



MICHAEL CURTIS  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

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

**October 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM**

Pursuant to Section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Elections Commission met remotely using interactive conference technology. The video of the meeting may be viewed on our website at: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/about-us/boards-and-commissions/elections-commission/>.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Michael Curtis, Chair  
Dylan Andrion  
James Apana  
Ralph Cushnie  
Lindsay Kamm  
Clare McAdam  
Jeffrey Osterkamp  
Kahiolani Papalimu  
John Sabas

**Support Staff in Attendance:**

Jordan Ching, Department of the Attorney General  
Scott T. Nago, Office of Elections  
Nicole Noel, Office of Elections  
Aaron Schulaner, Office of Elections  
Aulii Tenn, Office of Elections

**PROCEEDINGS**

**I. Call to order [10:00 AM]**

The regular meeting of the Elections Commission was called to order by Chair Curtis. (Video 1)

II. Roll call and determination of a quorum [10:00 AM]

All members of the Elections Commission were present at the meeting with the exception of Commissioner Papalimu and Commissioner Sabas.

Commissioner Sabas entered the meeting at 10:03 AM and Commissioner Papalimu entered the meeting at 10:18 AM.

III. Meeting minutes [10:01 AM]

- a) Approval of written minutes from the October 1, 2025 meeting
- b) Discussion on Office of Elections findings on the cost and timing of verbatim minutes

Commissioner Cushnie moved that the Elections Commission follow the law and comply with HRS §92-9 when recording meeting minutes including item five to include any other information that any member of the board requests be included or reflected in the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Apana and Commissioner Papalimu. [10:01 AM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm

NO: McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

Commissioner Cushnie stated he would vote against approving the minutes, asserting they did not accurately reflect the meeting.

Commissioner Kamm asked for the dissenting opinion related to the prior motion. Commissioner Apana explained the process for drafting and amending minutes and noted that the Commission had previously discussed its methods for compiling them. Commissioner Kamm clarified that her question concerned the objections to the additions requested in the earlier motion.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to amend the written minutes of October 1, 2025, to include at 3:50 Commissioner Cushnie made a motion to form a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate HAVA complaints and violations, the Chair ruled the motion out of order and said it would be put on the next agenda. The second amendment is that Commissioner Papalimu asked that her name be removed from the PIG report. The third amendment is to see all the opinions of the Attorney General be put into the minutes with reference to the law that he cited. The fourth amendment to include on page 24 of the minutes is Chair Mike

Curtis denied hiding emails but would not authorize un-redacting them. The fifth amendment is to show responses that Scott Nago made to questions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Papalimu. [10:05 AM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm

NO: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

Commissioner McAdam moved to approve the written minutes of October 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Apana and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Papalimu. [10:09 AM]

YES: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

NO: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm

Chair Curtis asked Chief Election Officer (CEO) Scott Nago to discuss the cost and timing of producing verbatim minutes. CEO Nago referenced his letter proposing use of the Zoom transcript and explained that staff transcription would take roughly four hours for each hour of meeting audio, with workload dependent on the election cycle.

Commissioner Apana asked whether Zoom transcripts carry an additional cost, and CEO Nago confirmed they do not, though the transcript would be lengthy.

Commissioner Papalimu asked whether verbatim minutes could be manipulated, citing past concerns about altered recordings. CEO Nago acknowledged the possibility but noted that, consistent with current policy, changes would only be made for issues such as obscenity or doxxing. He added that the video recording itself could serve as the official record under HRS.

Commissioner Cushnie requested Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Jordan Ching's opinion on HRS §92-9(5). DAG Ching stated that any additions to minutes require Commission approval and affirmed his view that the Commission is complying with the Sunshine Law.

IV. Updates relating to motions from Permitted Interaction Groups [10:24 AM]

a) Status of the audit of the Office of Elections

b) Status of the Commission's request for USPS business reply mail receipts for Hawaii County's 2024 General Election

James Raymond provided testimony in strong support of mail-in voting, criticizing the Commission for dismissing his comments as off-agenda.

Lyla Bashan provided testimony defending the integrity of mail-in voting, arguing that concerns about its reliability are unfounded and that requiring mail-in receipts would disenfranchise many Hawaii voters.

