disaster, whether wildfire, flooding, or hurricane, **mail-in voting keeps democracy functioning when everything else is disrupted**. It ensures that civic voice doesn't vanish during crisis. The existing **tracking system** is strong, transparent, and secure. Voters can confirm their ballot's receipt and counting; that's accountability, not vulnerability.

From a mental health standpoint, stability and trust in civic systems are protective factors. When families can reliably participate in elections without added logistical or emotional strain, that *reduces* collective anxiety and *strengthens* our sense of agency and belonging.

Vote-by-mail represents exactly what we ask families to practice in therapy and disaster readiness: **planning ahead, building redundancy, and reducing avoidable stress**. It's not just sound policy-- it's resilience in action.

Mahalo for your time and for safeguarding a system that allows all of us, across every island and circumstance, to have our voices heard.

--

Warmest Regards,

Amanda L. Hess, MSc, CGT, LMFT, LMHC, MBACP

Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [City Clerk Elections](#)
To: [OE.Elections](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Keep Hawai'i Mail In Voting!!! Elections Commission Meeting October 29, 2025
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:32:06 PM

From: Jacquilyn Chamberlin <bigislandsis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:14 PM
To: City Clerk Elections <elections@honolulu.gov>
Subject: Keep Hawai'i Mail In Voting!!! Elections Commission Meeting October 29, 2025

CAUTION: Email received from an **EXTERNAL** sender. Please confirm the content is safe prior to opening attachments or links.

From Jacquilyn Chamberlin of Kalapana
bigislandsis@gmail.com

Yes! Yes! Yes!! Hawaii transitioned to an all-mail election system in 2019 and Please DO KEEP!!!!

Hawaii's statewide mail-in voting system, advantages include increased voter turnout, more convenience for voters, and strengthened election security measures:

Cost efficiency

Lower administrative costs: Conducting elections by mail can reduce the need to staff and equip traditional polling places, potentially saving jurisdictions money.

Ballot tracking: Hawaii voters can use a tracking service to monitor their ballot's status, receiving alerts when it is mailed, received, and accepted for counting. This increases transparency and provides peace of mind.

Unique ballot identifiers: Each ballot return envelope has an individualized barcode, allowing officials to track it and prevent duplicate voting.

Paper trail: Ballots marked on paper provide a verifiable record for post-election audits to ensure accuracy.

Increased voter turnout

Proven to boost participation: Studies show that universal vote-by-mail systems tend to increase voter turnout. In 2020, Hawaii saw a 14% jump in registered voter turnout

compared to 2016.

Particularly effective for key groups: Research indicates that mail-in voting has a large impact on turnout for young, Black, and Latino voters, who historically vote at lower rates.

More time to vote and research: Voters receive their ballots weeks before Election Day, giving them more time to research candidates and issues. They can complete the ballot at their own pace, and at their convenience, rather than being confined to a single day.

Avoids logistical barriers: Mail-in voting removes the need to travel to a specific polling place, wait in line, or take time off work. This is particularly beneficial for voters who have busy schedules, are elderly, have disabilities, or live in remote areas.

Mahalo,

JACQUILYN CHAMBERLIN

Kalapana, Hawai'i 96778

bigislandsis@gmail.com

=====

From: cbm@hawaii.rr.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Mail In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:35:35 PM

I am writing in my support of mail in voting in Hawaii.
If there are verifiable issues, then fix the issues.
There' s no need to take us backwards in time.
Fix the system, if it's truly needed, and Keep Mail In Voting!
Thank you,
Carla Allison
Kalama Valley/Hawaii Kai

From: [James Gashel](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attached testimony submitted for October 29 meeting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:35:52 PM
Attachments: elections commission testimony 10-29-2025.txt
Importance: High

Please consider the attached testimony for the Elections Commission's October 29, 2025 meeting.

Mahalo.

Best and Aloha,
James Gashel

M: (808) 234-9259

E: jgashel0923@gmail.com

Testimony of James Gashel

Hawaii Elections Commission
October 29, 2025

Aloha chair and Elections Commission members. I am James Gashel. My email address is <jgashel0923@gmail.com> I'm testifying today as an individual citizen of our state, living in Honolulu. I am also vice chair of the Statewide Election Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee, and state secretary of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii. And, full disclosure, I am blind.

I am concerned about the Elections Commission's action taken at the October 1, 2025 meeting, "to send a letter to the legislature and advise the chief election officer to return to in person voting in the precinct, hand counting paper ballots, one day voting, ID required, with the exceptions for absentee voting for military and special needs. Votes shall be counted where cast, then reported to the county before transferring ballots.

I've looked at the Elections Commission's October 1 posted meeting agenda and can't find a single reference to a discussion or possible vote on return to in person voting; point being, it's arguable that this motion was a Sunshine law violation. Not absolutely sure about that, but I am sure that this motion absolutely failed to meet any reasonable standard of transparency.

About the substance, we want our elections to be valid, secure, and accessible, but this doesn't require return to in-person voting. In fact, there is no assurance that return to in-person voting will solve the integrity problems alleged and won't lead to many more. I've seen this over and over again in states on the mainland, where allegations of election fraud are made even when the procedures include every point of Commissioner Cushnie's motion.

More than procedures, mail-in or in-person, it's important that the public must be able to trust the election results. It's also important that the Elections Commission should work hard to support and build this trust, not undermine it. It's actually possible to do oversight in ways that support, not divide. I hope you will try to do that. It's your duty.

About the motion itself, exceptions to in-person voting are proposed for absentee, military, and special needs voters. Being blind, I guess I'm a so-called special needs voter, and I object to the exception. if mail-in voting is corrupt by definition, why should I and others be expected to use the corrupt system, while everyone else follows the Commissioner Cushnie rule, presumably less corrupt?

Besides, if special needs voters cast ballots in a different way than most other voters, the special needs voters will be singled out and distinguished from the mainstream. That looks like separate but equal to me. Is one voting system for the public and a different one for special needs consistent with the Help America Vote Act or what's left of the Voting Rights Act? That's what I would have said if given notice of Commissioner Cushnie's return to in person voting motion.

Please do what you can to build up, not beat down, our voting system in Hawaii. This is your responsibility as members of the state's Elections Commission. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

From: [Ellen Caringer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Election Commission meeting 10/29/2025
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:36:45 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai‘i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a proud Hawai‘i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state’s vote-by-mail system. Hawai‘i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai‘i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it’s a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai‘i’s voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

With respect and aloha,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

From: [Bruce Tsutsui](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for October 29 Voting Commission meeting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:39:26 PM

Concerning the PIG report referenced as the primary agenda for the October 29 Election Commission meeting.

In general, audits of the voting methods and procedures used in Hawai'i should be part of the voting process. Audits should be used to improve the the methods and procedures, if needed.

That said, based on what is in the PIG report , the subcommittee authors appear to have initially formulated a conclusion based on an intent to eliminate mail-in voting; and then did the audits in an attempt to find information to push that intent. The demand by the PIG authors to undo mail-in voting at the very least is premature and overly subjective, not objective. Indeed, the very language (e.g., "misled", "malfeasance", "misrepresented") used repeatedly throughout the report by the PIG authors strongly suggests an intent on their part that is not concerned with fairness or improvement but rather undermining and limiting the voting process in the State.

If the PIG authors and any other members keep pushing this issue the way that they are now, they are abusing their positions. Audit yes, adjust only if clearly necessary, and we object in the strongest way possible, the PIG authors attempt instead to eliminate mail-in voting.

Bruce Tsutsui
Kailua, O'ahu
hideyoshi_b@yahoo.com

From: [Elizabeth](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:46:59 PM

Aloha Members of the Elections Commission,

As a lifelong Hawaii resident and a kupuna who has never missed voting in an election, I ask you to please make sure mail-in voting doesn't go away! For many of us kupuna and disabled, mail-in voting allows us to continue to exercise this sacred civic responsibility to our democracy.

Mahalo for your work in protecting voting rights,
Elizabeth Winternitz
210 Kealakapu Rd.
Kula, Hawaii 96790

From: [Vivian Toellner](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting is WONDERFUL
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:52:25 PM

Aloha All,

I want to testify that I love mail in voting. It provides me with the opportunity to research candidates and issues before I vote. Many times the wording of issues, etc. is confusing and in the times of AI, I don't trust what the media puts out, so I want to read the exact ballot that I am voting on and confirm my research.

I also want to be able to plan vacations, medical procedures, etc. that will not conflict with voting days.

I well remember voting in person. My employer gave us one hour off to vote, then we went and stood in line and waited....sometimes over that one hourand that did not include travel time to the polls.

I also would not care to be in a voting line, subject to the weather, protests, etc. anymore.

So please retain the mail in voting we so enjoy here in Hawai'i.

Most Sincerely,

Vivian Sue Toellner
PO Box 6894, Hilo HI 96720

Residence: Fern Acres
11-3370 Lehua, Mt. View HI 96771
(808) 345-2753

From: [LYNNE TUFT](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:01:36 PM

Election Commission,

I am a partial paraplegic in Puna and am unable to vote in person, I know many kapuna's who are in similar situations due to mobility issues.

I highly recommend mail in voting for us.

Thank you very much,

Lynne Tuft

From: [Annie](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] KEEP MAIL-IN VOTING 2025
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:02:47 PM

Aloha All,

Long time voter, long time mail-in voter. I support mail-in voting as it makes voting easier for the older and disabled population here in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time,
Ann V Saffery
Honolulu, HI

From: [DAVID COURY](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:08:28 PM

My name is David Coury and I am a resident of Kailua. I am writing this email testimony regarding my view that legislators here should not eliminate mail in ballot voting in Hawaii. There are a great many reasons for continuing to support vote by mail. The major reason is that a greater turnout can be expected because of the convenience and accessibility of voting by mail. One study found that Hawaii saw a 14 percent increase in turnout in 2020 compared to 2016, the first election conducted entirely by mail.

Also, since the ballots are mailed ahead of time, Hawaii voters have ample time to research and become well informed about voting issues. Further, there are multiple options for returning a mail in ballot in Hawaii. A voter can use the mail, use a drop box, or drop off the ballot at a voter service center. Again, the flexibility of mail ballot voting only leads to a more robust voting turnout. With mail-in voting, voters who lack access to transportation, the elderly, those traveling out of state, or at college, or working night jobs or long hours can all participate in the voting process.

Further, the mail in ballot is a physical piece of evidence which creates a paper trail for any post-election audits. Hawaii mail in ballots require a signature which can then be verified with the signature on file with the voter registration agencies. This built in verification process minimizes the prospect of mail fraud. Many experts on election results agree that voter fraud is rare, and the risk of widespread fraud is minimal, even with all mail elections. See the Heritage Foundation's review of Oregon mail elections which found 14 cases of attempted fraud out of 15.5 Million ballots cast. See e.g., opinions of University of Chicago Prof. Anthony Fowler, and others.

In addition, many studies have shown that states have saved considerable sums of money by using mail in ballots. For example, the state of Colorado saved 40 percent of its election costs after resorting to all mail in voting. Although there isn't any current data yet on whether Hawaii has had any election cost savings since going to all mail voting, it is likely that in the long term, evidence will show overall cost savings to the state.

From: [Richard Tillotson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep our vote-by-mail system intact
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:15:47 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state's vote-by-mail system.

Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular. Efforts to overturn it are clearly driven by partisan factions who cannot win a majority of Hawaii's electorate in fair elections and want to disenfranchise voters who don't agree with them.

Being able to fill out the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in Hawaii where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai'i's mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With aloha,

Richard Tillotson
Punchbowl/Makiki
rtillotson@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Guinevere de la Mare](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Mail-in Ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:27:56 PM

As a full-time working mother and citizen of the United States of America, I strongly support mail-in ballots. **Mail-in ballots allow me the flexibility to vote during a longer voting period**, which is not only beneficial for people like me with full-time work and caregiving schedules, but for ALL citizens, from kupuna to those with disabilities or who are homebound.

Any argument that mail-in ballots lead to voter fraud has been disproven by data.

According to the Heritage Foundation's election fraud database, there was only one documented case of voter fraud in Hawaii in the last 30 years.

Citation: <https://electionfraud.heritage.org/case/201543>

Voting data from 2016-2020 shows that **switching to all mail-in ballots in Hawaii resulted in a 34% increase in voter participation**. Citation: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/turnout-map-2020-election-n1249620>

Finally, Republican members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission arguing that mail-in ballots benefit their political rivals should look at the data. The percentage of votes for Democratic candidates decreased in 2024 after universal mail-in ballots were implemented in 2020.

Sincerely,

Guinevere de la Mare
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Ginger Edmunds](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:31:31 PM

To Whom it may concern Elections Commission:

I am unable to testify in person because of my work schedule therefore I am sending my testimony via email.

I am a strong supporter of mail in voting please do not stop this in Hawaii.

I live part time in Canada and when I get my mail in voting information I send it in right away because I am usually out of the country and not able to vote in person. My daughter and son in law also depend on mail in voting due to their work schedules.

My neighbor who is elderly and in her 90's very much depends on mail in voting.

There are so many reasons to keep mail in voting in our state please do not stop mail in voting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ginger Edmunds

Kailua

ginger@danafoto.com

From: [Marlena Hubert](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Election Mail-In Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:40:33 PM

Aloha,

I want to express my support of mail-in voting for elections. This is something that is NOT broken and does not need to be “fixed”. The alternative being offered is more manual, time-consuming and seemingly an effort to reduce people’s incentive to express their right to vote.

I’ve voted by mail for the majority of my adult life, having lived in Oregon and Washington. Here in Hawaii, the process is very transparent with tracking mechanisms, not only for me to know that my ballot was received and counted, but to ensure election integrity; one ballot, one vote. The easy options to submit a ballot with drop-off boxes, by mail, or in-person provides everyone an opportunity to cast their ballot in the best way for themselves instead of being forced to stand in line and go through unnecessary, burdensome procedures. Plus the simple yet explicit directions for where to sign, again, ensuring integrity in the voting process has been addressed. Voting is easy and not time-consuming which is good governance. Notarizing or witness signature requirements are disincentives to cast a ballot. It’s costly for a notary, which is also time-consuming, and for some, this alone would be too much and they simply wouldn’t vote. It seems that these methods are an attempt to make it more expensive and burdensome to express our right to vote. That doesn’t seem right.

This attempt to make changes to our voting process is not in the best interests of us, the citizens. These are not improvements, or ways to make voting more secure. Voting fraud is rare and difficult to do and bad-actors would not be able to submit a large enough volume of ballots to swing an election. These “issues” are simply an attempt to disenfranchise the public. Please don’t support this and allow our democracy to flourish through our right to vote; safely, securely, and with simple procedures.

Mahalo,
Marlena Hubert

From: [Elise](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hawaii Elections Commission
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:43:30 PM

Hello

I am writing to support continuation of mail in voting and to support (if seats are unfilled) a full quorum of the commission to make any decisions. Mail in voting has helped me vote when I have had health or other issues and, with proper procedures in place, should be allowed.

Changes in the chair or staff should only be considered after an investigation is complete and no facts are in dispute.

Thank you,

Elise

From: [Renee Latimer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for mail-in ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:55:58 PM

Aloha. I have lived in Kaneohe for 35 years and voting never was easy while my husband and I were were working fulltime and raising children. Although we managed to vote in elections, a lot of stressful juggling was required. As I get older, I love mailing in my ballot. It saves so much time and decreases my time driving to the polls and back!

I had the opportunity to assist Common Cause during the 2020 Presidential election by monitoring ballot boxes around the island. I saw no evidence of any tampering with the voting process. Why mess with a system that makes voting easier for people? Don't we want as many people as possible to vote? Isn't this what democracy relies on?

Mahalo for your continued support for mail-in voting.
Sincerely,
Renee Latimer

From: [Deborah](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE KEEP MAIL IN VOTING!!!
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:09:18 PM

Aloha Elections Commission,

I just heard that Republican members of your Commission are pushing to eliminate our mail-in voting by trying to get the commission to convince the State Legislature to pass such a bill.

Even making in-person voting for just 1-day. Seriously?!

As an elder I so hope this is not correct. I count on being able to mail in my ballots, as well as many members of my elder and disabled community.

And as far as I know, seems mail-in ballots are fairly fraud-free and the only ones complaining seem to be members of the GOP party whose actions seem to always favor less access to voting.

Please keep our democracy and voting as easy as possible.

Mahalo nui from Pele's island of Hawaii,

Deborah Davis
Pahoa, Hawaii

cel: 808-443-6863

From: [City Clerk Elections](#)
To: [OE.Elections](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Testimony in favor of continuing Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:11:40 PM

From: Christine Heath <christinejheath@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:44 PM
To: City Clerk Elections <elections@honolulu.gov>
Subject: Testimony in favor of continuing Mail in voting

CAUTION: Email received from an **EXTERNAL** sender. Please confirm the content is safe prior to opening attachments or links.

We are writing this testimony in favor of continuing with mail in voting. My husband and I are elderly and we live in a very rural area of Hawaii Island. Standing in line is not going to be something we'd be able to do and we of course want to be able to vote. Please do not change and get rid of mail in voting..

Christine Heath
Samson Po'omaihealani

612-702-6539
Christinejheath@gmail.com

Christine Heath
Executive Director
Hawaii Counseling & Education Center
612-702-6539

From: [Annie Chung](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] maintain mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:16:59 PM

Dear Hawaii Elections Commission,

I am a 20+ year resident of Kaua'i and love this island home! Honoring our democracy means that every registered voter must have the right to cast his/her right to VOTE! Mail-in voting is an imperative way for all registered voters to have access to voting!! The MAGA fear-mongering that started on the mainland has infiltrated Hawaii and is unproductive and often discriminatory! I know friends, colleagues, & clients who for a variety of reasons benefit greatly from being able to cast their vote by mail (e.g., those that travel frequently & those with disabilities both physically & psychologically). Allowing all constituents access to mail-in voting ensures that our democracy flourishes. And from a practical standpoint, returning to in-person voting only is antiquated and costly!