Michael Collat provided testimony in strong support of mail-in voting, opposing any measures that restrict it and emphasizing accessibility, efficiency, and election integrity.

Susan Trombley provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, sharing that health and mobility issues make it difficult for her and her family to vote in-person.

Jody Weidemann provided testimony in strong support of continuing mail-in voting, noting its increasing importance as she and her husband age.

Janet Mason provided testimony opposing the Commission's request to return to in-person voting and requiring mail receipts, calling the actions unlawful and harmful to voter participation.

Brodie Lockard provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, opposing efforts to restrict it, and sharing that as a wheelchair user, vote-by-mail has ensured his continued participation in elections.

Ruth Robison provided testimony opposing the Commission's proposal to return to polling place elections, emphasizing that mail-in voting is secure, increases access, and supports democracy.

Desi McKenzie provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, saying it protects her and her daughter with Down syndrome from health risks while ensuring their participation.

Representative Garner Shimizu provided testimony expressing concern over the Commission's transparency, urging adoption of verbatim AI-generated minutes for accuracy.

Keikilani Ho provided testimony questioning the PIG report's accuracy, alleging misrepresentation of a Commissioner's input, and calling for transparency in ballot records.

James Gashel provided testimony saying the Commission's vote to return to in-person voting violated the Sunshine Law and urged for transparency and public input.



Jaerick Medeiros provided testimony alleging Sunshine Law violations and corruption, criticizing mail-in voting, and urging a return to county-run elections.

David Wiseman provided testimony opposing the elimination of mail-in voting, emphasizing its accessibility and low fraud risk.

Dawn Ross provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, rejecting fraud claims and emphasizing its importance for accessible democracy.

Cory Hardin provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, noting fraud is rare and that it benefits voters with health, disability, or scheduling challenges.

Vernelle Oku provided testimony supporting restoring in-person voting for transparency and called for removing Commissioners who do not follow the law.

Tara Malia Gregory provided testimony urging election transparency, accountability, and an independent audit due to unverified ballot records and missing USPS data.

Ann, a blind voter, provided testimony explaining that vote-by-mail ensures privacy and accessibility, describing her voting experience as smooth and reliable, and condemned efforts to discredit the system.

Paul Bernstein provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, saying it allowed him to vote while caring for a parent on the mainland.

Perle Besserman provided testimony in strong support of keeping mail-in voting, citing its importance for senior citizens, people with disabilities, rural residents, and those who travel or work off-island.

Tina Marie Even provided testimony in strong opposition to return to polling-place elections, supporting mail-in voting as a secure, fair and accessible method that increases participation for all voters.

David provided testimony opposing a return to in-person voting, saying Hawaii lacks the infrastructure for single-day voting without lowering turnout.

Ellen Caringer provided testimony supporting Hawaii's vote-by-mail system, saying it ensures fairness and accessibility for all voters.

Robert Justice provided testimony opposing returning to in-person-only voting, saying mail-in voting ensures accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities and that in-person voting could lead to discrimination and voter intimidation.

Sue Cowing provided testimony opposing a ban on mail-in voting, saying it boosts turnout, reduces costs, and avoids rebuilding in-person systems.

Susan Young provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, noting that in-person polling disrupts school operations, burdens workers and caregivers, and limits access for people with injuries or disabilities.

Tim Huycke provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, citing its convenience, accessibility, and protection from intimidation.

Bonnie Hendrickson provided testimony expressing strong support for mail-in voting, saying she has used and trusted it for years and urged making voting easier for everyone.

Doris Segal Matsunaga provided testimony supporting keeping Hawaii's mail-in voting system, emphasizing its importance for residents in rural and semi-rural areas.

Kyle Daniel provided testimony opposing returning to in-person-only voting, supporting mail-in ballots for allowing working residents and those with limited time or mobility to vote conveniently and thoughtfully.

Michelle Stefanik provided testimony opposing mail-in voting, citing transparency and security concerns, and supporting a return to in-person precinct voting.

Vivian Toellner provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, said discrepancies likely came from drop-off ballots, and offered her accounting expertise to help improve transparency.