Mahalo for upholding all constituents rights to vote,
Annie Chung, psychologist

From: [Jessica K](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for October 29 Election Commissions meeting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:21:04 PM

Aloha, my name is Jessica Kuzmier and I live in West Hawaii.

I want to testify in favor of mail-in voting, as I believe our current system of mail-in ballots provides a generous and convenient way for residents to be able to vote when it is best for them, as many people do not have the ability to take time off from work on Election Day to stand on a line. They may not have the transportation or ability to get to a polling place, even if it is open on days other than Election Day. Mail-in voting is helpful for those who have health concerns, family emergencies and other contingencies which preclude them from presenting their ballot in person. If people are off-island, it works well for them in this circumstance as well.

I have always appreciated mail-in voting, and feel it is a great way for more people to get involved. As one has to prove citizenship to register to vote, and the signature on the ballot is compared to the one offered when one is registered, I believe it is a secure form of voting that makes it better for disabled, elderly and those who have multiple jobs or lack of transportation. I do believe that mail-in voting should be kept in place and believe it strengthens our democracy, not weakens it.

I also appreciate the fact that we have early voting, and that voting centers are open on days before Election Day so those who want to vote in person can do so. I would be happy if there were more locations open to make it more convenient for people who do not live near a hub and/or cannot get to that location conveniently.

Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Jessica Kuzmier, West Hawaii

From: [L.T](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WRITTEN TESTIMONY by Laurie Thorson, 10.29.25 Elections Commission board meeting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:30:10 PM
Attachments: WRITTEN TESTIMONY by Laurie Thorson - 10.29.25 Elections Commissions board meeting.pdf

Please forward my written testimony to all the Elections Commissioners as soon as possible, so they will have an opportunity to read it before the board meeting on 10.29.25.

Thank you!

Laurie Thorson
(808) 222-5885

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

by Laurie Thorson

10.29.25 ELECTION COMMISSIONS BOARD MEETING

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This is a follow-up to the written/oral testimonies I provided at last month's board meeting, in which Chair Michael Curtis stopped me mid-sentence from finishing my oral testimony.

The purpose of my written testimony for the 10.29.25 Elections Commission board meeting is to prove to the Election Commissioners that the Chief Elections Officer, Scott Nago, is intentionally altering the ballot count but for the sole purpose of allowing Democrats to illegally continue to govern Hawaii. Because there is no transparency and accountability for the ballot counts, it is easy to conclude that the sole purpose is to hide the steal of the elections. I pray the Elections Commissioners will act responsibly in assuring that this dispute can be remedied at today's board meeting. If the matter can't be immediately resolved, then I would request the termination of Scott Nago and Michael Curtis for purposefully and intentionally acting outside the scope of their duties to interfere with Hawaii's elections.

My website provides evidence to prove that the current Democrat government is determined to not remove Democrats from governing Hawaii, even it means fraudulently altering the ballot counts. Allowing the Democrats to govern Hawaii allows state employees to continue to steal federal funds from the State of Hawaii by implementing fraud schemes and illegal policies. I can prove that state employees are currently stealing from the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. The evidence I provide at this website proves that the state employees have stolen **\$991,000,000 (since January 2015), and they continue to steal every month.**

<https://governmentcorruptioninhawaii.wordpress.com/>

My website provides all the details and evidence to prove that Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority has stolen millions from the Section 8 HCV Program, and is now attempting to pass new illegal policies that would allow him to steal additional federal funds from HUD's housing programs.

Please note that after I provided written testimony for the 10.16.25 board meeting of Hakim Ouansafi's attempt to get the HPHA Board of Directors to approve his illegal policies, the DOJ AG Anne Lopez cancelled the board meeting. I pray AG Anne Lopez will recuse the DOJ from representing Hakim Ouansafi and the other state employees (Ryan Akamine, Lyle Matsuura, Bennet Liu) who I caught imposing illegal policies to steal federal funds, and would refer my lawsuit to the U.S. Attorney General, which would allow the FBI to conduct a full investigation.

Below is the TABLE OF CONTENTS for my website, which provides a brief description of my complaints to prove that Hakim Ouansafi recently introduced new illegal policies so that more federal funds could be stolen from the Section 8 Program. Again, the evidence provided proves that, to date, the Hawaii state employees have stolen approximately **\$991,000,000**.

I pray the Elections Commissioners will take seriously their supervisory role, acting on behalf of the people of Hawaii, to ensure that our elections are transparent and all state employees are held to the highest standards.

Sincerely,
Laurie Thorson

.

The following page is a copy of the website's TABLE OF CONTENTS, which outlines the contents of the website (which includes evidence):
<https://governmentcorruptioninhawaii.wordpress.com/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

- Laurie Thorson v. Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Hakim Ouansafi (Executive Director), Ryan Akamine (Chief Compliance Officer), and Lyle Matsuura (Supervisor)
- Hawaii District Court Case No. 23-CV-00412-MWJS-WRP
- 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Case No. 25-3663

RECENT ACTIVITY

- **1. THORSON *APPEALS* TO THE 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS ~ DISTRICT COURT ERRED IN GRANTING DEFENDANTS MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT BY GRANTING STATE EMPLOYEES IMMUNITY. THORSON FILED HER APPEAL WITH THE 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS**
- **2. THORSON *PROVES* HAKIM OUANSAFI (HPHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) AND HPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS *COLLABORATE* TO APPROVE ILLEGAL POLICIES TO STEAL FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM**
- **3. 10.16.25 BOARD MEETING ~ THORSON *OBJECTS TO NEW ILLEGAL POLICIES* BEING INTRODUCED BY HAKIM OUANSAFI, SEEKING APPROVAL BY THE HPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ENFORCE AND IMPLEMENT THE ILLEGAL POLICIES**
- **4. 08.28.25 BOARD MEETING ~ THORSON *SUBMITS* WRITTEN TESTIMONIES TO PROVIDE THE HPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH EVIDENCE TO PROVE INTENTIONAL FRAUD TO STEAL MILLIONS (**EVIDENCE: HUD DATA, HPHA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, LEGAL AUTHORITIES - FEDERAL RULES AND HUD REGULATIONS**)**

- **5. DECLARATION BY HAKIM OUANSAFI**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY ~ **ADMITS ENFORCING ILLEGAL POLICIES**; HOWEVER, HAKIM OUANSAFI **IMPUTES LIABILITY TO HIS STAFF FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ILLEGAL POLICIES, AND IMPUTES LIABILITY TO THE HPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR APPROVING THE ILLEGAL POLICIES**

EXPLANATION OF THORSON's CLAIMS

LAWSUIT AGAINST HAWAII STATE EMPLOYEES FOR RETALIATION AND DISCRIMINATION

- **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**
 - I. WHAT IS RETALIATION AND DISCRIMINATION?
 - II. RETALIATION
 - III. DISCRIMINATION
 - IV. EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THORSON's CLAIMS
 - V. JUDGE DENIED THORSON's MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT - TO ADD CLAIM OF FRAUD & ADD DEFENDANT 'BENNET LIU' (CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER)
 - VI. PRAYER

DETAILS OF FRAUD SCHEMES & ILLEGAL POLICIES

APPROVED BY HPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ENFORCED BY HAKIM OUANSAFI (HPHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR), and IMPLEMENTED BY HPHA STATE EMPLOYEES

- 1. INTRODUCTION
- 2. LEGAL AUTHORITIES THAT GOVERN THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM
- 3. FRAUD SCHEMES / BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FRAUD SCHEMES #1, #2, AND #3 = TOTAL STEAL IS APPROXIMATELY **\$991,000,000M**
- 4. FRAUD SCHEME #1 ~ approximate steal since Jan 2015: \$52M - **\$491M** (each year \$4.7M - \$44M), (each month = \$427K - \$3.7M)

- 5. FRAUD SCHEME #2 ~ approximate steal since Jan 2015: **\$117M (HPHA only)** (each year \$10.6M), (each month \$188.3K) ~ (combined steal by 3 of 5 Hawaii PHAs since Jan 2015, steal exceeds **\$500M**)
- 6. FRAUD SCHEME #3 ~ approximate steal since Jan 2015: **\$86.9M** (each year \$7.9M - \$15.6M) (each month: \$660K - \$1.3M)
- 7. ADDITIONAL FRAUD SCHEMES
- 8. LITIGATION UPDATE
- 9. HPHA LEADERSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY / **HAKIM OUANSAFI**
- 10. HPHA LEADERSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY / **HPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- 11. RETALIATION CLAIM
- 12. LEGAL AUTHORITIES: FRAUD, LIVE IN AIDE, AUTHORITY OF STATE EMPLOYEES, etc.
- 13. PRAYER

From: [Lori Pino](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] VOTE BY MAIL TESTIMONY
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 4:56:21 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am providing my testimony here for consideration by the Election Commission since I am unable to attend the meeting on 10AM, Wed., Oct. 29, 2025.

Please understand how important this matter is to me. I am a senior citizen living in Waialua. I have had the privilege of being able to vote by mail for many years now, which I highly value for the following reasons:

- Mail in voting does not discriminate
- With all verification processes completed beforehand, I do not have to be hassled (by POTUS chronies) about my identification, address, citizenship, etc.
- The convenience of not having to travel
- I can vote without having to be concerned about extenuating circumstances—traffic, parking, crowds, accidents, altercations—preventing me from getting to the poll station on time given my hectic work schedule (yes, I still work!)
- Mail in voting allows me to take my time to diligently research and decide for whom I choose to vote
- I don't have to rush
- Most of all, I do not appreciate being manipulated by an administration attempting to intrude and micromanage my life! Insidious tactics are at hand and I am not about to stand still or be quiet!

Thank you for your attention to my testimony, which I trust will be taken seriously because our democracy is at stake.

Best regards,

Lori Pino
808.459.5184

From: [Patricia Johnson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Cc: [Patti Johnson](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Elections Commission Oct 29 2025 10:00 Meeting Mail Ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 5:04:46 PM
Attachments: Elections Commission October 29 2025 Meeting .pdf

Aloha Elections Commission,

Please accept my testimony about Mail Ballots.

Aloha, Patti Johnson

Confidentiality Notice: The content of this email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential, proprietary and/or privileged information. You are hereby notified that any unauthorized use, dissemination, review, disclosure, copying or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient or this message was sent to you in error, please immediately contact the sender by reply e-mail and promptly destroy all copies of the original message and attachments

**Patricia A Johnson
LCSW
Honolulu Hawaii**

STATE OF HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION
MICHAEL CURTIS ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR
NOTICE OF ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: via Video Conference or Telephone*

Our family supports mail in ballots

ALOHA CHAIR MICHAEL CURTIS, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Patricia A Johnson. I reside in Ala Moana in Honolulu Hi 96814.

Here are several key reasons why I believe mail-in voting is important — especially for ensuring fair, accessible elections:

My mother was a senior in her 90's (passed just recently at 100 with full cognitive capability) relied heavily on mail ballots to exercise her right to vote despite her lack of mobility. For the sake of others like my mother and the aging baby boomers, please retain mail ballots.

As lifespans become increasingly longer, seniors will become increasingly infirm and immobile and their constitutional right to vote will increasingly be protected by a common-sense vote-by-mail alternative.

Senior or disabled citizens need mail in ballots, but also families, especially single parents with young children who balance work and home can benefit from mail in ballots to encourage participation.

Mail ballots are a way to improve voter turnout. Making it easier to exercise your right to vote means greater participation. Colorado recently did a study to find that all-mail voting in Colorado increased voter turnout by 9.4 percentage points overall. The turnout effect for Coloradans who are categorized as likely Republicans or likely Democrats is almost identical – an increase of approximately 8 percentage points. Independents experienced the most significant turnout boost of nearly 12 percentage points.

Sadly, many Republican-control legislatures have tried to constrain mail-in voting in response to widely debunked claims of large-scale voter fraud during the 2020 general election. The National Committee believes that the best system of voting is one that encourages the maximum number of legitimate votes cast, with safety and convenience being two essential

pillars of such a system. Given the advantages and encouraging results of the nation's vote-by-mail experience, and the lack of evidence of voter fraud, the National Committee questions why so many states are moving in the opposite direction. All these proposals constitute an attack on the ability of seniors to exercise their right to vote. This is particularly ironic given the fact that some GOP legislators expanded vote-by-mail to capture the senior vote which has generally sided with Republicans in this century.

More reasons to support mail ballots.

1. Expands access and convenience

1. Mail-in voting allows people who might find in-person voting difficult (due to mobility issues, illness, disability, caregiving duties, travel, or work schedules) to cast a ballot from home.
2. It gives voters extra time to review the ballot at home rather than being rushed at the polling place.
3. In jurisdictions where mail ballots are the default or widely available, participation tends to increase. For example, in one analysis of counties in the state of Oregon, turnout jumped when they moved to all-mail ballots.

2. Helps maintain health, safety, and flexibility

1. During situations like the COVID-19 pandemic (or for voters concerned about health or public gatherings), mail-in voting allows for exercising the right to vote without risking exposure or requiring travel.
2. It offers flexibility for voters with unpredictable schedules, those living far from polling places, or those facing transportation or mobility barriers.

3. Supports administrative efficiency and cost-effectiveness

1. Conducting an election with many mail ballots (and fewer in-person polling stations) can reduce the strain of staffing, training poll workers, and managing many physical polling sites.
2. It can help election administrators better manage voter rolls, update addresses, and process ballots in a methodical way.

4. Doesn't inherently favor any party and can maintain electoral integrity.

1. Research indicates that mail-in voting by itself doesn't systematically favor one political party over another.
2. Numerous studies and organizations find that voting by mail can be done securely — for example, signature verification, tracking of ballots, and post-election audits are in place in many jurisdictions.

5. Encourages broader civic participation

1. By lowering some logistical and time-based barriers to voting, mail-in voting can engage voters who might otherwise skip voting because in-person options are inconvenient.
2. It can help ensure that more voices are heard in the democratic process, making the electorate more representative.

Some caveats and things to watch

1. Mail-in voting still requires secure processes: timely mailing and receipt of ballots, clear instructions, good tracking, and sound signature or identity verification systems.
2. Some ballots are rejected due to technical issues (e.g., missing signatures, late arrival) which means voter education is important.
3. While research shows the risk of widespread fraud is very low in states with established mail-in systems, maintaining voter confidence requires transparency and best practices.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony today and am available for questions.

From: [jb](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] voting by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 5:27:36 PM

Dear Elections Commission,

It is my understanding that there is an effort to overturn mail-in voting in Hawaii.

I have every confidence in the security of Hawaii's mail-in voting system. Rather, this effort should seem as part of a national effort to disenfranchise as many people as possible.

One of the people they are attempting to disenfranchise is me. I am a partially blind senior citizen who can no longer drive. My traditional polling place is over a mile away and not on a bus route, so voting by mail has been a great convenience for us.

I value my right to vote, and would find some way to get to the polls as long as I am physically able. But the elections commission should be encouraging citizens to vote, and making it straightforward to do so, rather than attempting to make it difficult.

Mahalo,
James B. Nation
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Elizabeth Allen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by mail testimony
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 5:29:26 PM

Aloha e Election Commission representative,

I am writing to strongly oppose elimination of mail-in voting in Hawai'i.

Mail in voting has been essential for so many Hawai'i residents, especially those who live far from a polling place or have limited transportation. On our islands, geography alone can make in-person voting challenging. Having the ability to vote by mail ensures that kupuna, people working multiple jobs, individuals with disabilities, and those living in rural communities can still make their voices heard without barriers. It keeps our elections more inclusive and reflects the true diversity of our state.

I have seen how mail in ballots increase participation and strengthen trust in the democratic process. The convenience gives people time to read through the candidates and ballot measures carefully, leading to more informed choices. Maintaining access to mail in ballots means preserving a system that works for Hawai'i. Our community deserves a voting process that respects our unique way of life and supports every single person who wants to participate in shaping our future.

Best wishes,
<(((><
Elizabeth Allen
Kea'au, Hawaii

Masters of Science Student
Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
200 W. Kawili Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Nancy Budd](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Cc: [Nancy Budd](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MEETING 10/29/2025: Testimony in strong support of voting by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 5:34:39 PM

Re: Item IV(a)

TESTIMONY URGING SUPPORT OF MAIL-IN VOTING

Dear Commissioners,

It appears that there has already been action taken by the commission to push for a “return to polling place elections.”

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and I am proud that Hawai'i has been a leader in expanding access to voting for all eligible voters. Allowing citizens to vote when and where it is convenient for them addresses obstacles like long lines, demanding work and family schedules, child care, and transportation issues. On Kauai we have very limited public transportation and requiring in-person polling place appearance often includes having to find a ride from others who have their own demanding schedules and challenges. During the pandemic it also provided safety and protection to all of us, but especially to immunocompromised voters. It continues to be the safest way for citizens to exercise their fundamental right to vote while safeguarding their health.

In every case, it is the disadvantaged population that is hurt the most.

Over the past decade there have been legal challenges to election systems, but documented cases of mail-in or drop box voter fraud are exceedingly rare.

Let's celebrate voting—let's work on the ways we can encourage more of us to turn out!

Nancy Budd

From: [Brenda Lucas](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In favor of Mail-in ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 5:44:05 PM

Personally, I have been using mail-in ballot voting for over 5 years. It is sent to me early enough for me to look up anything I don't know about and talk to people about the candidates and issues before voting. I don't see as well as I used to so it may take me a little longer to go through it. I really appreciate that we have mail-in voting here in Hawaii. I feel that it is a safe and secure way to vote. Please keep mail-in voting for everyone in our beloved state. I hope that more people will vote because mail-in is more convenient and they can be more involved in our government. I remember waiting in line for a long time at a school.

From: [Bonnie](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony in support of Hawaii's vote by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:43:53 PM

I am submitting testimony in support of Hawaii's vote by mail. I've voted by mail ever since I began voting, almost 50 years ago.

It is especially important for me now as I have long covid, & it would be too exhausting to stand in line for hours. I was forced to retire 3 years ago because I was unable to continue working (at the Hawaii State Hospital where I was a music therapist). There are about 400 million people worldwide with long covid, & about 17.5 million Americans. In addition, there are millions of Americans with other disabilities & illnesses that make it very difficult to stand in line & vote in person.

Trump has lied repeatedly (a pathological liar), & his MAGA followers are blindly believing him. It was reported that the 2020 election was the most secure in our history, & yet Trump made millions of Americans believe otherwise. Republicans are in the minority in Hawaii. Please let the mail-in-voting law stand that the majority of Hawaii residents voted for.

Bonnie Chan
Aiea, HI
bfchan808@gmail.com

From: [Keola Akana](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting Support
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:58:06 PM

Aloha,

My name is Keola Akana. I live in Kailua, Oahu. I am submitting this testimony in support of mail in voting. I have been mail in voting for decades. I began voting via mail when I was a caregiver for my father in the late 1990s. He was very disabled physically and slowing down. Voting by mail gave him an opportunity to ask questions about the candidates and ballot questions. I recall asking him if he wanted to continue to vote. He said incredulously, "well of course"! Voting by mail made it so much easier for him, a disabled person, to continue to participate in our democratic process. Please continue to provide the opportunity for mail in voting to all Hawai'i registered voters. Thank you.

Aloha, Keola Akana

From: [Lori Hull](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting by Mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:06:04 PM

To whom it may Concern,

My name is Lori Hull and I live in Waipahu, HI. Voting by mail is safe and it is a very effective way to make sure everyone has a say in our representative government. Some people work hours that make it hard for them to vote in person. Why would we deprive them of the opportunity to participate in elections? Please do not remove this option. Many people in Hawaii work multiple jobs and find it easier to vote by mail. We should be encouraging our citizens to vote not putting up roadblocks for them. Election fraud does not happen because of mail in ballots. Thanks for listening to my thoughts. Lori Hull

From: [Ruth Limitaco](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:07:16 PM

PLEASE keep mail-in ballots. Think of the elderly, disabled, people with limited transportation or complicated schedules. Mail-in ballots are a hallmark of democracy, encouraging voting participation. Removing them is simply a way to limit the democratic process.

Ruth Limitaco
RuthLimitaco@gmail.com
Hawaii Kai resident.

Ruth L. Limitaco



From: [Beth Anderson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:09:05 PM
Attachments: Testimony in Support of Mail-in Voting.pdf

Aloha,

I have attached my testimony in support for mail-in voting in Hawaii below.

Thank you,

Beth Anderson
Kailua, Hawaii

Re: Election Commission Hearing 10/29/2025
Testimony in Support of Mail-in Voting

Aloha Commission Members,

I am testifying in support of maintaining mail-in-ballots only in Hawaii and strongly oppose regressing to in-person voting only for the following reasons:

—There is no reason to require in-person voting. Fraudulent practices are cited as a reason to require in-person voting, but scrutinization of elections has shown the amount of fraud connected with mail-in voting is so minuscule and negligible, it is insignificant. The voter fraud with in-person voting is similar to that with mail-in voting. It is insignificant. Over the past 13 to 38 years. Voter fraud is so rare it is considered insignificant. A review of the 2016 election found four documented cases of voter fraud. The Washington Post found 31 cases of voter impersonation out of 1 billion ballots cast from 2000 to 2014. These numbers are insignificant.

—It is a waste of time and money to revert to in-person voting and counter-productive. Voter turn-out in Hawaii is dismal, so regressing to the inconvenience of demanding in-person voting will lead to even less voter turn-out. This is a bad outcome. Why make it harder for people to vote, when they already seem to have a difficult time accomplishing the act of voting? Mail-in voting is convenient and easy. Everyone can do it. People don't have to take time off work to drive to a polling station. They don't have to pay for child care to go vote. Some people are not able to leave their jobs to vote. An owner of a small business may not have anyone to cover them so, in order to vote, they would have to leave their business unattended and lose income. They may choose not to lose income in order to vote. People should not be faced with decisions like this just to vote.

—With mail-in ballots every eligible voter receives a ballot in the mail before the election, which gives them plenty of time to review and read up on the candidates and measures, and therefore be much better informed when they vote. It is convenient and easy, especially for people who have little to no time to drive to a polling station and stand in line to vote. In-person voting is impossible for many people. Many don't have transportation to polling stations, or they can't afford paying for transportation to polls. Many people don't feel safe going to polling stations. Demanding in-person voting disenfranchises voters in poorer communities without means for transportation to polling stations, people in rural communities with no bus lines to polling stations, as well as the disabled, and the elderly. We the people, means all the people, not just those with the means and ability to get to a polling station.

—It is discriminatory to require people to vote in-person. Demanding in-person voting, and the inconvenience and logistics associated with that, is just another way to disenfranchise voters. Many people, for a multitude of reasons cannot safely go to a polling station to vote. Those who are immunocompromised would put their health, sometimes their life, at risk if they did in-person voting.

It is very difficult to impossible for many people with disabilities to get to a polling station. Some people may need to avoid polling stations to protect the health of the community. They should be able vote by mail.

—Studies have shown that anyone manning a polling station in uniform, such as a policeman or member of the military, intimidates voters. Currently, we have a President who plans to station members of the justice department at polling stations in California for the November election. Measures like these, particularly in communities of color and poorer communities, historically, intimidates voters and discriminates. It is intended to intimidate voters, disenfranchise voters and deny them their voting rights. In-person voting opens the doors to this kind of intimidation.

Thank you for considering my testimony and viewpoint regarding support for mail-in voting.

Sincerely,
Beth Anderson
Kailua, Hawaii

From: [Kathleen Stanley](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support for all mail voting system for Hawaii
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:19:10 PM

Chair and members of the Hawaii State Elections Commission,

I am Kate Stanley speaking in strong support of Hawai's all-mail voting system. And in strong support of the elections staff including Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago.

I have been a voter in Hawaii in every election beginning in 1968.

I have been on the ballot in 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, and 1984. Having both won and lost elections I have great confidence in our election process and in the performance of the election staff.

Mail in voting is a good way to vote and have time to think about the candidates and ballot issues.

Please support the Hawaii all-mail voting system and the hard working elections staff.

Kate Stanley
District 18
7171 Kukii St.
Honolulu HI 96825

From: [Cathy Evans](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the vote-by-mail system in Hawaii
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:50:26 PM

10-27-25

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I live in Koloa, Kauai and am deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate Hawaii's vote-by-mail system. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and most Hawai'i residents vote this way.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it's a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai'i's mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote by mail - safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Cathy Evans

Koloa, Kaua'i

cathyevans2@icloud.com

From: [Alan Lemieux](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 7:50:42 PM

I would like to keep our mail in ballots in Hawaii. Please do not stop this.

Alan Lemieux
44-121 Laha St #1
Kaneohe HI 96744
808-368-1586

From: [Zachary Onaga](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:02:16 PM

Aloha,

I'm writing to let you know I am in support of mail in voting as it helps elderly and people with disabilities who may find it difficult to go to physical voting polls.

Mahalo nui
Zachary O.
Aiea, Hawaii

From: [Ginger Tennant](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:06:32 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'll be at work when the meeting is held for mail in ballots. I wanted to say that in the past , I used the mail in ballot 90% of the time due to not wanting to miss work as a Physical Therapist. Occasionally, I would go to my polling place in person if I was able to arrange it but more often than not, I really needed to mail in the ballot to avoid scheduling conflicts. I really value and need the mail in option and don't want it taken away.

Thank you!

Virginia "Ginger " Tennant

From: [Rep. Amy A. Perruso](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: Mail-In Voting - Rep. Perruso Testimony
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:42:25 PM
Attachments: image001.png
Mail-In Voting.docx

Attached please find my testimony on this matter.



[Representative Amy A. Perruso](#)

House District 46
Portion of Waipio Acres, Launani Valley, Wahiawā,
Whitmore Village, Waialua, Mokulēʻia

Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives -
Majority Whip

p: (808) 586-6700
e: repperruso@capitol.hawaii.gov

--



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Hawaii State Elections Commission
Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782

RE: In Strong Support of Hawai'i's All-Mail Voting System and the Continued Expansion of Access to the Ballot

Aloha Chair and Members of the Commission,

I write in strong support of Hawai'i's all-mail voting system and urge the continued expansion of access to voting as the most fundamental expression of citizenship in a democratic republic. Every barrier we remove, every doorway we open to participation, strengthens the legitimacy of our democracy and the civic bond that holds our islands together.

In my community of Wahiawā, Whitmore Village, Waialua, and Mokulēʻia, the importance of accessible voting cannot be overstated. Many of my constituents work multiple jobs to make ends meet, often at irregular hours that make in-person voting logistically impossible. Others — elderly, veterans, and residents living with disabilities or chronic illness — face significant mobility challenges that make travel to polling places difficult or even dangerous. For them, all-mail voting is not simply a matter of convenience; it is the difference between inclusion and exclusion, between having a voice and being silenced.

Vote-by-mail has already transformed participation across our state. Since its implementation, turnout has surged dramatically, and the system has proven secure, transparent, and efficient. The narrative that mail-in voting is vulnerable to fraud is not only false but corrosive to public trust — it is a tactic used nationally to discourage participation and undermine confidence in democratic institutions. In contrast, Hawai'i's Office of Elections, under the steady leadership of Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago, has built one of the most secure systems in the nation, combining rigorous verification procedures with culturally grounded outreach and public education.

As we look ahead, we must not only defend our mail-in voting system from misinformation but continue to strengthen and expand it — ensuring that every eligible voter, from our rural valleys to our urban neighborhoods, can participate with dignity, safety, and confidence.

Sincerely,

Representative Amy Perruso
Hawai'i State House, District 46 (Wahiawā–Whitmore Village–Waialua)

From: gce735@gmail.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by mail
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:43:22 PM

Hi,

My name is Tiffany and I'm a resident of Aiea. I support vote by mail and am deeply concerned by the efforts to get rid of it and disenfranchise citizens. Voting is a right and responsibility I hold dear. Making it increasingly difficult to vote can only lead to further marginalizing our community.

I like having the ballot in advance in order to thoroughly research each candidate and measure in the comfort of my own home.

This past election, I was thankfully able to vote ahead of time by mail-in ballot since I was off island on the actual election day.

Furthermore, I have friends (both democrats and republicans) who have difficulty leaving the house and have limited mobility and voting by mail allows them to exercise their rights even when their physical health would not allow them to get to a voting booth.

While I know employers are required to allow employees time off to vote, often that time off is unpaid. Someone struggling financially may not be able to take the loss of wages from taking off an hour (or more if they use public transportation) to vote. With the way our economy is going and the exorbitant cost of housing and basic necessities, this situation can only get more dire.

Getting rid of mail-in voting does more harm than good. I, like most working folks, don't have the luxury of taking time out of my workday to attend an election commission meeting. This email will have to suffice.

Thank you,
Tiffany

From: [Adele Chong](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for October 29, 2025 Election Commission meeting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:09:25 PM

To: Election Commissioners and Chair,

I encourage the Election Commission to support the continuation of mail-in ballots for all registered voters in Hawaii. I believe this provides the best opportunity for voters to participate in an election. No one needs to take time off from work to travel to a polling place and stand in line. No one needs to find child care so they can take time to vote. No one needs to plan their schedule around the days and times the polling place will be open.

For the past few elections, I have volunteered for the Office of Elections Counting Center, in various locations and capacities. Before all mail-in ballots I sat at one of the many tables in the basement of the State Capitol, with many other volunteers, counting signatures in books. During the 2020 election I volunteered in the Convention Center auditing paper ballots. During the 2022 election I volunteered in the State Capitol auditing the images of ballots on a computer screen, I think we were on the floor of the Senate. During the 2024 election I volunteered to open ballot envelopes in a conference room on the 3rd floor of the State Capitol. In each instance, the staff were well organized, knowledgeable of the processes, considerate, and patient with the volunteers.

Mahalo for serving on the Election Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Adele Deming Chong
adelechong2012@gmail.com
654 Hind Iuka Drive
Honolulu 96821 (Aina Haina)

From: kailua5@aol.com
To: OE.Elections.Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:10:49 PM

To: The Hawaii Election Commission
Re: Hearing on 10/29/2025

Testimony in Support of Mail-in Voting

Aloha Election Commission Members:

Mail-in ballots are essential to give everyone the right to vote. The attempt to eliminate mail-in ballots is an attempt to deprive certain groups of their ability to vote and should be opposed.

why would we consider depriving people of their right to vote by making them go to polling stations and often stand in long lines, when many cannot?

Bob Anderson
Kailua, HI

From: [Robert K Bankston](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting in person
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:25:24 PM

Aloha, my name is Robert Bankston. I live in Volcano on the Big Island. I extremely oppose the continuation of voting by mail. I have religiously voted in person at my voting precincts since 1978 on Oahu, and now on the Big Island since 1992. Voting by mail leaves too many options for those committing voter fraud. I believe that everyone eligible to vote should have to present lawful identification to prove that they are whom they say they are, and that they are eligible to vote in the district they reside in. If I'm required to show my ID when going through airport TSA lines, ID when cashing a check, ID when renting a car or equipment. ID when requested by Law Enforcement, then showing my identification/proof of who I am is very important. Bring back voting in person.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Douglas Meller](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY CONCERNING 10/29/25 HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA ITEM IV(a)
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:34:11 PM
Attachments: 10-29-25 final D Meller testimony for Agenda Item IV(a).pdf

Douglas Meller
2615 Aaliamanu Place
Honolulu, HI. 96813
Email: *douglasmeller@gmail.com*

TESTIMONY CONCERNING HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION
10/29/25 MEETING AGENDA ITEM IV(a)

If there are documented problems with voting by mail, then please explore practical, politically feasible solutions. Recommending something infeasible at best won't help and at worst will make you look foolish.

Elected officials want to get reelected. That's why most State legislators will oppose legislation which prevents most or all Hawaii voters from voting by mail. In 2018, the last year Hawaii voters were given a choice, more Hawaii voters voted by mail than voted in person. Absentee ballots were 56% of the total Hawaii general election ballots cast in 2018.

Although some voters prefer to vote in person, it would be counterproductive to completely restore Hawaii's prior procedures for elections. Restoring Hawaii's prior procedures would result in mailed absentee ballots deciding practically all future Hawaii elections, would not address any concerns with voting by mail, and would cost significantly more than our existing procedures.

From: [Boisvert-Jorgensen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:35:59 PM

Aloha Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony by email.

I am writing in FULL SUPPORT of mail-in voting.

As a retired kupuna, I personally am grateful for the privilege to vote by mail.

Such a method allows kupuna to vote who may not easily be able to travel to a voting location on Election Day due to age-related physical or health issues.

It also gives kupuna the flexibility to enjoy their retirement and to travel off their island to see friends and family or to explore other places, and not be forced to stay in Hawaii in early November!

Please continue mail-in voting.

Mahalo,
Denise Boisvert
Honolulu

From: [Waikiki - Hawaii Condo](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting testimony
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:45:01 PM

This is testimony in SUPPORT of mail-in voting.

Voting is the right of all citizens and the government should make it as easy as possible for all citizens to participate in elections.

You are accepting testimony by Zoom and accepting testimony by email. Why would voting by mail after decades of successful elections suddenly be considered an inefficient method?

Please do not abolish the tried-and-true status quo of voting by mail.

Mahalo,
Kim Jorgensen
Waikiki

From: [Cory](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony on agenda item IV a) polling place elections , Oct 29
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:13:20 PM

testimony on agenda item IV a) re. polling place elections
for State Elections Commission, 10 AM Wednesday, October 29, 2025
elections.commission@hawaii.gov
from Cory Harden, Hilo

Please support mail-in voting.

As you know, conducting elections is extremely complex—right up there with brain surgery. Picking out one or two pieces of the puzzle without understanding the other hundreds of pieces can lead people to conclude, mistakenly, that they have found inaccuracies or fraud.

Vote by mail is supported by several organizations that have the background to understand elections—American Civil Liberties Union, the Brennan Center for Justice, Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, and others.

Vote by mail does not seem to increase either party's chances of winning (1), and "...a person is statistically more likely to be struck by lightning than to commit mail ballot fraud." (2)

Vote by mail gives people time to research candidates and ballot questions. It also makes voting possible if you have health issues, or don't have a car, or travel for work, or are tied up with a couple of jobs and a couple of kids.

But Trump and other people are apparently seeking to undermine trust in elections, to lay the groundwork for questioning any results they don't like.

1--<https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/how-does-vote-mail-change-american-elections>

2--<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/7-facts-about-voting-and-myths-being-spread-about-them>

From: [Kimberlee Eggers](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Military veterans need mail-in ballots
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:27:21 PM

As a military veteran family currently living outside the United States, mail-in ballots are the only way we can vote and participate in our democracy.

Kimberlee Kingsbury Eggers and Colonel H. Brant Eggers (USMC, Retired)

From: [Gail R](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony regarding mail-in voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:52:24 PM

Dear Elections Commission,

I am a lifelong Honolulu resident. To cancel mail-in voting would be an egregious action. Do you know how many would be disenfranchised? Please do not terminate our ability to vote by mail!

Mahalo,
Gail Ramiscal

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Donna Blakemore](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:10:03 PM

Aloha, mail in voting has been in place in Hawaii since 2020 and is safe and secure. Only verified registered voters receive mail in ballots. More security is in place. Mail ballots are subjected to sophisticated and redundant chain of measured protocols. Example, ensuring bipartisan teams be present when mail ballots are handled including when they are processed and counted. Mail ballots have been successfully used in the United States for 150 years and in that time States have developed multiply layers of security to ward off any wrongdoing. Mahalo
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kristen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] we need mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:02:48 AM

Aloha e Elections Commission,

I heard that some people are trying to get rid of the option to mail our votes in.

Whoever is trying to do this either does not realize the issues with this, or wants to exploit the issues.

Sometimes people have a hard time getting off work on election days. Or sometimes people are sick and need to mail their vote in. Our kūpuna will benefit from mail-in voting. What about people who have to be out of town on election days? Personally, I do not like to drive so I have been so grateful for the mail-in option.