Patti Cook provided testimony strongly supporting vote-by-mail and expressed appreciation for the many others who spoke in favor of it.

Mara Hanson provided testimony opposing returning to in-person precinct voting, saying mail-in voting reduces burdens for working residents, ensures greater participation, allows ballot tracking and curing, and that USPS accounting issues shouldn't jeopardize the system.

Adriel Lam provided testimony alleging voter record and mail-in ballot irregularities, urging the Commission to investigate discrepancies and ensure accountability.

Lynn Ryan provided testimony in support of mail-in voting, mentioning its proven integrity, accessibility, and convenience for researching candidates.

Susan Strom provided testimony opposing mail-in voting, citing alleged USPS ballot count discrepancies and urging a return to secure in-person voting.

Alika Valdez provided testimony supporting mail-in voting, emphasizing its convenience for those with work or family obligations and urging trust in the system's transparency.

Tamara McKay provided testimony alleging problems with mail-in ballots and transparency, criticizing the Commission's procedures and voting patterns, and urging a return to one-day, in-person, paper-ballot elections with strict compliance to Sunshine Law.

Banner Fanene provided testimony fully supporting Agenda Items IV A and IV B.

Sharlene Mata provided testimony urging an independent audit to address election record discrepancies and ensure transparency and accountability.

Victor Muh provided testimony supporting in-person voting and proposing Election Day as a statewide celebration.

Lynn Surayan provided testimony criticizing the Commission's oversight of voting systems and urging more transparency and in-person voting options.

Brennon Cabral provided testimony against elections by mail.

AnnMarie Hamilton provided testimony urging a return to in-person voting, citing security, auditability, and chain of custody concerns with mail-in ballots.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony supporting an audit and a return to in-person voting due to ballot custody concerns in the 2024 Elections.

Ann Pitcaithley provided testimony supporting mail-in voting while urging an independent audit of USPS mail receipts to address chain of custody concerns.

Klayton Kubo provided testimony expressing frustration about perceived corruption and urging the Commission to investigate reported election discrepancies.

Daniel Gabriel provided testimony supporting Agenda Items IV A and IV B, opposing mail-in voting due to security and accuracy concerns, and suggesting in-person or online voting as better alternatives.

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony expressing concern that Hawaii's vote-by-mail system lacks sufficient oversight and compliance with state election laws, calling for stronger accountability and transparency.

Robin Nagasako provided testimony in support of investigating the Office of Elections and returning to in-person voting with absentee options due to ballot discrepancies.

Brett Kulbis provided testimony in support of restoring in-person voting, citing ballot mishandling, poor accountability, and the need for transparent audits.

Thorne Silverberg provided testimony in support of improving, not eliminating, mail-in voting for seniors, veterans, and working families.

Donald Sakamoto provided testimony in support of electronic ballots for disabled voters and called for investigations and better voter registration accuracy.

Debbie provided testimony in support of items 4A and 4B, advocating a return to in-person voting for greater accountability and noting that Hawaii law already provides paid time off for employees to vote on Election Day.

Ailanna L. provided testimony in support of eliminating mail-in voting, stating she always votes in person despite a busy schedule and believes others can do the same using absentee voting if necessary.

April Lee provided testimony urging a return to early or absentee voting, citing weak ballot chain of custody and fraud risks.

Arthur Hannemann provided testimony in support of in-person voting while keeping mail-in options, emphasizing election integrity and vote protection.

Dennis Leskovec II provided testimony calling for more accountability, transparency, and political balance to restore public trust in Hawaii's democracy.

Laura Nakanelua provided testimony urging the Commission to follow legal procedures and maintain transparency and accountability in its meetings.

Andrew Aker provided testimony supporting in-person voting, emphasizing transparency, community unity, and civic education in elections.

Michael Golojuch Jr. provided testimony opposing the return to all in-person voting, emphasizing that mail-in voting ensures accessibility for working families and those with limited time or resources.

Patty provided testimony opposing mail-in voting, citing a lack of transparency and calling for a return to simple, in-person voting with greater public trust and accessibility.

Jennifer Cabjuan provided testimony supporting a hand-count audit for Honolulu County, citing ballot and postal security concerns and urging readiness for possible voter ID rules.