I don't believe anyone is so naïve as to think this won't create issues. I believe, rather, that whoever is trying to pass this wants to make it harder for people to vote.

Please do not make it harder for people to vote. Please support people in getting to partake of this right.

Mahalo,
Kristen O'Guin
96778

From: [Robert Brem](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:38:38 AM

To the Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission:

It has come to my attention that there are efforts underway to eliminate our state's system of mail-in voting. I strongly urge you to block these efforts and support and strengthen our ability to vote by mail.

Voting is a sacred rite and obligation for the citizens of this country and foundational to a functional and vibrant democracy.. Our laws should encourage voting, not impede it. Many in our state work multiple jobs or have child or elder care obligations that make a trip to their polling place difficult or impossible. Both my wife and I have seen how our elderly parents have relied on mail-in ballots as they became infirm and homebound. As retired senior citizens, we see that day coming for us as well. Indeed, my wife is now starting to have issues with mobility.

There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in our state and the country. If there are issues with vote counting, they can and should be addressed individually. Please support our vote-by-mail system.

With Aloha,

Robert Brem
Wailuku, Maui

From: [Wendy Viellenave](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Continued Support Mail-in Voting!!!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:00:18 AM

Good Morning good folks at the election commission!

I am a Hawaii resident, registered voter, and senior citizen. I vote in every election. I strongly support mail-in voting. It is very easy and extremely convenient. There's no chance of missing a vote because of bad weather or poor health.

I URGE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HAWAII MAIL-IN VOTING.

I am unavailable to participate in the hearing on October 29 either in person or virtually.

Aloha,
Wendy

Wendy Viellenave
1146 Kaumailuna Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

508-561-7344

- * State House District: 26
- * Precinct: 01
- * State Senatorial District: 11
- * Congressional District: 1
- * City Council District: 6

From: [Garth Hess](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:16:11 AM

Aloha,

My name is Garth Hess, and I am a Navy veteran writing to express my strong support for maintaining access to mail-in voting in Hawai'i.

During my years of military service, I came to deeply appreciate the value of being able to vote by mail. Deployments, training schedules, and long hours made it nearly impossible to cast a ballot in person, but mail-in voting ensured that my voice—and the voices of many service members stationed far from home—could still be heard in our democracy. It was a reliable, secure, and accessible way to participate in the civic process, no matter where duty called.

Since transitioning to civilian life, I have continued to vote by mail and have never had any reason to doubt the security, reliability, or integrity of the system. The safeguards in place protect both voter access and election integrity, and the process remains one of the most efficient and trustworthy methods of casting a ballot.

Voting is not an exclusive privilege reserved for those with the time, transportation, or physical ability to appear at a polling place. It is a sacred democratic right that must be accessible to all citizens. Mail-in voting makes that possible—it broadens participation, strengthens civic engagement, and ensures that every eligible voter can make their voice heard without unnecessary barriers.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to protecting voting access in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,
Garth R. Hess
Kapolei, Hawaii

From: [Jane Aquino](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by Mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:48:47 AM

It is critical that Hawaii continue to allow citizens to vote by mail. We already have one of the lowest voting records and Democracy cannot survive without giving voters every chance to express their wishes. I live in Manoa and know people who can't go to the polls. SO please let us have voting by mail! Jane Aquino

From: [Brent Carman](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:53:39 AM

Aloha,

I'm a retired Veteran, was a State of Hawaii employee for DLNR, am currently a COH employee and live in East Hawaii on Moku o Keawe.

Without Mail-in-Voting I would not be able to vote. I and my family, in fact most people I know, vote by mail. I have voted by mail my entire life here in Hawaii since it has been an option. Do Not Take This Right To Vote By Mail Away! I earned it by serving in my countries Armed Forces by serving in my States Hawaii Guard. Do Not let a few Right-wing Communists (MAGA), change the way we vote here in Hawaii nor the USA! BE BRAVE and resist their attempts to limit our rights to vote. Stand up to their attempts to make elections unfair.

Mahalo,

Brent Carman

From: [Wendy c](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:18:33 AM

Dear Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission:

I am a resident of Maui. I was born and raised here, left and returned after 20 plus years to raise my children close to family in a multicultural, open and inclusive community.

I am concerned about what I understand are efforts to eliminate mail-in voting. While there are many reasons why this way of voting is so popular in our State, I want to speak from the perspective of someone who has helped care for 6 elderly family members over the past 17 years. Four of them lived into their nineties, one until 102. They wanted to and were able to continue their lifelong habit of voting precisely because they were able to mail in their ballots.

I think eliminating this way of participating in our system of governance would do irreparable harm to our democracy. Please uphold the right of EVERYONE in our State to vote for as long as they are able and eligible.

Mail-in voting WORKS and is INCLUSIVE. Please preserve it.

Respectfully,
Wendy Hanada Choi
Wailuku, Maui
whchoi672@gmail.com

From: [Randee Golden](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:19:54 AM

You must retain mail in voting for fair elections. I live in rural North Kohala and people cannot take time from life to stand in a line when this system is secure and works. Do not limit voting by getting rid of a system that works.
Sent from my iPad

From: [Madeline Mililani olds](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote in Person
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:22:09 AM

Please I am for voting in person.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Madeline Mililani olds](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPPOSING MAIL IN VOTING,
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:24:22 AM

Bring back one day in person voting.

Madeline Olds
Mililanid@msn.com
15-1480 Beach Rd, Keaau
808-388-9809

From: [Sarah Burns](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/29 Elections Commission
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:33:12 AM

Aloha and good morning,

I am unable to attend tomorrow's Election Commission meeting so I am submitting my comments and testimony in deep **support** of mail-in voting in Hawaii. I urge the commission not to fall victim to the "voter fraud" talking points of the current administration. These lies that are still being spread about the integrity of our elections will have impacts for decades to come. Mail-in voting makes voting easy and accessible to all, and my favorite part is that I can sit down with my ballot and research the candidate and issues before me without feeling rushed, or needing to take time off of work to stand in line at a polling place.

Again, our elections in this country were FINE before ONE INDIVIDUAL started spreading misinformation. The damage he has done might never be repaired. By capitulating to this dangerous rhetoric about voter fraud and voter ID regulations, we are feeding into the idea that our country's elections have been compromised. The people of Hawaii are busy enough working two to three jobs to survive, and voting should be made **easier** and more accessible, not more difficult.

Thank you for accepting my comments, and thank you for protecting the people of Hawaii from the harmful misinformation being spread by the GOP.

Sincerely,

Sarah Burns
Resident of Kaimuki, 96816

From: [Lori Atrops](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:42:10 AM

By all that is good and inclusive and based on a REAL DEMOCRACY of representing the enfranchised citizens of the USA, MAINTAIN MAIL-IN VOTING IN HAWAII!

Do NOT let white supremacy rule with their lies (unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud).

It is TIME TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE and not a political party.

Open your eyes and keep them open. We the people want ALL of our voices counted. Mail-in voting achieves this more than any other way.

Hear us!

Lorene Atrops

Resident in Kihei, HI

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Larry Meacham](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting Mail-in Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:51:45 AM

Testimony to the Elections Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

Mail-in voting is good for several reasons.

First, it increases turnout because it is easier to do.

Second, long experience shows that fraud is almost non-existent.

Third, it is less expensive than setting up hundreds of polling stations.

Fourth, it speeds up the counting process because many ballots are sent in before Election Day,

We should not give up these advantages because of lunatic conspiracy theories.

Thank you,
Larry Meacham
Wahiawa

From: angela@myartmail.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#); [Angela](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT for MAIL- IN VOTING
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:52:54 AM

Dear Committee,

I am writing to inform you that I am in favor of mail in voting. It is the best solution for our island state. I live in Kailua, Oahu and see many benefits for mail in voting, it is cost effective, easier on seniors and working families, not to mention the rural communities in our state.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Angela Posatiere

angela@nyartmail.com

From: [Mal Chan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] add my vote
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:54:24 AM

I have voted for many, many years by MAIL! I expect to continue to do so, specially now that I'm in my 90's, it would be very difficult to get out to vote.

Mary A. Chan

From: [Martin Atrops](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Republican election intimidation
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:09:11 AM

The fraud in our elections begins with Trumps lie that he lost to Biden. He is a criminal, a sex offender who blames others and never takes responsibility for his crimes. Now he is finding ways to take the vote away from others. The Republican Party has failed America by allowing this dictator to take over. I vote by mail, being able to take time at the kitchen table to carefully, without being rushed in a voting booth, to review each candidate and each proposition. I don't want to be voting with a Hegseth, Noem, or MAGGot looking over my shoulder or gaining access to any of my personal information!! I am an American who supports the US Constitution. Martin Atrops, Kihei, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kimberly Guth](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save Mail-In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:10:18 AM

I am unable to attend the Election Commission Meeting on Wed 10/29 in person so I am respectfully submitting my personal testimony in support of mail-in voting to this committee.

Many registered voters do not have the opportunity or ability to make it to the polls in person on election day. This can be due to job requirements, i.e. serving in the military or working out of state. Or due to physical limitations such as disabilities or lack of transportation. Some that live in rural areas, such as myself -- I live in Laupahoehoe on the Big Island -- can face limitations on election day due to weather or road conditions. Mail-in voting ensures that I can get my ballot in the mail ahead of election day and make my vote count. Mail-in voting is imperative to ensure every American is allowed to exercise their right to vote.

Thank you.

--

Kimberly Guth
kjoguth@gmail.com

From: [Cynthia Crabtree](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Strong Support of Preserving Mail-In Voting in Hawai'i
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:22:48 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

My name is Cynthia Crabtree, and I am a Community Health Worker who works closely with rural communities across Hawai'i Island. I am writing in strong opposition to any proposal that would eliminate or restrict mail-in voting in our state.

Mail-in ballots are vital for ensuring that all of our residents, especially working people, kūpuna, those living with disabilities, low-income families, and military service members have equitable access to the ballot box. In the rural areas where I serve, transportation can be unreliable, polling places are often far away, and many residents juggle multiple jobs or caregiving responsibilities. Without mail-in voting, many of these individuals simply would not be able to participate.

As a CHW, I see firsthand how hard people work just to meet daily needs. Voting should not be another barrier. Mail-in voting gives our communities the chance to engage in democracy safely, securely, and with dignity.

Hawai'i's mail-in voting system has proven to be both secure and effective. It has increased voter participation and made it possible for people from all walks of life, not just those with time, transportation, or physical ability to have their voices heard.

I respectfully urge the Commission to defend and preserve mail-in voting as an essential part of a fair, inclusive, and accessible democracy for all Hawai'i residents.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to protecting the voices of our people.

With aloha,

Cynthia Crabtree
Community Health Worker, Hawai'i Island

From: [Bobbie Best](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting should remain in place
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:41:29 AM

We are elderly and cannot be sure we will be able to vote in person so we like the insurance of getting a mailed ballot. Heck, sometimes we forget what day it is! Actually we've gone in person with our mailed ballot because we love the process and opportunity to vote. It's still exciting. With ballot in hand, at home, we can research more. People need options because who knows when we will fall ill or someone else off island will need a visit so it's great to have a ballot that can be thoughtfully considered. Even if we take it to the polls and drop it off, just to see neighbors. In a democracy voting should be encouraged not limited. There's not significant voter fraud by voters to be concerned enough to limit voting in any way at all.

Aloha

Barbara and William (Bill) Best, Wailuku
bestb002@hawaii.proton.me

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

From: ddomingo@mauigateway.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Strong Support of Hawaii's All-Mail Voting System
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:02:12 AM

Hawaii State Election Commission
Office of Elections

Aloha Chair & Members of the Commission

My name is Donna Domingo, I live in Kihei Maui. I write today in strong support of Hawaii's All- Mail Voting System. And I urge the Election Commission to continue to strengthening it. Since its implementation statewide this system has improved voter turnout, and ensured That every voter can make their voice heard safely and conveniently.

Mahalo,

Donna Domingo
Ddomingo@mauigateway.com

From: [Martina Wing](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail-In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:27:55 AM

To
Michael Curtis
Elections Commission Chair
State of Hawaii Elections Commission
Office of Elections
802 Lehua
Avenue, Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Chairman Michael Curtis,

I am in full support of mail-in voting while also having the option to go and vote in-person.

It is the year 2025. The technology is available and the track record is clear: it increases turnout due to the convenience of voting from home. I have the time to research who is on the ballot making me a better informed voter.

Respectfully,
Martina Wing
25+ year resident of Kailua-Kona

From: [Shannon Matson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Maintain Vote by Mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:28:46 AM

Aloha Election Commissioners,

Mahalo for your service in this role. As a voter in Hawai'i since turning 18, I sincerely appreciate the option to vote by mail as well as maintaining in-person options for those who prefer that choice. I have run as a candidate for state house twice and currently work for the County Clerk's Office and have confidence that those who run our elections process on Hawai'i Island are doing so to the best of their ability and with integrity and accuracy.

Mail-in voting provides convenience and accessibility to many folks who might not be able to participate otherwise. It's not a perfect system, and I'm sure much could be done to improve it, but overall, I think it is a vast improvement over the "one-day" system we had in the past, which also required people only vote in their designated polling location. We are living in modern times where we need to be able to provide flexible options to maintain voter engagement and participation.

My biggest concern in the last couple of elections was to make sure people understood they had to mail their ballots back in advance of the election date so they would be properly counted on time. If there's anything we can do to address that, including messaging that information more clearly and/or allowing some flexibility for those ballots that are incoming via mail and may arrive a day later, that would help make every vote count. The other concerns I have that would vastly improve our elections and campaign season are all regarding campaign finance reform.

Thank you again for your service and the work you are doing to keep our elections as fair and accessible for all as possible.

Mahalo,
Shannon M.
Hawai'i Island Resident

From: [Charles Taylor](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:33:38 AM

I am hearing that some members of the voting commission are striving to abandon mail in voting. I feel this is just another ploy to control the free will of the citizens of Hawaii and the United States. It is obvious that the ability to vote freely would be greatly affected. That I know of there has been no abuses of any major amount. It's amazing to me that any problems can't be fixed such as the death of voters not being noted and there doesn't seem to be a great number of that problem.

I would like to continue to have the ability to vote by mail.

Charles Taylor
308 Opihikao Pl
Honolulu HI 96825
616-485-2829

From: [Sue Cowing](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting By Mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:39:36 AM

Banning voting by mail here would be a giant leap backward.

Before Hawai'i first voted by mail in 2020, we had the worst voter turnout percentage of any state in the nation. But in 2020, 58% of registered voters voted, a sharp rise from 38.6% in the 2016 election. Similar results have occurred in other states when they adopted this method, though our increase was the most dramatic.

Compared to voting by mail from home, having to go back to in-person-only voting would make it more difficult for many in Hawai'i to vote at all: seniors, people with disabilities or lack of transportation, people who live in remote rural areas, people who work more than one job, people who don't have enough time or physical stamina to stand in long lines, pregnant women, parents of small children, full-time caregivers.

And where would they vote even if they could? The infrastructure of traditional polling places no longer exists here and would be very expensive to rebuild—the reservation and equipping of polling places throughout the state, the staff training to operate and coordinate them, the recruitment of volunteer poll workers, the increased complexity of collecting and tallying votes cast, and the massive task of educating the public on the location of their specific polling places. All this when the state budget is strained trying to buffer the loss of revenue and programs from the shut-down and the federal administration's budget cuts.

Banning vote-by-mail would clearly discourage and decrease election participation in Hawai'i. Why do it? States like Oregon and Arizona have used voting by mail safely and effectively as their primary method for years. No legal challenges, even in the contentious aftermath of the 2020 election, have found evidence of error or misuse that came anywhere near to affecting the election results in their states.

Yet just this week, our current President has attempted —by executive decree—to ban voting-by-mail nationwide. Fortunately for voters, the U.S. Constitution grants the power to organize and regulate elections to the states, not to the federal government. To ban voting by mail for all of us as a fix for as yet unproven irregularities would do us a serious injustice. Shouldn't a free society encourage and enable all its citizens to vote, rather than create obstacles to exercising that fundamental right?

Sue Cowing
Retired U.S. history teacher
Niu

From: [Nicholas Sowden](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please keep Mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:48:19 AM

Hello Commission,

As a Hawai'i resident, I am sometimes traveling or have business on election day. It is easier and safer for me to fill in my ballot in advance and know that my vote will make it, with no chance for unexpected surprises.

Please, please keep this option.

Nicholas "Kozi" Sowden

From: [April Fountain](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding Election Commission meeting Oct 29
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:49:27 AM

Aloha,

My name is April Fountain and I am unable to attend the in person or virtual meeting.

I would like to add my voice urging you to please keep our mail in voting in Hawaii.

I believe in order to protect our rapidly deteriorating democracy, it's extremely important to keep voting as easy for people to do.

There has been no evidence of mail in voter fraud here in Hawaii so please don't let anyone take this from us.

Thank you,

April Fountain

aprilfountain@gmail.com

From: [Martha Randolph](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for mail in election ballots in Hawaii
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:51:55 AM

Dear Election Commission

As a senior woman, an SCC representative, and a district council officer I assure you that the mail in voting option for local and Federal elections was one of the best things this state has ever instituted.

The first thing that program did was increase the number of voters participating in our state elections by making the process so much easier. In our state way too many people have multiple jobs, polling locations are often crowded and under manned, and seniors like myself have extra problems especially if we live alone with getting to polling places.

Making voting easier to do means more people vote.

Early voting and drop off boxes for ballots are also helpful. There is no problem here with ineligible people voting that I have ever heard of. Any challenge to any voting policy by any political group is nothing more than their way of planning how they plan to misuse and/or abuse the voting system in our state or our Country.

You know it, and they know it. The current President is already talking about running for an illegal third term so lets not pretend that the supporters of the current regime are not trying to undermine the voting system for their own purposes.

Sincerely

Martha E Randolph
District 27 Council Treasurer
DPH Environmental Caucus SCC Representative
Member of the DPH Kupuna Caucus
Member of Legislative Priorities Standing Committee and
Member of Rules Standing Committee of the
Democratic Party of Hawaii
808-284-0264

From: [Patricia szot](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:01:53 AM

Aloha Election Commission,

My name is Patricia Szot and I live on 15-1590 3rd Ave , Keaau. I am writing a testimony for the October 29, 2025 conference about mail-in voting in the state of Hawaii. I am heavily in favor of mail in voting. It gives people time to get the ballot in and the goal of any state is to encourage their people to VOTE. Every state should make the process as easy as possible, and mail in voting in one of these measures. Plus, mail in voting leaves a paper trail so ballots can be recounted if the occasion should arise. The Hawaiian islands have a large population of retired individuals from the mainland (of which I am one) and mail in voting is our preferred method. The other major population is the native Hawaiians who are the working individuals keeping tourism going, the major source of income for the state. Mail in voting is a luxury for them because they don't have to schedule time off to vote. Keep mail in voting for the people of this great state.

Mahalo

Patricia Szot

From: [Benedict Kerkvliet](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] vote by mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:02:50 AM

Dear Hawai'i Elections Commission,

For the commission's October 29 meeting I want to say the following:
Voting by mail is wonderful, safe, and reasonable. I've been voting by mail for years in Hawai'i. My parents in California and my brother in Oregon vote by mail in those states. Filling out a mail-in ballot at home rather than in a polling station booth allows me to be more thoughtful in making choices and more careful when marking the ballot.

Mail-in ballots are safe, protected against fraud at every step in the process in Hawai'i. I've never had any reason to doubt the integrity of the process.

Voting by mail is also reasonable. It allows people who have jobs, children, and other responsibilities to do their civic duty - vote - at a time and place that fits their schedule rather than being required to do so at a certain day and place set by someone else.

Sincerely,
Ben Kerkvliet
Kaimuki, Honolulu
bjtkerkvliet@gmail.com

--

From: featherleipassionmaria@gmail.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hawaii Mail-in-voting - PLEASE SECURE OUR RIGHT TO VOTE
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:03:26 AM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a concerned Hawai'i voter, living here since 1981 on the Big Island & Maui. I have voted by mail every election, and I am deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state's vote-by-mail system. Hawai'i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai'i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it's a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai'i's mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. In my opinion, this is a tactic to create more votes by a failing Republican Party. It is corrupt to the core, and I believe it is important that we stand up for our ideals and not bend to this attempt to take over our voting system and deny people to right to vote! What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda, and against the Laws of our Constitution. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades. We need to be the example of honoring the rights of everyone in Hawai'i.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy,

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Patricia L Gardner

Whatever the question...Love is the answer!

808.280.2042

love@lightweavingjoy.com

From: [Joyce Brown](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:07:30 AM

Dear Legislators:

I would like to offer my impassioned plea that mail-in voting be preserved, both for myself as a disabled person with MS that finds it difficult to stand for long periods, but also for the average voter. My reasoning follows:

For the **medically challenged** voter their difficulty in managing their illness while standing in long lines for long periods of time makes voting insurmountable without mail-in voting.

For the **elderly** that do not have access to transportation, access to voting may be impossible without mail-in voting.

For the voter who is **traveling** on election day, voting on-site is obviously impossible and they can only vote with mail-in voting.

For the **fragile** - such as those with Long Covid - who avoid crowds to avoid the risk of recontamination, mail-in voting may be the only way they feel safe voting.

But more importantly,,,

The average citizen also needs access to mail in voting! Why, you ask?

Do you remember a few years ago, when there were something like 20 initiatives and/or amendments that a voter also had to consider with their arcane, double speak language? It took almost 30 minutes reading and rereading the options when voting at home. How can Hawaii have an informed, articulate voting population that can make good choices when they are spending a half hour in a hot stuffy voting booth, knowing there are long lines of voters waiting for their chance to vote.

My conclusion is obvious.

Hawaii cannot afford to lose mail-in voting for its citizens. It is a wonderful tool for Hawaii citizens to be fully represented at the voting booth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Joyce M. Brown
2342 Maunalaha Rd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

jmarybrown@mac.com
808-216-6444

From: [Joell Edwards](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Mail In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:27:17 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Commission,

I submit this testimony in **strong support of Hawai‘i’s all-mail voting system** and also express my full support for the **Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s stand** in favor of maintaining and strengthening this secure, accessible, and effective voting process.

Since its implementation, **vote-by-mail has significantly increased civic engagement and voter participation across our islands**. From 2016 to 2020—the first year Hawai‘i conducted elections by mail—**voter turnout rose from 34.8% to 51.2%**. This progress reflects a system that truly works for all Hawai‘i residents, especially **rural communities, working families, and our kūpuna**, who benefit from greater access and flexibility in casting their ballots.

The recent attacks on our mail-in voting system are rooted in misinformation. **Hawai‘i continues to uphold one of the most secure and transparent election systems in the nation**. The checks, verification processes, and accountability measures in place ensure both integrity and public trust.

I join the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i in commending **Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago** and the dedicated staff of the **Office of Elections** for their continued professionalism and commitment to fair and inclusive elections.

Mahalo for your service and for your commitment to protecting Hawai‘i’s democratic process.

With aloha,
Joell M. Edwards
Chair, Kaua‘i Democratic Party

808-482-7852

From: [Jacquilyn Chamberlin](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Elections Commission Meeting October 29, 2025 Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:28:12 AM

Elections Commission Meeting October 29, 2025 Testimony

Yes! Yes! Yes!! Hawaii transitioned to an all-mail election system in 2019. Please DO continue to KEEP mail-in voting.

Hawaii's statewide mail-in voting system, advantages include increased voter turnout, more convenience for voters, and strengthened election security measures:

Cost efficiency

Lower administrative costs: Conducting elections by mail can reduce the need to staff and equip traditional polling places, potentially saving jurisdictions money.

Ballot tracking: Hawaii voters can use a tracking service to monitor their ballot's status, receiving alerts when it is mailed, received, and accepted for counting. This increases transparency and provides peace of mind.

Unique ballot identifiers: Each ballot return envelope has an individualized barcode, allowing officials to track it and prevent duplicate voting.

Paper trail: Ballots marked on paper provide a verifiable record for post-election audits to ensure accuracy.

Increased voter turnout

Proven to boost participation: Studies show that universal vote-by-mail systems tend to increase voter turnout. In 2020, Hawaii saw a 14% jump in registered voter turnout compared to 2016.

Particularly effective for key groups: Research indicates that mail-in voting has a large impact on turnout for young, Black, and Latino voters, who historically vote at lower rates.

More time to vote and research: Voters receive their ballots weeks before Election Day, giving them more time to research candidates and issues. They can complete the ballot at their own pace, and at their convenience, rather than being confined to a single day.

Avoids logistical barriers: Mail-in voting removes the need to travel to a specific polling place, wait in line, or take time off work. This is particularly beneficial for voters who have busy schedules, are elderly, have disabilities, or live in remote rural areas,

Mahalo.

Jacquilyn Chamberlin
Kalapana, Hawai'i
bigislandsis@gmail.com

=====

From: rathersurf@hawaiiintel.net
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Mail in Voting.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:36:46 AM

SAVE OUR MAIL-IN VOTING as a STAND AGAINST the overthrow of our country. We are in the fight of our lives. My father and our family gave lives to fight this enemy in WW2. Don't disgrace their memory by falling under the same monsters that Germany did in the 1930s.

Barbara Robertson.

From: [Sue Trombley](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by Mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:40:04 AM

Aloha,

I was born in 1955. I have voted in every election since I turned 18, every election. As I have gotten older, I truly appreciate the ability of voting by mail. I remember standing in lines for hours to vote on election day. Then I remember being able to take advantage of early voting opportunities. As an aging population, the ability to have my voice heard, irregardless of my health, is essential. I have family members whose physical health prevents them from leaving their home even though their mental health is acute. It would be against everything our Constitution stands for to deny able minded individuals the ability to vote by mail.

Please protect voting by mail.

--

Susan Trombley
91-1036 Kaiau Avenue Apt D
Kapolei, HI 96707
808-200-3233
702-286-3766 (C)

From: [Ryan Berg](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep mail-in voting!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:55:01 AM

Elections Commission representatives,

The attempt by fascists to curtail our democratic traditions knows no restraint, and their attempt to take away mail-in voting is just the latest in their desire to trap us in autocracy. Mail-in voting is shown to be the most efficacious for democratic participation and provides greater civic involvement. And for people like my mother (who's 81 and has mobility issues), voting by mail means they can vote. Period.

This is a time to stand up and fight for our democracy. I truly hope you're not swayed by death cultists in the service of oligarchs and the fascists in our government. You are the bulwark where we keep ourselves free.

Thanks!

Michael Ryan Berg
m.ryan.berg@gmail.com
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i

From: [Alice Luck](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Mail In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:59:16 AM

Aloha,

Voting by mail must be preserved in Hawaii.

The issues raised by the Elections Commission are not due to mail in voting but chain of custody and counting discrepancies. This effort to stop mail in voting is a red herring and pretext to undermine an initiative that uplifts our democracy and expands participation in it. Please do not get rid of mail in voting.

Mahalo,

-Alice Luck

From: [Taetuli Tafai](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Hawaii Mail-In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:00:34 AM
Attachments: All-Mail testimony.pdf

Here is my testimony.

October 28, 2025

Hawai'i State Elections Commission
Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782

RE: In Strong Support of Hawai'i's All-Mail Voting System

Aloha Chair and Members of the Commission,

I write in support of All-Mail Voting System. I support any mechanism that provides easy access for voters to properly conduct their civic duty.

All-Mail voting made it easier for me to vote. I was employed by the State of Hawaii as a Corrections Officer and due to the short staffing of our facilities, I sometimes worked 8-24 hours, especially on a holiday. This allowed me to cast my ballot without having to worry if I would have relief to leave work and vote.

Nothing about All-Mail in votes has shown us it does not work. It's people being lazy and misinformed that's the problem.

I have confidence in Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago and his office to continue the work of the people. Learn from every election.

Mahalo,

Tuli Tafai

From: [Celine Chang](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail-In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:03:16 AM

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Celine, and I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's mail-in voting system.

Mail-in voting has made it easier and more equitable for people across our islands to participate in elections. For many residents, especially kupuna, those with health concerns, people with demanding work schedules, or those living in rural areas, traveling to a polling place can be difficult. Having the ability to vote from home ensures that every eligible voter has a fair opportunity to have their voice heard.

In my own experience, mail-in voting has made the process more thoughtful and accessible. It allows my 'ohana to take time to review the ballot together, discuss the issues, and submit our votes with confidence. It has strengthened our sense of civic responsibility and connection to our community.

Hawai'i's mail-in voting system is also secure, with safeguards like signature verification and ballot tracking that protect the integrity of every vote. The data continues to show that this system is both safe and effective.

I respectfully urge the Commission to continue supporting and improving our mail-in voting system so that it remains a cornerstone of accessible, secure, and inclusive democracy in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Celine Chang

Honolulu, HI

From: [Doug](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Balloting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:07:21 AM

Please place my comments in the record in support of mail in balloting.

I have been both a poll worker and a postal worker handling ballots in elections in two different states over the last 35 years. The mail ballot process is secure, dependable and full of checks and balances. We the voters, must insure every other voter, bedridden, disabled, unable to drive, sight impaired, hearing impaired or completely healthy is able to freely cast a ballot. Being able to sit at home, research candidates and make informed decisions keeps pressure off poll lines that often takes hours on election day. We have been closing polling places because of the success of mail in balloting. Are we now going to double, triple or quadruple the number of polling places and the number of workers needed? Or, are we going to leave people standing in line in the heat, rain or other uncomfortable conditions for hours on end. There is no evidence that mail in voting is corrupt or ineffective. Why would we make this change with no real evidence to show a more effective and efficient way to post our ballot.

With respect,

Douglas Blakely
6154 Olohena Road, #B
Kapaa, HI 96746

--

Doug Blakely

From: [Charles Hinman](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony of Vote By Mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:10:17 AM

Aloha, my name is Charles H, I am a resident of Honolulu, 96826.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the issue of mail-in voting. I am in strong support of the expansion and facilitation of mail-in voting options and urge you to adopt policies and procedures that ensure broad access, election integrity, and public confidence.

Mail-in voting improves access and convenience for voters. It reduces the burden for those who are physically unable to attend in-person voting—whether due to distance from polling places, limited time off work, lack of transportation, or long wait lines—and thus lowers the “cost” of voting for many citizens.

It also supports voter participation across communities, especially in rural areas where polling locations can be far apart. Multiple studies have shown that more expansive mail-in voting options play a pivotal role in increasing voter turnout.

Mail-in voting also helps maintain election security and integrity. According to analysis by the nonpartisan Bipartisan Policy Center, mail ballots are counted only after verification of eligibility, signature matching, tracking, and other safeguards. Data further show that mail voting does not favor one party over another and has resulted in extremely few cases of voter fraud nationwide.

When I wrote my senior capstone on voter suppression, I included the story of a friend who, upon reaching voting age, attempted to submit her ballot but was stopped by men who misrepresented their authority and took her ballot away. Since that experience, she has remained committed to ensuring her vote is counted in every election. Her story reminds me why expanding secure and accessible voting options matters so deeply.

In conclusion, many voters face conflicting work schedules, mobility or health challenges, or live far from polling sites. In recent years, voter intimidation tactics have sought to prevent people from exercising their rights. Mail-in voting offers a safe, secure, and responsible way for eligible citizens to fulfill their civic duty and make their voices heard—no matter their circumstances.

Thank you,

Charles H.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: arrearfocused.79@icloud.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support mail-in voting!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:19:39 AM

Now is not the time to restrict the Democratic process. Please support and continue to advocate for mail-in voting.

-Tom Aitken
Kamuela, HI

From: [janet Matlock](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support voting by mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:35:26 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment on the importance of mail-in voting, which provides robustness and inclusivity to the democratic process.

Here on Hawai'i Island, many people work at jobs far from their homes and polling places. Many people live in remote, rural areas where traveling to vote in person creates a hardship, if not an impossibility. Why would anyone want to disenfranchise these citizens?

I appreciate the choices we have here, where I can mail back my ballot, hand-deliver it to a drop box, or bring it to the polling station. If someone wants to vote in person, they can. If someone wants to use the mail, they can. If someone wants to bring their ballot to a secure drop box, they can. If any of these options need to be expanded (more polling places, more drop boxes), then do that. Add options, do not take any away.

Please, do not listen to those who are attempting to disenfranchise those voters who are the backbone of our workforce.

Mahalo,

janet Matlock

Kailua Kona

From: [Sarah Ko](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please do not eliminate mail in voting in Hawaii
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:47:37 AM

Hello,

I have a chronic illness which makes it very difficult for me to drive, stand in line, or take part in in-person voting. Please maintain our mail-in ballot option.

Sincerely,

Sarah Taylor Ko
808-769-4421

--

Fine Artist
[website](#)

From: [Andrea Fruggiero](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for the Hearing on Mail in Ballots being held on 10/29/25
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:47:38 AM

Aloha,

My husband and I live in Waikoloa Village on the Island of Hawaii. We have lived in Hawaii for almost 20 years. In that time Mail in Voting was passed by the Elections Commission to have ALL voters vote by mail. It has been a Godsend, especially during the Covid epidemic. We are senior citizens and it saved so many from contracting this horrible disease that was running rampant and killing MILLIONS of American citizens and people from around the world. That alone should stop anyone from attempting to take away votes by mail.

Hawaii Island is the largest and most remote of all the island. There are not always voting places to go that are conveniently available, The price of gasoline is rapidly approaching \$5/gal again. We, as seniors, living on a fixed income, would be hard pressed to get to a voting center and not have it cost us over our budgeted amounts for gasoline. Beside the fact that as seniors, it's just not as easy to get around as it once was.

Voting by mail is safe, secure and has been verified to be an accurate and fraud free method of voting. We ask you to RETAIN VOTE BY MAIL as the way Hawaii votes.

Sincerely,

Andrea L Fruggiero
andicat.hawaii@yahoo.com
Thomas M Power
tom5598@yahoo.com

☐ *Be the rainbow in someone else's cloudy day.* ☐

.

From: [Gaye Chan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Election Access - Protect Mail-in Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:15:33 PM

Dear Election Commission,
Hawai'i has had mail-in voting since 2020 and has functioned extremely well. I understand that there is an effort to eliminate this option. This would be a huge mistake and would disenfranchise many voters. My mother is 96 years old. She considers voting a crucial act of participating in the democratic process. Eliminating mail-in voting would make it impossible for her to vote. It goes without saying that my mother's situation is not unique. Many senior citizens would likely face similar disenfranchisement. Please protect their voting rights.

Gaye Chan
Kane'ohe

From: [Liz Nelson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:28:17 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a proud Hawai'i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state's vote-by-mail system. Hawai'i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai'i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience--it is a matter of democracy in action. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai'i's mail-in voting system- or anywhere else in the United States. Restricting access to mail-in- ballots does not protect elections- it undermines them. I have worked with the Elections Office, both as an observer and ballot opener and I can vouch for the integrity and safety of our mail-in system.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices and strengthens trust in the democratic process.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in-voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely and with dignity. Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Elizabeth Nelson
Kaneohe Oahu
hawaiilizzie@gmail.com

From: [Tasman Kekai](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:31:35 PM

Aloha kakou,

My name is Tasman Kekai Mattox and I live in Hilo, Hawai'i. I am writing to support mail-in voting in our state. Mail-in voting makes voting accessible for people who work full time, as well as people like my grandparents who may have trouble standing in line for hours to vote.

Please continue to provide mail-in voting for our state.

Mahalo,
Tasman

From: [Veronica Lukasinski](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please protect voting by mail!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:38:26 PM

Aloha,

I am a disabled teacher living and working in the Honolulu area and I am alarmed to hear that mail-in voting is being challenged by some members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission. I am disabled so mail-in voting has been essential for me to participate in my civic duties. Please consider your disabled community and protect our rights to vote via mail-in voting.