Jakki Nelson provided testimony supporting restoring in-person voting with absentee options, saying it builds community and is manageable with volunteers.

Robyn McCreary provided testimony supporting in-person voting with voter ID, secure offline counting, and making Election Day a statewide holiday.

Craig Spencer provided testimony urging stronger oversight without limiting voting options, opposing an all-in-person system that could disenfranchise mail voters.

Kevin Hill provided testimony supporting returning to primarily in-person, paper-based voting as the most secure and verifiable method.

Margie Merryman provided testimony supporting the continuation of Hawaii's mail-in voting system, emphasizing accessibility, cost efficiency, and trust in its integrity.

Lorraine Hinaga provided testimony supporting secure elections and a return to in-person voting, while keeping mail-in options for those unable to vote in person.

Tara Rojas provided testimony supporting an election audit and a return to in-person voting, citing distrust in mail-in voting and calling for new Commission leadership.

Pam Elders provided testimony opposing an audit and the elimination of mail-in voting, calling the proposals unnecessary, costly, and voter-suppressive.

Junya Nakoa provided testimony supporting in-person voting and an audit, citing distrust in Maui's mail-in ballot verification and counting.

Megeso Denis provided testimony supporting in-person voting with voter ID and same-day precinct counting, limiting mail voting to military and disabled voters.

Wendy N. provided testimony supporting that voters request absentee ballots over universal mail voting, citing ballot security and civic responsibility.

Tuli Tafai provided testimony opposing restrictions on ballot access, urging more service centers and early voting options.

The Royal House of Hawaii provided testimony asserting that U.S. governance in Hawai'i is illegitimate and questioning when the Hawaiian Kingdom would elect its own leaders.

Allie Arcangel provided testimony supporting expanded in-person voting options, saying younger voters should have the choice to vote in person.

Commissioner Kamm stated that she understood the Commission, rather than the Office of Elections, would be submitting its request to the Legislature.

Commissioner Kamm asked CEO Nago to confirm that the letter to the Legislature was sent on October 6. Commissioner Kamm further noted that she had previously discussed with Chair Curtis the possibility of drafting a separate request to the Legislature after CEO Nago had already submitted the letter.

Chair Curtis suggested treating the two letters as two separate motions. Commissioner Kamm noted that she had spoken with Chair Curtis about drafting a request to the Legislature after CEO Nago had already submitted one. Chair Curtis acknowledged the discussion.

Commissioner Cushnie expressed his support for the motion, citing allegations of discrepancies in the 2024 Elections and claiming poor recordkeeping and unverifiable records.

Commissioner Osterkamp stated his opposition, explaining that although he is not opposed to audits in principle, he believes the request is grounded in conspiracy-based allegations of fraud that the Commission should not perpetuate.

Commissioner Andrion clarified that the motion concerns having the request originate from the Commission itself and said that Commissioners should not comment on the validity of the request.

Commissioner Kamm moved that the Election Commission issue the letter, signed by Chair Curtis, to the Legislature regarding the request for an audit, that was previously approved at the Commission's October 1, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie and **carried**. [2:06 PM]

YES: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu, Sabas, Curtis

NO: McAdam, Osterkamp

Commissioner Cushnie moved that the Elections Commission issue a letter to the Legislature regarding the request to return to in-person same-day voting, that was previously approved at the Commission's October 1, 2025 meeting. This motion was amended to instruct Chair Curtis to include in the letter the Commission's vote on the action taken at the October 1, 2025 meeting. This motion was further amended to have Chair Curtis and Commissioner Kamm write the letter together. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu and **carried**. [2:33 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu, Sabas

NO: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

Commissioner Osterkamp moved to amend the motion, that the Elections Commission issue a letter to the Legislature regarding the request to return to in-person same-day voting, to instruct Chair Curtis to include in the letter the Commission's vote on the action taken at the October 1, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Apana and **carried**. [2:36 PM]

YES: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, Kamm, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

NO: Papalimu

Commissioner Papalimu moved to amend the motion, that the Election Commission issue the letter to the Legislature regarding the request to return to in person same day voting and to include the vote of the Commission on the action taken, to have Chair Curtis and Commissioner Kamm write the letter to the Legislature together. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **carried**. [2:41 PM]