Mahalo,
Ms. Luka

From: [Georgia Hoopes](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Strongly Support Vote by Mail!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:39:17 PM

Aloha members of the Committee.

Hawai'i's mail-in voting system has increased voter participation and made democracy more reachable for working families, kūpuna, and rural residents alike.

I am kūpuna and I feel confident that with mail-in voting my vote will be received and counted. Even though getting around the island is difficult and despite obstacles like the pandemic, I'm able to fill out my ballot and mail it in so conveniently. I can't imagine that changing for the worse.

Let's stand together in support of this essential part of fair and open elections.

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes

Second Congressional District, Kauai

House District 17

From: [HY](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preserve mail-in voting in Hawaii!!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:40:09 PM
Importance: High

Aloha,

Please **do not eliminate mail-in voting**. This is a matter of voter accessibility among our kupuna and those with disabilities or health issues who cannot endure the long lines that an all in-person voting would create. Given that our state has used mail-in voting for years, I have **zero** confidence in the state's ability to seamlessly execute a sudden transition back to a complete vote in-person system.

Karen Takamine, Honolulu
Hanabata.you@gmail.com

From: [Will Caron](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Hawai'i's Mail-In Voting System
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:54:26 PM

To the Hawai'i Elections Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for our state's vote-by-mail system. It has proven to be a cornerstone of an accessible and robust democracy for all Hawai'i residents.

This system enhances democratic participation by removing common barriers to voting. It provides unparalleled convenience for working families, caregivers, and those with mobility challenges. Furthermore, the extended period to receive and return ballots allows for thoughtful participation, leading to a more informed electorate.

The security and integrity of our elections remain paramount, and the mail-in system, with its verified chain of custody and ballot tracking, provides multiple layers of protection.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to continue its commitment to this successful and essential system. Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

Will Caron
Kahalu'u, O'ahu

From: [Brian Mark](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:56:22 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm in favor of continuing the process of allowing mail-in voting. As a senior citizen, I sometimes have low back pain and bilateral hip pain. This makes it uncomfortable for me to stand for long periods of time.

The last time I voted in person it took long just to get my ballot. Also, I don't drive, so I would have to walk to the polling station. It's really inconvenient for me.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Mark
4221 Keanu St #1, Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Carolyn Boyer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:56:52 PM

To the commissioners of the Hawaii Elections Commission:

I strongly encourage you to CONTINUE allowing mail in voting in Hawaii.
By this simple procedure of voting in my own home, it frees up time to care for my in-law.
She has a cancer diagnosis, and during her treatment she was happy to receive her ballot by mail also!

Mahalo for your kokua.

Carolyn Boyer
Hawaii Kai

From: [jeanne datz rice](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IN SUPPORT OF MAIL IN VOTING
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:59:56 PM

Aloha Members of the Elections Commission,

I would like to state my support to maintain/keep mail-in-voting in the State of Hawaii. There has not been any violations that I am aware of to not support this effort.

Especially for rural areas of the State, *having the ability to vote by mail is critical*, as many in these rural areas do not have the time to physically vote, as they are farmers, ranchers, flower growers, vegetable growers and the like, and their precious time is critical to their businesses.

Also, busy business voters appreciate the opportunity to vote by mail - I do - as it frees me up to conduct business.

Please do not make mail-in-voting go away. Hawaii has had mail-in-voting for a long time and 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' because some people feel it shouldn't be allowed.

Mahalo,

Jeanne

Jeanne Datz Rice
Vice Chair - Neighborhood Board 11
1288 Ala Moana Boulevard,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808/741-2815
Email: jdatzrice@yahoo.com

From: [Michael Sims](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:03:54 PM

Oct. 29 2025

To:

Hawai'i Election Commission

Aloha kakou,

The only reason we are having this discussion about eliminating mail in ballots is because Republicans in Hawaii (and in the other states) want to limit voter participation.

Mail-in voting in Hawaii is relatively new. It has evolved from the "no-excuse" absentee voting legislation of 1993, the special elections legislation allowing mail-in ballots in 2003, through various iterations until finally passing Act 136 that enacts elections by mail statewide beginning in 2020. (<https://elections.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/Report-to-Legislature-20191104.pdf>)

Claims by Republicans of voter fraud are patently false. 20 years of data reviewed in the USA of vote by mail fraud shows that out of 250 million ballots cast by mail only 143 were fraudulent (Amber McReynolds, the CEO of the National Vote at Home Institute, and Charles Stewart, director of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab). That is only a 0.00006% fraud rate.

Although universal mail in voting does not increase voter turnout significantly overall some studies found increased turnout for young voters and voters of color when they received ballots by mail. Exactly the sector of the population the Republicans are targeting for voter suppression.

It is the 21st century. Setting aside partisan politics, mail in voting is simply more convenient for many people and should continue to be an option for voters in Hawaii, specially for seniors, the disabled and people living in the most rural areas of the islands. Having many different voting models assures that Hawaii's diverse population has a safe way to vote in free and fair elections.

Mahalo,

Michael Sims

Resident of Kailua 96734

From: [Susan Kowen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:09:02 PM

Hawaii's system of all mail voting has worked very well for years. Let's not break something that doesn't need fixing. We all know there is very little voter fraud in the United States. Mail in voting results in higher voter participation, which leads to a better democracy with voters having a stake in the outcome.

Please don't let the MAGA lie of widespread voter fraud in the U.S. influence the elections commission; this is merely an attempt to result in fewer voters participating in some states, due to making voting more difficult.

I live in Makiki.

Susan
Susan Walker Kowen
susanwalkerkowen@gmail.com

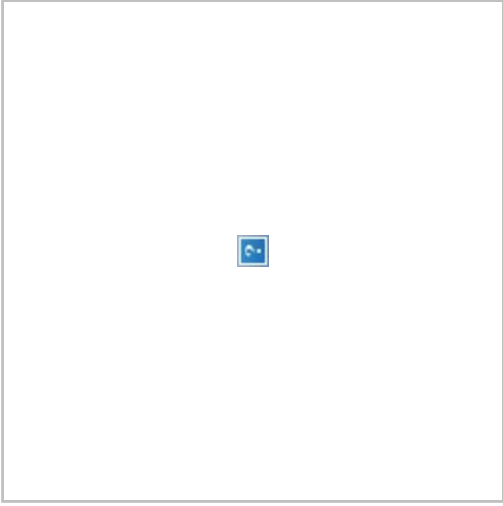
From: [Marva Chun](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting is safe and encourages more people to participate
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:11:38 PM

Mail in voting allows more people to participate in elections. They may have limitations in transportation or work conflicts...We need to hear from all sectors of society.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_voting_in_the_United_States#Reliability_of_postal_ballots

Reliability of postal ballots

Rejection statistics



Checking absentee ballots

As of 2020, about 1% of postal ballots were rejected (compared to .01% in-person where election workers can help verify and assist the voter).^[98] For the states that reported a reason in 2016, common reasons were:^[16]

- Non-matching signature (.28%)
- Ballot missed deadline (.23%)
- No signature (.20%)
- No witness signature (.03%)
- Voter deceased (.015%)
- Voted in person (.013%)
- First-time voter without proper identification (.011%)

Estimates of frequency

Richard Hasen, a professor at [University of California, Irvine School of Law](#) said, "problems are extremely rare in the five states that rely primarily on vote-by-mail."^[99] Postal ballots have been the source of "most significant vote-counting disputes in recent decades" according to [Edward Foley](#), director of the Election Law

program at Ohio State University.^[100] Among the billions of votes from 2000 to 2012, there were 491 known cases of absentee ballot fraud.^{[101][102][11]} [Justin Levitt](#), a law professor at [Loyola Marymount University](#) does not have statistics on postal ballot fraud, but said "I do collect anecdotal reports ... misconduct in the mail voting process is meaningfully more prevalent than misconduct in the process of voting in person ... Misconduct still amounts to only a tiny fraction of the ballots cast by mail."^[99] [Lonna Atkeson](#), an expert in election administration, said about mail-in voting fraud, "It's really hard to find ... The fact is, we really don't know how much fraud there is ... There aren't millions of fraudulent votes, but there are some."^[99]

Advantages

- Auditable paper mail-in ballots are potentially safer than [paperless voting systems](#)^[103]

Hawaii has vote by mail for all elections. The state transitioned to a vote-by-mail model starting with the 2020 elections, eliminating traditional polling places.

Here's how it works:

Automatic mailing: All registered voters in Hawaii are automatically mailed a ballot approximately 18 days before an election.

Returning your ballot: You can return your completed ballot in one of three ways:

By mail using the postage-paid return envelope. Be mindful of USPS delivery times to ensure it arrives by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

At a designated ballot drop box in your county.

At a voter service center in your county.

Signature verification: Once your ballot is received, election officials will compare the signature on your return envelope to the one on file in your voter registration record.

In-person voting: If you need assistance or prefer to vote in person, you can visit a voter service center. These centers are open 10 business days before Election Day and also offer same-day registration.

From: [Matthew Toyama](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony regarding Mail-in Ballots
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:12:37 PM

Esteemed members of the elections commission,

It has come to my attention that some people are attempting to endanger the Mail-in Ballot system that Hawaii has used with no incident for decades now. I believe that there is no merit in discontinuing the mail-in ballot program and in fact only serves to disenfranchise members of our community. Especially with rising costs of living, concerns about safety due to ICE presence in Hawaii, and a public transportation system in constant need of improvements, it is now more important than ever to maintain the ability for people to make their voices heard through mail-in ballots.

To end the program is nothing less than undemocratic, and it feels like the Republican Party are trying to repeat history by overturning the will of the people in favor of a few wealthy donors. Don't let this be the first step towards a new Bayonet Constitution. We've had the government of these islands overthrown by greedy business owners too many times already.

Mahalo,
Matthew Toyama

Resident of Honolulu, Near UH Manoa, on Oahu.

From: maunawilimac@mac.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:15:47 PM

My wife is in her 80's and I in my 90's, too old to drive but still with enough marbles to vote!

From: [John Starkus](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] vote by mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:18:36 PM

I support mail-in voting in the state of Hawaii

I am a senior citizen at the age 81
it would be physically difficult for me not to have the option to submit the mail-in voting.

Due to my age and physical disabilities including arthritis, skin cancer, and heart conditions, mail in voting is my primary choice.

Please Keep the mail-in voting

Dr. John G Starkus
Retired Researcher from University of Hawaii (Manoa)
Residence Kaneohe Hawaii

john_starkus@yahoo.com

From: [Deborah Sagers](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Testimony for Oct 29th Election Commission Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:18:57 PM

To: Election Commission Board
From: Deborah Sagers of Kāneʻohe, Hawaii.
Email- gdsohana@gmail.com
RE: Vote by Mail and Elections Integrity

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an engaged citizen and consistent voter in our elections. I have lived in Kāneʻohe for 22 years. I am concerned that the commission board is considering withdrawing the Vote by Mail that the state has worked so diligently on. I am more informed about the counting of my vote in our Vote by Mail than I ever was in the walk in voting process. This new process allows me to track my vote from when it will arrive to my house, when it has been sent or picked up by the election officials, when my vote has been counted or if there is a discrepancy. The integrity of this process provides clear and transparent information about every vote.

In addition, I have always taken advantage of early voting, even before the Vote by Mail. Having a singular day for all of our citizens to participate in the voting process is unrealistic. We do not have the volunteer capacity and it excludes citizens that may not be able to attend due to illness, mobility, work, childcare, transportation, and various other reasons. State citizens that are out of state during the voting day must also have their vote counted. This includes college students, military, contract workers, and citizens that may need to leave the state during election day for a myriad of reasons.

Please don't let misinformation make its way into our state government. We must hold strong to the ideals of the constitution and allow every citizen the right to representation.

I strongly urge the board to maintain our current Vote by Mail processes.

Sincerely,

Deborah Sagers

--

Deb Sagers

Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best - Henry Vandyke

From: nflick@baymoon.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Commission operations and mail-in balloting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:19:01 PM
Attachments: Ltr to HI Election Commission 10-29-25.docx

I live in Laupahoehoe, County of Hawaii, and I am a registered voter here.

I have read the Minutes of the Commission's September meeting including the P.I.G. report. The Commission's well-documented travails reflect our fractured times.

My reading of the P.I.G. report leads me to conclude that it is, for the most part, a solution in search of a problem. The authors of the report justify eliminating vote-by-mail altogether because "*Modifying the system will require trial and error that will take years to accomplish.*" Putting aside arguments regarding the accuracy of that claim, it seems worthwhile to ensure the continuance of a popular and broadly used method of voting. In the 2024 election, for example, only 4.5 percent of ballots were cast in person.

The P.I.G. authors propose drastic remedies: 1) eliminate vote-by-mail, 2) fire the State Elections Chief, and 3) initiate an external, independent, manual audit of the 2024 General Election. The authors of the report claim these actions will increase transparency and trust in our election results. I doubt that since there is no fail-safe way to satisfy the objections of election deniers and skeptics.

The P.I.G. report has undermined any transparency and cooperation state and county election officials might have extended. Since the Commission seems unable to conduct a unified examination of how the system might be improved, the wagons are circling. Fanning of the flames of suspicion seems to have pushed Commission members to consider an expensive and long audit to exonerate the election process and alleviate their pain (hours-long and contentious meetings, my goodness!).

I oppose voter suppression measures such as the elimination of mail-in balloting, passport verification of identity/citizenship, and other like proposals. I also hope that in the future, Commission members will find a way to eliminate partisanship, work productively to identify goals, agree on outcome measures, and effectively delegate fixing problems to the State Elections Chief with fair standards to verify compliance.

I appreciate the dedication and work of the Commission on behalf of the voters in Hawaii to ensure free and fair elections.

Sincerely,

Pam Elders

Along with the hard copy of this testimony, I have included "5 Reasons to Have Confidence in Main in Voting," published by the League of Women Voters.

I, Pamela Elders, a registered voter in the State of Hawaii, submit the following testimony to members of the State of Hawaii Elections Commission:

I live in Laupahoehoe, County of Hawaii, and I am a registered voter here.

I have read the Minutes of the Commission's September meeting including the P.I.G. report. The Commission's well-documented travails reflect our fractured times.

My reading of the P.I.G. report leads me to conclude that it is, for the most part, a solution in search of a problem. The authors of the report justify eliminating vote-by-mail altogether because *"Modifying the system will require trial and error that will take years to accomplish."* Putting aside arguments regarding the accuracy of that claim, it seems worthwhile to ensure the continuance of a popular and broadly used method of voting. In the 2024 election, for example, only 4.5 percent of ballots were cast in person.

The P.I.G. authors propose drastic remedies: 1) eliminate vote-by-mail, 2) fire the State Elections Chief, and 3) initiate an external, independent, manual audit of the 2024 General Election. The authors of the report claim these actions will increase transparency and trust in our election results. I doubt that since there is no fail-safe way to satisfy the objections of election deniers and skeptics.

The P.I.G. report has undermined any transparency and cooperation state and county election officials might have extended. Since the Commission seems unable to conduct a unified examination of how the system might be improved, the wagons are circling. Fanning of the flames of suspicion seems to have pushed Commission members to consider an expensive and long audit to exonerate the election process and alleviate their pain (hours-long and contentious meetings, my goodness!).

I oppose voter suppression measures such as the elimination of mail-in balloting, passport verification of identity/citizenship, and other like proposals. I also hope that in the future, Commission members will find a way to eliminate partisanship, work productively to identify goals, agree on outcome measures, and effectively delegate fixing problems to the State Elections Chief with fair standards to verify compliance.

I appreciate the dedication and work of the Commission on behalf of the voters in Hawaii to ensure free and fair elections.

Sincerely,

Pam Elders

I have attached “**5 Reasons to Have Confidence in Mail in Voting**” from the League of Women Voters, July 29, 2020. It is very helpful and informative,

“Voters can trust in the safety and security of the mail-in voting process, regardless of recent politicized claims to the contrary. Since 2000, more than 250 million votes have been cast via mailed-out ballots in all 50 states, according to the [National Vote at Home Institute](#).

Here are five reasons you can vote by mail with confidence.

1. Voting by mail isn’t new.

Absentee voting dates to the Civil War, when several states granted members of the military the opportunity to vote when they were “absent” from their home districts. Now, every state has some type of vote-by-mail process. In five states—Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Utah, and Colorado—mail balloting is the primary method of voting. In 2018, a quarter of the electorate voted by mail.

Source: [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#).

2. It’s difficult to request a mail-in ballot or cast a vote by mail using someone else’s name.

It’s a misconception that because there’s no way of knowing who’s requesting or voting a ballot, it would be easy to apply for or vote a ballot by mail in someone else’s name. Every step of the vote-by-mail process includes security procedures to ensure the voter requesting the ballot is the voter receiving and voting the ballot.

The most common way to verify that mail ballots are coming from the intended voter is through signature verification. Voters must sign an affidavit on the ballot envelope. When the ballot is returned to the election office, election officials examine and verify every signature, comparing it with voter registration records or other documents that contain the voter’s signature.

Some states require copies of identification documents or that their envelopes are signed before witnesses or are notarized.

Source: [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

3. Nationwide security procedures protect the delivery of mail-in ballots.

Mailed ballots typically are delivered to and picked up from the post office by two election office staff and transported in a secure container. These ballots are also

processed by teams of trained election staff to ensure the integrity of the counting process.

Source: [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#)

4. Vote-by-mail programs do not favor one political party over another.

Researchers have conducted many studies to determine whether a partisan bias results from election reforms designed to make it easier to vote, of which vote-by-mail is one. A recent study by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research found that “(1) vote-by-mail does not appear to affect either party’s share of turnout; (2) vote-by-mail does not appear to increase either party’s vote share; and (3) vote-by-mail modestly increases overall average turnout rates, in line with previous estimates.”

The researchers say their findings essentially dispel concerns that mail-in voting would cause a major electoral shift toward one party.

Source: [Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research](#)

5. Voter impersonation and ballot falsification are exceedingly rare.

Based on a meticulous review of elections that were investigated for voter fraud, the Brennan Center for Justice found minuscule incident rates of ineligible individuals casting ballots at the polls – no more than 0.0025 percent. Numerous reports have confirmed this finding that voter impersonation is exceedingly rare. Research shows that voter fraud is similarly rare with mail ballots.

Source: [Brennan Center for Justice](#)

From: [Cyndee Fehring](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:21:55 PM

I would like to support mail-in voting. For me it has enabled me to vote regardless of a busy schedule. I think mail-in as well as early voting should all be available to all voters. I also think it should be a day off for folks so that they are able to make voting a priority.

Thank you.

Cynthia Fehring

From: [Denise Starkus](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:22:28 PM

To the members of the Commission:

I am a long time resident of Hawaii, having lived in Kaneohe for 47 years. I've worked all my life here on Oahu and I am a product of a family that strongly believed in our democracy and practiced that belief by voting and that was how I was raised.

I have never missed a vote in my life and I am now 74 years old and personal mobility is getting to be an issue. Before mail in voting, it was hard to get to the polls when I was working but we made the effort. Since the voting became mail in, our lives became a little less of a struggle to do what we should all believe in ... voting.

Please retain this voting by mail, it is important particularly for citizens who very much want to vote but whose age or time (work, family commitments) might stop them for fulfilling their right to choose.

Mahalo

Denise Starkus
Kaneohe

From: [Sandra Shane](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:22:55 PM

I am very distressed that there are Hawaiians who would question the validity of mail in voting. The only reason I can imagine is the influence of their political party and its leaders who endeavor to keep the kapuna of our country from voting.

I, for one, am homebound and unable to vote in person. I have Queens Geriatric Homebound Team as my medical team, and they visit my home for all my medical care.

Therefore, I am obviously unable to vote in person. If I have this Constitutional Right denied me, then the Republicans are not following the Constitution and my right to vote.

This is not a ploy to commit fraud. If anyone is committing a crime, it is those who would deny my right to vote through a mail in ballot.

Again, I am really distressed to know some of our kama'aina would propose something so obviously discriminatory.

Mahalo for your time.

Sandra Shane
Waikiki, Oahu

From: [Jennifer Hopkins](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep mail in ballots!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:24:12 PM

We live on an Island that is subject to natural disasters. Earthquakes, hurricanes volcanic activity, example Issele people we trapped on their property for weeks unable to get to the polls! The big island is mostly rural communities. Transportation is a major issue for a lot of people. Mail in ballots make it easier for us folks on the big island to vote at our convenience Thank you for your time Jennifer Hopkins

From: [Marva Chun](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting is safe, accurate and more people can participate.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:26:56 PM

<https://effectivegov.uchicago.edu/primers/vote-by-mail>

Key Takeaways from the Research

- Expanding access to absentee voting leads many voters to choose to switch from voting in person to voting by mail, indicating at least some preference among an important set of voters for voting by mail.
- However, expanding access to absentee voting does not seem to increase turnout rates at all, at least where we are able to measure its impact.
- Universal vote-by-mail programs tend to increase turnout, although the effect is modest—leading to approximately a 2-to-4 percentage-point increase in turnout.
- Universal vote-by-mail does not seem to cause large increases in Democratic vote share, contrary to popular claims. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that it could advantage Democrats in very close races.

From: [Martha Chantiny](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mailin voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:31:51 PM

Voting by mail is safe, equitable and must be maintained. Do not eliminate this system that works for all Hawaii citizens! Mahalo.

Martha Chantiny
47-371 Kapehe Street Kaneohe HI 96744

From: [Anne Lorenzo](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Mail-In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:32:33 PM

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing to submit testimony in support of mail-in voting in the State of Hawai'i.

Mail-in Voting ensures every registered and eligible voter has the opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

As a teacher, mail-in voting allowed me to vote. I was a teacher for a large private school and lived 20 miles from campus. Due to traffic on the H1West I was never able to get to my polling location before the polls closed on election days. I have retired from teaching after 27 years in the class room; however, I continue to work in town while living in 'Ewa Beach. Mail-in Voting allows me to earn a full day's pay and vote. I have a Master's Degree. I am an educated voter who has an increased risk of disenfranchisement if mail-in voting is eliminated because taking time to vote will cost me pay from work.

My mother is my co-parent. I am a widow and she helps me with child care while I work. Mail-in Voting allows her to ensure she can cast her ballot without worrying about getting my children to and from school, supervising their online classes on virtual days (my children attend a hybrid school with only 2 days per week on campus and all other instruction being completed at home through online platforms), and getting them to and from practices for sports and other extra-curricular activities. My mother is a retired teacher and high school librarian with a Master's Degree. She is an educated voter who has an increased risk of disenfranchisement if mail-in voting is eliminated.

My mother-in-law is physically disabled. She is unable to leave her bedroom due to her physical disabilities and requires adult aid and care to move from her bed to her wheelchair, from her bed to the commode, from her wheelchair to the commode, etc. She is unable to move herself. Additionally, she is obese and requires an extra wide wheelchair that does not fit through the doors of the Handi-Van transports. She is unable to get into or out of a passenger vehicle due to her physical disabilities. Although my mother-in-law is physically disabled, her mind is in excellent condition! My mother-in-law is current and up to date on international and national events. She is an educated voter and will be disenfranchised if mail-in voting is eliminated.

The push to end mail-in voting by Donald Trump and the GOP is an effort to disenfranchise voters because they know the Trump & GOP policies are unpopular and are not in the best interest of the people or the country. Multiple studies prove mail-in voting is a legitimate practice that *increases* participation in voting resulting in more accurate representation of the electorate. However, that is not what Donald Trump and the GOP want. The goal of the people asking for mail-in voting to cease is a return to when only rich, white males were allowed to vote. Mail-in voting ensures the poor and minorities have equal access to the ballot box.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my mana'o with you.

Anne M. Lorenzo

91-1201 Keone'ula Blvd., #2C1

'Ewa Beach, HI 96706-6237

(808)282-8175

"Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind."

~John F. Kennedy, Speech to UN General Assembly, 25 September 1961

From: [Lisa Metzger](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:35:51 PM

Aloha,

My name is Lisa Metzger and I am a Hawaiian resident who has lived in Kailua for close to five years. I have used our states' wonderful mail in ballot system for both local and federal elections in 2022 and 2024. The system is fantastic and makes it so much easier for my husband and I, who both are incredibly busy, to make sure our voices are heard in elections. Additionally, we have an immunocompromised daughter and being in large crowds for any extended period of time is dangerous for us. I know there has not been any significant issues or fraud with our mail in ballot system, and getting rid of it would not only be cruel to the elderly, disabled, military and immunocompromised, but also a capitulation to republicans who are hoping to make sure as few Hawaiians as possible vote. I am staunchly against there being any changes made to our mail in ballot system. When something isn't broken, there is no need to "fix" it unless you have ulterior motives. Please leave our voting system the way it is.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lisa Metzger

From: [Rowan Rose Adara](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submitting testimony for the 10/29 meeting on mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:36:13 PM

Aloha,

My name is Rowan Adara. I am a resident of Maui. I am submitting my testimony on the subject of mail-in voting. I am a disabled Hawaii resident. I have always used mail-in voting. I have a serious illness and it is hard for me to leave the house. There are some days I can manage leaving the house, and some days I cannot. If mail-in voting is eliminated, this means I may not be able to vote. There is no guarantee that I could make it to the polls and stand in line. I have a disorder that causes me to faint when I'm on my feet for too long, and I cannot afford a wheelchair. I cannot stand in a long line. I would not be able to vote.

Mail-in voting has always been safe and secure. There have been several extensive independent audits of our elections, and they have found that mail-in voter fraud is not an issue. This is not an issue I'm concerned about.

Eliminating mail-in voting means that a lot of people with disabilities, people who can't get off of work, people who couldn't get childcare or a caregiver for a dependent adult, and so many others will not be able to vote.

Nobody should be trying to make it more difficult for Americans to exercise their constitutional right to have our voices heard. If people are trying to make our voting process more difficult, that is a red flag. They are seeking to exclude people from the voting process. People with disabilities are vulnerable people. If our voices are excluded from voting, then we have no representatives to speak for us, and our issues will not be heard. The same goes for any person who is barred from voting due to laws that make it more difficult or inconvenient.

Voting should not be difficult or inconvenient. It should be easy, because it is our right to make our voices heard. Please preserve mail-in voting. It would be ableist and wrong to eliminate this option.

Thank you,

Rowan Adara
57 Kihalani St Unit 604
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Maya Maxym](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] protect mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:39:37 PM

Aloha,

I am a parent, pediatrician, and homeowner living in St. Louis Heights. For years, I have appreciated being able to vote by mail, especially as I work long shifts that may not allow me to vote in person. Voting by mail is convenient, user-friendly, and secure. Despite fear-mongering by those who oppose mail-in voting with accusations of fraud, actual voter fraud is vanishingly rare. In today's busy society where many are forced to work two jobs to make ends meet, we should be empowering as many citizens as possible to vote, not making it more difficult to vote. Additionally, it is the best and most secure way to ensure that kupuna and disabled folks do not have their voices silenced by unnecessary voting restrictions. Please do not take away mail-in voting from us. We need mail in voting to elect our leaders with appropriate representation of everyone's voice.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Maya

From: 808keim@gmail.com
To: OE.Elections.Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for October 29, 2025
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:41:52 PM
Attachments: Testimony of Katie Keim. elections commission 10.29.25.docx

Aloha Elections Commission,

Please seriously consider my attached testimony, also see below my signature.

Mahalo, Katie Keim

Email: 808keim@gmail.com

Mobile: 808-722-4242

Testimony of Katie Keim

Email: 808keim@gmail.com

Mobile: 808-722-4242

Hawaii Elections Commission

October 29, 2025

Aloha chair and Elections Commission members.

My name is Katie Keim. I have been a blind businesswoman in Hawai'i for over 25 years. I am a member of the Statewide Election Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee, and statewide 2nd Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

I'm testifying today representing myself, as an individual citizen of our state residing in Honolulu.

I am very concerned about the Elections Commission's action taken at the October 1, 2025 meeting, "to send a letter to the legislature and advise the chief election officer to return to in person voting in the precinct, hand counting paper ballots, one day voting, ID required, with the exceptions for absentee voting for military and special needs. Votes shall be counted where cast, then reported to the county before transferring ballots.

In reviewing October 1, 2025, meetings agenda, I can't find a reference to a discussion or voting on return to in person, I am certain this motion absolutely failed to meet any reasonable standard of transparency and oversight of our public meeting regulation "Sunshine Law".

More than procedures, mail-in or in-person, it is important that the public must be able to trust the election results. It seems to me this action going back to in-person is reactionary rather than a well thought out step to ensure voting citizens rights and transparency to the public, not resolving any issues that are currently being perceived, rather creating more.

The responsibility to support and build trust, not undermine it, is my hope for the Elections

Commission, it is your duty as a public servant. I am keenly aware of what is the responsibility of all public servants, having been a public servant myself in Hawai'i at one time, it is very much your responsibility as members of the state's Elections Commission.

About the motion itself, exceptions to in-person voting are proposed for absentee, military, and special needs voters. Being blind, it assumes I am a special needs voter, I have serious objections to this exception. If mail-in voting is corrupt, why should I and others be expected to use the corrupt system, while everyone else follows the Commissioner Cushnie rule, presumably less corrupt? When special needs voters cast ballots in a different way than most other voters, the special needs voters will be singled out and distinguished from the mainstream. That becomes a discriminatory action at the least.

Please take serious consideration of my testimony and do what you can to build up, not beat down, our voting system in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Testimony of Katie Keim

Email: 808keim@gmail.com

Mobile: 808-722-4242

Hawaii Elections Commission

October 29, 2025

Aloha chair and Elections Commission members.

My name is Katie Keim. I have been a blind businesswoman in Hawai'i for over 25 years. I am a member of the Statewide Election Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee, and statewide 2nd Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

I'm testifying today representing myself, as an individual citizen of our state residing in Honolulu.

I am very concerned about the Elections Commission's action taken at the October 1, 2025 meeting, "to send a letter to the legislature and advise the chief election officer to return to in person voting in the precinct, hand counting paper ballots, one day voting, ID required, with the exceptions for absentee voting for military and special needs. Votes shall be counted where cast, then reported to the county before transferring ballots.

In reviewing October 1, 2025, meetings agenda, I can't find a reference to a discussion or voting on return to in person, I am certain this motion absolutely failed to meet any reasonable standard of transparency and oversight of our public meeting regulation "Sunshine Law".

More than procedures, mail-in or in-person, it is important that the public must be able to trust the election results. It seems to me this action going back to in-person is reactionary

rather than a well thought out step to ensure voting citizens rights and transparency to the public, not resolving any issues that are currently being perceived, rather creating more.

The responsibility to support and build trust, not undermine it, is my hope for the Elections Commission, it is your duty as a public servant. I am keenly aware of what is the responsibility of all public servants, having been a public servant myself in Hawai'i at one time, it is very much your responsibility as members of the state's Elections Commission.

About the motion itself, exceptions to in-person voting are proposed for absentee, military, and special needs voters. Being blind, it assumes I am a special needs voter, I have serious objections to this exception. if mail-in voting is corrupt, why should I and others be expected to use the corrupt system, while everyone else follows the Commissioner Cushnie rule, presumably less corrupt? When special needs voters cast ballots in a different way than most other voters, the special needs voters will be singled out and distinguished from the mainstream. That becomes a discriminatory action at the least.

Please take serious consideration of my testimony and do what you can to build up, not beat down, our voting system in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

From: [Cynthia K.L. Rezentes](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote-by-mail Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:53:15 PM

I am in support of allowing voting by mail. I have a 94 year-old mother who continues to vote and I will not have her standing in-line for however long to get her through the lines to vote. It is much more convenient and safer for her to vote in the comfort of her own home.

Please also add my own desire to vote by mail and not have to stand in line to vote...again it is much more convenient and comfortable to mark my ballot in my own home.

Mahalo,

[Cynthia K.L. Rezentes](#)

"E malama kakou i ka `aina no na pua"

Think GREEN! Before printing this email, assess whether a hard copy is really needed.

From: [D. Smith](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:55:10 PM

Aloha,

I fully support keeping mail-in voting available here in Hawaii. I live in Puna on the Big Island and it is truly crucial to have this option available because natural circumstances are always a threat here. We cannot be assured that in-person voting can be accessible when needed. Over the past 10 years hurricanes, tropical storms and lava flows have disrupted our access at times. Having mail-in voting takes away the stress of possibly not being able to vote in person.

Mahalo nui loa,

Debra Smith
Pahoa, HI

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kerry Porter](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:02:14 PM

Aloha,
Please keep Mail in voting for the people of Hawaii. Do not let this current administration, Trump take away our rights.
Long time Hawaii resident
Kerry Porter
Kaneohe, HI
Sent from my iPad

From: [Lori Kizer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Mail In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:04:34 PM

Please keep mail in voting. Please don't make it harder for people holding down multiple jobs and the elderly. I worked many elections in Maricopa County and City Of Phoenix Arizona before moving here 12 years ago. I was so impressed with the professional, competent integrity of the whole process and everyone involved. I'm confident that most elections are run with the same integrity. Mail in ballots benefit all citizens. Thank you.

Lori Kizer
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Lori-Ann Amaki](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Cc: [Becky](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony to Protect Hawai'i Vote by Mail
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:04:44 PM
Attachments: Testimony (Protect Mail-in Voting).pdf

Aloha,

Please accept the accompanying testimony from Rebecca J.I. Soon as part of the Election Commission hearing on Wednesday, October 29th.

Mahalo,
Lori Ann

October 28, 2025

Office of Elections
State of Hawaii Elections Commission
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

Aloha Chair Curtis and Members of the Hawai‘i State Elections Commission:

My name is Rebecca Soon from Waiākea Uka on Hawai‘i Island, and I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of preserving and expanding accessible mail-in voting for our state.

Mail-in voting ensures that people who may face barriers to going to in-person polling places still have full and meaningful access to cast their ballot. This includes kūpuna, folks working multiple jobs, caregivers, those living in rural or remote parts of our islands, voters with limited mobility, and anyone needing flexibility because of health, transportation, or schedule constraints. When mail-in voting was instituted we saw a meaningful rise in participation among Hawai‘I voters.

When mail-in voting is restricted or eliminated, we risk creating a system where only those with time, resources, or physical ability can vote.

Mail-in voting is not a giveaway to insecurity; rather, states like ours and others have decades of experience that show it can be secure, verifiable and transparent.

Having a trusted alternative – one that voters can participate in from home, sign, return, track and verify – builds the integrity of our democratic process. Limiting or removing this option under the pretext of “security concerns” risks undermining trust in the system, when in fact the concerns may be about access rather than actual vulnerability.

Efforts to roll back mail-in voting are not simply administrative changes — they carry the real risk of voter suppression. When the choices are fewer and harder, the default becomes: the voices of working families, rural residents, Native Hawaiians, and others bearing the greatest burden of cost, time or distance will be muted.

In our culture, the concept of kuleana emphasizes that all of us should have responsibility and access to participate. To narrow one of the most inclusive and convenient paths to the ballot is to erode that kuleana for many. Maintaining robust mail-in voting honors the principle that democracy works best when it is inclusive, accessible, and held in trust by every member of our ‘ohana.

In closing, I respectfully urge the Commission to safeguard and strengthen mail-in voting in Hawai‘i — ensuring that it remains a thriving option, not a diminished one. Let us commit to a system where every eligible voter, regardless of where they live, how they travel, or how their schedule plays out, can vote with dignity, ease, and confidence that their ballot counts.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your service in overseeing our elections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca J. I. Soon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" being the most prominent part.