YES: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, Kamm, McAdam, Papalimu, Sabas, Curtis

NO: Osterkamp

Commissioner Cushnie moved to have a group of volunteers from different parties count the number of envelopes from the County of Hawaii and determine how many envelopes came through the postal service and determine the total number of envelopes collected by the County of Hawaii and this be completed before the end of this year. The envelopes should be arranged in stacks of ten and then stacks of hundreds and then stacks of thousands. The stacks should be

separated by whether they came through the postal service or via drop box. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu and **failed**. [2:51 PM]

YES: Papalimu

NO: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, Kamm, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

Commissioner Cushnie attempted to move for a subpoena to compel the Hawaii County Clerk to provide USPS receipts. DAG Ching explained that the Commission may issue subpoenas only for evidentiary hearings, and because this was a regular public meeting, the Commission did not have legal authority to issue a subpoena.

Commissioner Kamm asked whether cost-sharing arrangements between the State and Counties included USPS receipts. CEO Nago responded that those details remain with the County.

Commissioner Papalimu asked again about the USPS account holder, including whether it has multiple names. CEO Nago said he was unsure who is on the account but confirmed it is not tied to the Office of Elections. When asked whether the Commission could request that information, he clarified that such requests would need to be directed to the County of Hawaii.

Commissioner Cushnie reiterated his assertion that CEO Nago should be retrieving the USPS receipts for the Commission and said the Commission should explore other means to confirm an alleged vote discrepancy.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to have CEO Nago contact the U.S. Postal Service to request information and records related to the County of Hawaii's receipts in order to help clarify discrepancies, prior to the next Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kamm and **failed**. [2:57 PM]

YES: Cushnie

NO: Andrion, Apana, Kamm, McAdam, Osterkamp, Papalimu, Sabas, Curtis

V. Communications and correspondence, received for the record [3:20 PM]

Victoria Thompson provided testimony about mail-in ballot handling, claiming that undelivered ballots were sometimes discarded without proper tracking and urging the Commission to investigate how returned ballots are managed.



AnnMarie Hamilton provided testimony criticizing a report by Commissioners Osterkamp and McAdam, arguing that the unexplained discrepancy of 19,042 mail-in envelopes on the Big Island shows serious chain of custody failures in Hawaii's elections and calling for accountability and audits.

Tara Rojas provided testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for poor communication, lack of transparency and control over meetings, urging Commissioners to speak up, pay attention to the public, and rebuild trust in Hawaii's election process.

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony expressing concern about missing mail-in ballots, emphasizing the need for a clear chain of custody and accountability from the post office, and urging Commissioners to take action.

Daniel Gabriel provided testimony supporting Agenda Item V, advocating for all Commissioners to access Commission communications, and criticized Chair Curtis for inappropriate conduct during meetings.

Janet Mason provided testimony supporting a statewide audit of the 2024 Election but stated that Commissioner Cushnie's personal request to the USPS was inappropriate and that postal records should not be used to reconcile ballot counts.

Michelle Stefanik provided testimony supporting access to USPS ballot receipt records, calling for all Commissioners to have access to commission emails, and urging the removal of Chair Curtis and CEO Nago for poor leadership and lack of transparency.

Alan Haungs provided testimony stating that USPS mail tracking data should exist and suggested escalating concerns about missing ballot records to postal inspectors or higher authorities.

Michael Golojuch Jr. provided testimony urging Commissioners to better understand and follow Hawaii's Sunshine Law, emphasizing that individual actions or emails do not represent official Commission business and criticizing misinformation and unsubstantiated claims of election fraud.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony supporting Commissioner Cushnie's letter, stating that its requests promote accountability and transparency for voters, and criticized what she described as gaslighting and inconsistent enforcement of meeting rules by the Chair.

Junya Nakoa provided testimony criticizing the Commission for lacking transparency and preventing discussion about missing ballots.

Pam Elders provided testimony urging the Commission to seek professional facilitation, proper training on meeting procedures, and verified information to reduce personal conflict, improve efficiency, and rebuild public trust.

Susan Strom provided testimony supporting Commissioner Cushnie's letter and calling for full transparency, accountability, and reform of the voting system while criticizing certain Commissioners for dismissive behavior and lack of trustworthiness.

Patty provided testimony criticizing Commissioners for omitting her emphasis on transparency in mail-in voting, accusing them of avoiding accountability, and urging them to either correct their mistakes or resign.

Robin Nagasako provided testimony criticizing the Commission's lack of professionalism and efficiency, urging certain members to resign and calling for greater accountability, transparency, and proper meeting training.

Terri Bulacan provided testimony questioning why her complaint alleging a conflict of interest involving Commissioner McAdam was not placed on the agenda and urged the Commission to investigate the matter immediately.

Tamara McKay provided testimony urging Commissioners to act professionally and without political bias, follow proper meeting procedures, and restore public trust through transparency and respectful conduct.

Representative Garner Shimizu provided testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for limiting public participation, urging the Commission to address election integrity concerns transparently and efficiently, and calling for members unwilling to serve the public to step down.

Tara Malia provided testimony urging the Commission to prioritize transparency, cooperation, and accountability, encouraging certain members to step down if they cannot act in the public's best interest.

Commissioner Cushnie was removed from the meeting by Chair Curtis for repeated disruption, citing the Chair's authority under Section 92-3, HRS.

Commissioner Osterkamp stated that Chair Curtis has been the target of hostility from some Commissioners over rulings or minor issues. He said that under Robert's Rules of Order, personal attacks are not permissible, and he noted that Chair Curtis acted appropriately to address ongoing disruptions by Commissioner Cushnie.

Commissioner Apana suggested tabling further discussion of Agenda Item V until Commissioner Cushnie could participate.

Commissioner Andrion moved to permit Commissioner Cushnie back into the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Cushnie. [4:25 PM]

YES: Andrion, Apana, Kamm, Papalimu

NO: McAdam, Osterkamp

ABSTAIN: Sabas, Curtis

The meeting was recessed at 4:31 PM and reconvened on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM. (Video 2)

All members of the Elections Commission were present at the meeting with the exception of Commissioner Papalimu and Commissioner Sabas. Commissioner Papalimu entered the meeting at 10:05 AM and Commissioner Sabas entered the meeting at 10:09 AM.

Commissioner Cushnie argued that DAG Ching represents the Commission as a whole and should not communicate only with the Chair or the Office of Elections.

Commissioner Andrion expressed support for the motion and said he believes its purpose is to place the matter in the public record.

Commissioner Apana stated his opposition, explaining that Commissioners should be able to approach the Deputy Attorney General individually.

Commissioner Cushnie reiterated that he wants a written opinion from DAG Ching, noting that the previous Deputy Attorney General informed the Commission that the Attorney General's Office responds only to questions submitted by the body.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to have the Deputy Attorney General provide in writing within two weeks his opinion that emails sent to and from the Elections Commission email address can be withheld from the Commission and from the public and how the Chair can receive legal advice from the Deputy Attorney General that the Commission is not entitled to. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [12:56 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Papalimu

NO: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

VI. Discussion and decision making relating to Commissioner Osterkamp's Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) report on election results discrepancies on the Big Island [10:05 AM]

Jaerick Medeiros provided testimony criticizing the Commission's handling of the meeting, accusing certain members of bias and lack of transparency, and demanding that Commissioner Cushnie be allowed to speak and that the agenda be followed properly.

Austin Martin provided testimony expressing frustration that his complaint had not been addressed, alleging misconduct and lack of transparency within the Commission, and accusing officials of suppressing audits and misleading the public about election integrity.

Judith Mills-Wong provided testimony expressing appreciation for the thorough, fact-based report confirming the accuracy of ballot counts and supporting the decision not to use USPS mail records for audit purposes.

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony citing Hawaii election code on ballot accountability, questioning changes to ballot tracking procedures, criticizing the accuracy of the report, and alleging a lack of transparency and proper recordkeeping.

Shelby Billionaire provided testimony alleging federal corruption and conflicts of interest in the election process, questioning the credibility of officials and the handling of records, and calling for greater accountability.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony criticizing the lack of decorum among Commissioners, questioning unequal enforcement of meeting conduct, and urging accountability and transparency in election procedures, including the handling of ballot mail receipts.