Rebecca J. ‘I. Soon
rebecca.ji.soon@gmail.com

From: [Younghee Overly](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For Oct 29th Elections Commission meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:06:10 PM

Aloha Chair Curtis and Commissioners,

My name is Younghee Overly and I am a resident of Ala Moana neighborhood. I am writing to you to express my SUPPORT for MAIL-VOTING. I have been voting by mail since 2016 and really appreciate the convenience and an opportunity to take my time to vote. I can learn at my pace about the candidates as I am completing my ballot. I heard that there were problems in Maui and Kauai and that there will be an audit. I look forward to learning more from the audit. In general, voter impersonation and ballot falsification are exceedingly rare.

Based on a meticulous review of elections that were investigated for voter fraud, the Brennan Center for Justice found minuscule incident rates of ineligible individuals casting ballots at the polls - no more than 0.0025 percent.

(source: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/5-reasons-have-confidence-mail-voting>)

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

--

Younghee Overly

"When you move your focus from competition to contribution, life becomes a celebration. Never try to defeat people, just win their hearts."

From: [Jan Kleyna](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support Voting by Mail !
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:07:03 PM

Aloha

It has come to my attention that there is a campaign to eliminate vote by mail.

I strongly support vote by mail because it allows me to cast an informed vote.

Every election, I sit down with my ballot and take several hours to look up every candidate and issue, using resources like candidate statements on Civil Beat.

Often, my vote ends up being different from my initial instinct, because I have weighed arguments from both sides.

Taking away vote my ability to vote by mail would make it more difficult for me to consider carefully each and every candidate and ballot item.

I understand that there may have been issues with envelope tallies vs vote tallies, but these are best addressed by improving the accounting procedures at every step, not by eliminating voting by mail.

Best regards,
Jan Kleyna
3377 Keahi St, Mānoa

From: [jen.hella.ratty.lum](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong support for Hawai'i Mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:07:13 PM

Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am a 'Ewa Beach community member. And I want to voice my strong support for Hawai'i's mail-in voting system. This system is not merely a convenience; it is a fundamental and necessary component of a modern, accessible, and secure democracy for our state.

Why Mail-In Voting is Essential for Hawai'i

Our state's unique geography and culture demand an electoral system that meets voters where they are. Mail-in voting successfully addresses these specific challenges.

Accessibility for All Voters:

- Geographic Isolation: For our neighbors on the Neighbor Islands and in rural areas, mail-in voting eliminates the burden of traveling long distances to a limited number of polling places.
- Work & Family Life: It provides a 2.5-week window for voters to participate around their work schedules, school commitments, and family responsibilities, which is crucial for our service industry and multi-job workers.
- Kūpuna & Disabled Community: It is a lifeline for seniors and citizens with disabilities, allowing them to vote privately and independently from home.

Cultural Respect and 'Ohana Focus:

- Mail-in voting aligns with our local values of 'ohana. It allows families to "talk story" and discuss ballots together, making voting a shared, deliberative process rather than a rushed, individual task.

Enhanced Security and Integrity:

- Paper Trail: Every vote is cast on a verifiable paper ballot.
- Signature Verification: Every ballot is checked against the voter's signature on file, a proven security measure.
- Ballot Tracking: Voters can track their ballot like a package, ensuring it is received and counted, which increases public trust.

Fiscal Responsibility:

- Maintaining a few voter service centers is far more cost-effective for the state than staffing and equipping hundreds of polling places, saving taxpayer money.

Hawai'i's mail-in voting system is a success story. It has broken down long-standing barriers to participation, strengthened the security of our elections, and honored the way we live in these islands. I urge you to continue your support for this vital system and ensure it is fully funded and protected.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

From: [Cathy Wong](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:10:04 PM

I live in Makakilo.

I support mail in voting because it gives everyone (who is eligible) the opportunity to cast their ballot if they choose to vote.

When voting in person was the only option, it's tough to fit it into that 1 day. If you don't drive, then you have to catch the bus. Your schedule has to give you enough time to get to the polls. If the weather or traffic is bad, then that's another stress. If there were people waiting to vote, it could take you hours to vote. Today, if you chose to vote in person you have multiple days to that, so you don't have to waste your time waiting in line or changing your work schedule. You're in control of when and how you're going to cast your ballot. This is the point... I am in CONTROL of how and when I will cast my ballot.

You want to vote in person and/or take your children with you, then go to City Hall. You have more than just one day to do that. Just because it's not like before doesn't mean you can't teach your children their civic duty.

If your argument is that there's long lines at City Hall on Election Day, then think about this...

If you waited for the last day and got in line at the last hours before polls close or if you only figured out on that day that you can't find the ballot that was mailed to you or you finally made up your mind that you want to register to vote at 6pm on Election Day... then you get what you deserve...standing in line with a group of people just like you and making everyone else wait for the results.

From: [Tadia Rice](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i VOTE BY MAIL & Integrity of Elections Commission
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:10:34 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a proud Hawai'i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state's vote-by-mail system. Hawai'i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai'i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it's a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai'i's mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai'i's mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai'i's voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Muhtadia Rice, Kailua, Hawaii

TADIA RICE
Cellphone +1 (808) 286-2313
LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tadiarice>
Rice Consulting Group <https://tadiarice.com>
Calendly <https://calendly.com/tadiarice/new-meeting>
CEO @ Blue Horizon Films <https://bluehorizonfilms.org>
YOUlogy Video <https://youlogyvideo.com>

Author page <https://myconversationswithai.com>

Check out my books on Amazon:

* *Artificial Intelligence & Human Consciousness: Crossing The Threshold*

* *My Conversations With AI: 100 Questions*



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT: This message (including any attachments) is intended only for the named recipients and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, use, copy, or distribute this message or attachments. Instead, please notify the sender immediately and delete this email. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the organization. Thank you.

From: [Cheryl Bellamy](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Hawaii Mail-In Voting!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:10:55 PM

I support Mail-In voting! I am a Kupuna and it provides me the ability to cast my vote without having to worry about a ride or whether my health would hold up standing in a long line to vote. I also know people who are physically disabled and workers (who work 2 jobs and/or can't get a day off) that use mail-in voting so that they can participate in our democracy and use their right to vote. Keep mail-in voting in Hawaii to continue to promote and enable all our citizens to have access to their democratic right to vote.

Cheryl Bellamy (cbella4272@gmail.com)

Honolulu, HI

From: [Roberta Mayor](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Mail-In Ballots
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:15:45 PM

Dear Elections Commission:

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of keeping mail-in ballots as the election process for the State of Hawaii. I have participated in the mail-in ballot option for years prior to it becoming the norm for the state. I am often traveling during the regular election day, and having the option of voting by mail has allowed me to actively participate in the election process during each election period. A mail-in ballot also allows me to consider the candidates and issues more thoroughly as I can take more time with my responses. I am confident that the election process is safe, confidential, and accurate. I have been a volunteer elections worker for the last 6 years and can personally attest to the process being accurate and above board. Please maintain the mail-in ballot process.

Roberta Mayor

From: [Daphne Barbee-Wooten](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep mail in vote
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:18:49 PM

Please keep mail in voting. I am over 65 and standing in line for hours to vote is hard. Voting by mail is very convenient and it is easier and quicker to count to vote . Mail in ballots ccan be saved for proof of the vote in the event it is challenged. Please continue to use mail in voting.

Thank you.

Resident of Punchbowl.

From: [Evan Scott](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting Mail-In Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:23:22 PM

Aloha Elections Commission Members:

I'm writing in support of Hawaii's current mail in voting system. Hawaii has had mail-voting as the default option for many years now across multiple election cycles, and we really haven't seen any issues stemming from the new system. There have been no credible allegations of fraud, nor have there been any major issues with the system since its implementation. The issues that have come up are not exclusively in the domain of mail in voting, but rather are possible in any voting system.

Additionally, those who do not want to use mail in voting and would prefer an in person option already have that as an option to them. Perhaps the commission can look at expanding in person options and making more available if the demand is outstripping capacity.

However, the ultimate goal of default mail-in voting is to expand access to the franchise and ultimately increase voter participation. Hawaii has been plagued by low participation numbers for years, and adding barriers to the vote will only hurt those numbers further. Not everyone has the luxury of taking off work to vote, especially those lower on the income scale. I suspect that's part of the opposition's goal - to reduce the vote to only those that can actually show up in person. Its a pity the republicans are so opposed to increasing voter participation.

Hawai'i made a great leap into the future with mail voting. Lets not let regressive forces drag us backward.

-Edward Scott
Kapolei

From: rich@richtate.com
To: OE.Elections.Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:27:04 PM

To whom it may concern,

Mail-in voting has been proven time and time again to be a safe, accurate way to exercise our rights. If the state of Hawaii is truly concerned about voter turnout, killing this option is going to guarantee record low voting across the state. I implore you to stand against the current fascist administration who would prefer minorities stop voting and protect this crucial option.

Thank you very much and have a wonderful day.

Rich Tate, Makakilo, HI.

Cheers,

Rich

From: [Kyle Lanclos](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Statement in support of mail voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:29:35 PM

I wish to add my support for continuing mail-in voting as the default option in the state of Hawaii.

I live in Waimea on the island of Hawaii. For 20 years I volunteered as a poll worker, became a specialist in supporting electronic voting machines when they were introduced, and eventually became an inspector, in charge of one or more local polling sites. While I miss being able to volunteer for this civic duty, I am overwhelmingly in favor of by-mail voting as the default option for our voters. I recognize that, in order to cast a private ballot, many of our voters require the use of electronic voting equipment; I also recognize there is a cost associated with maintaining that equipment, and in making it available at every polling site. Having a reduced number of appropriate locations spread out across the island seems like a reasonable compromise between cost and accessibility.

The vast majority of our voters, however, are perfectly well served by mail-in ballots. Voter fraud is nearly non-existent in elections in the United States, including Hawaii; this is a fact, not an opinion. Introducing barriers to voting, including making voting more difficult, is far more prevalent than fraud, and is a deliberate tactic to reduce voter engagement and manipulate elections; this is a fact, not an opinion. Allowing mail-in voting, along with flexible delivery of ballots, increases voter participation; this is a fact, not an opinion.

Voter participation is the bedrock of our representative democracy. If you believe in the importance of elections, and believe in the importance of voter participation, you, as stewards of elections in Hawaii, need to be in favor of letting the voter vote. Mail-in voting is a proven, effective, and low-cost approach that absolutely makes sense to offer for modern elections, and that is doubly true in rural areas like my home.

For the sake of the record, my name and e-mail address are:
Kyle Lanclos
lanclos@gmail.com

Thank you for time, and I appreciate your service to the people of Hawaii.

--Kyle

From: [Louona Larkspur](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hawaii Elections Commission Mail in Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:34:14 PM

Aloha,

I am a long term resident in East Hawai'i and I am writing to ask that you continue to support mail in voting in Hawaii. Why? Because it's the best way to reduce barriers to accessing the ballot box when it's time to vote. Mail in voting doesn't take away time from work, it doesn't require that you drive, park and stand in line and it protect voting access for our citizenship who have mobility issues or are even house or bed bound. All citizens of Hawai'i deserve fair and equal access to exercise their right to vote. And lastly, mail in voting is found to be an accurate and valid way for citizens to vote. Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Lou Larkspur, LCSW

--

Louona M. Larkspur, MSW, LCSW

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." – Anais Nin

From: [Petrina Blakely](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:42:11 PM

I absolutely support mail in voting. This is an essential service for our kupuna and for any disabled voters, as well as for those without transportation.

It is crucial that all our voters are able to maintain their voice in the democratic process especially now.

Petrina Blakely
Wailua

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Zoey Faught, MA, LMHC](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Defend Mail-In Voting in Hawaii
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:43:39 PM

Dear Members of the Hawaii Elections Commission,

I'm writing to ask that you continue to defend and protect Hawaii's mail-in voting system.

As the sole earner for a family of three, I cannot afford to take an entire day off work to stand in line to vote. In addition, my husband is currently battling cancer and is unable to travel to a physical voting location. The mail-in ballot process allows both of us to participate in our democracy with dignity and without hardship.

I trust the integrity of Hawaii's mail-in voting system and appreciate the ease and accessibility it provides. I imagine there are thousands of others across our islands in similar situations—people who rely on mail-in ballots to ensure their voices are heard.

Voting should never be a privilege reserved for those with flexible schedules or good health. It is vital to our democracy that every citizen has a secure and efficient way to participate. Please continue to uphold and defend this essential part of our voting process.

Thank you for your time and your service to the people of Hawaii.

With gratitude,

Zoey Faught

Hawaiian Paradise Park, HI

Zoey Faught, MA LMHC
Counseling for Individuals & Couples
www.presence-of-mind.com
206-992-3636

NOTICE: This email message and/or its attachments may contain information that is confidential or restricted. It is intended only for the individuals named as recipients in the message. If you are NOT an authorized recipient, you are prohibited from using, delivering, distributing, printing, copying, or disclosing the message or content to others and must delete the message from your computer. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by return email.

From: [Fran Deninno](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Mail In Voting in Hawaii
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:49:58 PM

Dear Members of the Hawaii Election Commission,

I am writing to respectfully request that Hawaii continue to offer mail-in voting as an option for all eligible voters.

Mail-in voting ensures that every voice in our community can be heard—including those who work during the day and cannot take time off to vote, individuals who are homebound, and residents who may be traveling on Election Day.

For me personally, mail-in voting allows the time to carefully review each candidate and ballot measure, helping me make thoughtful, informed decisions rather than feeling rushed at the polls.

Keeping mail-in voting protects accessibility, fairness, and engagement in our democratic process. I urge the Commission to preserve this vital option for all Hawaii voters.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to upholding accessible and fair elections in our state.

Respectfully,

Fran De Ninno
Hawaii Kai Resident

From: [Winston R](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: URGENT REQUEST - please send or give testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:53:23 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai‘i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a proud Hawai‘i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state’s vote-by-mail system. Hawai‘i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai‘i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it’s a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai‘i’s voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Winston Reeves

Kahului, Maui

winston.reeves@yahoo.com

From: [Larry McCarty](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:55:21 PM

Aloha Members of the Hawai‘i Elections Commission,

I am writing as a proud Hawai‘i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our state’s vote-by-mail system. Hawai‘i has long been a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity. Our vote-by-mail process has proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular among Hawai‘i residents.

For many of us, mail-in voting is not only a matter of convenience—it’s a matter of *democracy in action*. Having the ballot at home allows voters the time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully, to discuss them with family and friends, and to make thoughtful, informed choices. This is especially important in a state where many people work multiple jobs, have family caregiving responsibilities, or live in rural areas far from polling places.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system—or anywhere else in the United States. What we are seeing now is not a good-faith effort to strengthen election integrity, but part of a coordinated national campaign driven by MAGA extremists to make voting harder, to intimidate people at the polls, and to sow distrust in democracy itself. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Our vote-by-mail system increases participation, empowers citizens to make informed choices, and strengthens trust in the democratic process. Attempts to dismantle it are attempts to silence voters who may not agree with the current far-right agenda. These efforts are not about preventing fraud—they are about restricting access, because those pushing them know they cannot win when every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot.

I urge you to stand firm in protecting Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system and to reject any attempt to roll it back. We must not allow national partisan tactics to erode the trust and fairness that Hawai‘i’s voters have built together over decades.

Please continue to uphold the right of every eligible citizen in our islands to vote safely, securely, and with dignity.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

Larry McCarty
Wailuku, Maui
mccartyl@me.com

From: [Ann Lemke](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Cc: [Donald Sakamoto](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:02:48 PM

Aloha, Election Commission members,

I want to briefly express my strong support for maintaining mail-in registration.

I voted electronically in the 2024 primary and general elections. As a totally blind person, I found that it was easy to review the procedures including the sample or practice ballot, review all materials, make, review, and verify my choices, submit choices and track that my ballot had been submitted and processed.

My privacy was totally safeguarded.

I have been involved in assuring accessible participation in voting since 1994, here, in El Paso, Texas, I was one of a group of people with disabilities who sued our county for voting access. This meant providing accessible voting machines. That access depended on precinct workers being trained and monitored.

I remember in times before that law suit, we never had a truly secret ballot, since we always required assistance.

Eliminating voting by mail would represent a huge step backwards.

Respectfully,

Ann da Silva Williams
Kaneohe

From: [S. R-S](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Mail-in Voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:15:28 PM

Hello Elections Commission Team,

My name is Dr. Scott Rose-Smith, PhD. I am a retired USAF member. I am sending this email to show my overwhelming support for Hawaii's mail-in voting. The positives for mail-in voting are:

- Voting by mail is not a new phenomenon. As a retired service military member, I've also voted by absentee ballot while stationed in South Korea in the 1990's. The President has also voted by mail.
- To vote by mail, numerous security steps need to be followed, ending with a verified signature on the back of the ballot when mailing it.
- Nationwide security procedures protect the delivery of mail-in ballots.
- Vote-by-mail programs are as non-partisan as it gets. It does not care about the political party of the name on the envelope.

I hope this helps in the efforts to keep vote by mail the law in Hawaii

Regards,

Scott
Dr. Scott Rose-Smith, PhD
scott.rosesmith@gmail.com

From: [Kenneth Lee](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:21:43 PM

I support mail in voting because it gives the United States citizens with another option on how to cast their ballots.

Mail in voting makes voting more convenient, especially for our senior citizen population- seniors in care homes, seniors with no transportation, seniors with medical problems and unable to walk, long lines at the polling places, etc.

All of these reasons make mail in voting a viable option to us, United States senior citizens.

Thank you,
Kenneth Lee

kennethkmlee51@yahoo.com

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Jennifer Kane](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yes to mail-in voting!
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:23:32 PM

Aloha kakou,

I fully support KEEPING MAIL-IN VOTING. As a preschool teacher on Hawai'i Island that owns her own business and a busy mom I have used mail-in voting in the past when I couldn't take time to go in to do it in person. I can imagine that it is crucial for our island neighborhoods of which many are rural and the voting centers are centralized and can be far away. Voting is my right as a citizen of this country. It would be unlawful and fundamentally wrong to take that ability away or make it harder to accomplish.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony.
Jennifer Kane