Tara Rojas provided testimony accusing the Commissioners of conflicts of interest, criticizing members for lack of attention and respect during meetings, and expressing frustration that public concerns and complaints were not being properly heard or addressed.

Adriel Lam provided testimony questioning the reliability of the USPS in handling mail-in ballots, criticizing Commissioners for dismissing concerns about election integrity, and expressing frustration that evidence of potential issues had been ignored.

Vernelle Oku provided testimony expressing disappointment with Commissioners for failing to uphold election integrity and urged several members, including the Chair, to resign if they could not fulfill their constitutional responsibilities.

Keoni Payton provided testimony criticizing the Commission for alleged law violations, misconduct, and lack of accountability, accusing several Commissioners of corruption and bullying.

Susan Strom provided testimony criticizing the Commission's handling of election integrity, claiming the elections were illegitimate due to ballot record issues and calling for same-day, in-person voting and a statewide re-vote.

Keikilani Ho provided testimony expressing distrust in the Commission and Office of Elections, citing conflicts of interest in the Big Island audit and repeated denials of public records requests.

Michael Golojuch Jr. provided testimony supporting Commissioner Osterkamp's report, stating it clearly disproved claims of ballot discrepancies and urging the Commission to dismiss related complaints and move on from unfounded election fraud allegations.

Tara Malia Gregory provided testimony criticizing election officials for lack of transparency and accountability, citing public records and emails as evidence of mismanagement and calling for truth and accuracy in ballot reporting.

Keenan Place-Puaa provided testimony urging the Commission to restore public trust by conducting a proper audit and following the law, expressing frustration over the lack of accountability and growing community distrust.

Daniel M. Gabriel provided testimony opposing the PIG report and argued that elections should be audited by an independent third party rather than by government officials auditing themselves.

Andrew Aker provided testimony accusing election officials of corruption and demanded honesty and accountability in Hawaii's elections.

Dale VanderBrink provided testimony thanking Commissioner Osterkamp for his detailed report and criticizing others for ignoring evidence and engaging in personal attacks.

Jeni Lehua provided testimony rejecting Commissioner Osterkamp's report, accusing the Commission of corruption, hypocrisy, and favoritism, and expressing frustration on behalf of Native Hawaiians.

Junya Nakoa provided testimony criticizing the Commission's investigation process, claiming it lacked fairness and accountability, and urging officials to restore public trust and encourage voter participation.

Sheryl Bieler provided testimony criticizing the Chair for poor meeting decorum, lack of transparency, and authoritarian conduct, urging the Commission to follow proper procedures and maintain respectful dialogue.

Tamara McKay provided testimony expressing distrust in the Commission's transparency and election integrity, calling for an audit, paper ballots, and accountability for the alleged improper removal of a Commissioner.

Peter Bernegger provided testimony alleging election fraud and a cover-up in Hawaii's 2024 Elections, warning Commissioners of forthcoming lawsuits and federal investigations.

Joan Schwandt provided testimony expressing distrust in mail-in voting, alleging ballot harvesting and lack of transparency in Hawaii's elections, and calling for in-person, paper ballot voting.

Michelle Stefanik provided testimony criticizing the Chair for favoritism and authoritarian behavior, expressing support for fair treatment among Commissioners and agreement with most testifiers.

Doug Pasnik provided testimony criticizing the Commission for failing to investigate ballot discrepancies in the Big Island report and urged proper oversight and transparency in election reviews.

Cal provided testimony saying the Commission is corrupt and oppressive to Kanaka Maoli, expressing deep frustration and warning of serious consequences if things do not change.

Nancy Moser provided testimony opposing the Commission's proposed election changes, arguing they would restrict voter access and reverse a functioning mail-in voting system.

Brennon Cabral provided testimony against elections by mail.

Representative Garner Shimizu provided testimony questioning the credibility of the PIG report, citing unanswered discrepancies in ballot counts, lack of transparency, and failure to fully investigate missing mail ballot data.

Commissioner Papalimu clarified she did not participate in the investigation tied to the report and asked for her name to be removed. She expressed concern about being portrayed as a conspiracy theorist and emphasized the need for transparency, noting BRM data could help validate certain records.

Commissioner McAdam explained that BRM receipts are financial documents only and not ballot-tracking tools, and that USPS is not involved in ballot verification. She also stated her auditing work does not create a conflict of interest.

Commissioners Andrion and Cushnie defended the PIG's investigation, asserting that their efforts were legitimate attempts to verify election results. They raised concerns about limited access to SVRS data and alleged discrepancies, including a claimed 19,000-ballot gap. Commissioner Cushnie further alleged withheld information and called for a criminal investigation.

Commissioner Kamm encouraged shifting the focus toward solutions, recommending that County Clerks provide a verifiable paper trail to support SVRS data. She also urged improved decorum in meetings.

Commissioner Osterkamp agreed on the importance of decorum and noted the Commission's limited authority to require additional reporting retroactively. He outlined the PIG report process and said all members had opportunities to contribute.

Commissioner Papalimu reiterated concerns about incomplete information, inconsistencies from election officials, and the lack of a clear paper trail. She questioned whether the alleged 19,000-ballot issue was adequately addressed and suggested considering a return to single-day, in-person voting.

Commissioner Sabas urged the Commission to move toward collaborative, solutions-focused discussion for future improvements.

Commissioner Kamm moved that the Elections Commission request that the Chief Election Officer require the County Clerks to produce reports based on verifiable paper trails of ballot envelopes collected and delivered to the counting centers. The motion was amended to have the Elections Commission advise the Chief Election Officer to require the County Clerks to produce daily reports based on hand counts of ballot envelopes collected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie and **failed**. [12:26 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu

NO: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

Commissioner Osterkamp asked for clarification on the meaning of “verifiable” in the motion. Commissioner Kamm stated she was open to adjusting the wording and explained that her intent was for County Clerks to total collected return identification envelopes, subtract non-validated envelopes, and confirm the numbers recorded in SVRS.

Commissioner Cushnie proposed an amendment to make the motion’s language more specific.

Commissioner Apana questioned whether the amendment, and possibly the motion itself, was redundant. DAG Ching noted that it may be redundant because existing law already requires compliance with the procedures, depending on the motion’s intent.

Commissioner Osterkamp stated that HAR §3-177-453(b) does not pertain to chain of custody and read the rule for clarity.

Commissioner Kamm reiterated that her motion is intended to provide corroboration beyond what the State and Counties believe already satisfies legal requirements, and that obtaining ballot counts should be straightforward.

Commissioner Cushnie argued that ballot tracking should begin at the moment ballots are collected from drop boxes and the USPS. He stated that the described observer and reconciliation practices are not always followed, criticized reliance on SVRS summary reports, and emphasized the need for real-time recordkeeping.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to amend the motion, that the Elections Commission request that the Chief Election Officer require the County Clerks to produce reports based on verifiable paper trails of ballot envelopes collected and delivered to the counting centers, to include advise the Chief Election Officer to follow the law in accordance with HAR 3-177-453(b) that the chain of custody or record keeping begins when the counties pick up ballots at the drop boxes and when they receive the ballots from the USPS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed**. [12:28 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie

NO: Apana, Kamm, McAdam, Osterkamp, Papalimu, Sabas, Curtis

Commissioner Kamm offered an amendment to clarify the motion’s language.



Commissioner Papalimu asked CEO Nago to confirm that law requires a form prescribed by the Chief Election Officer; CEO Nago affirmed that SVRS serves as the electronic form and that Counties can pull daily cumulative reports, which were provided to the Commission for the 2024 General Election.

Commissioner Sabas asked whether the motion intended to require a hand count. Commissioner Kamm stated she believed Counties already conduct hand counts in some cases, and CEO Nago clarified that practices vary. He explained that Kauai has hand counted envelopes but has experienced errors, and that hand counts would be infeasible and inaccurate for Honolulu due to the volume of ballots.

Commissioner Cushnie restated his belief that CEO Nago's statements contradict the ballot-processing information presented on the Office of Elections' website.

Commissioner Cushnie, Commissioner Kamm, and Chair Curtis discussed revisions to the motion to clarify that its intent is to account for the number of ballots collected by the County Clerks.

Commissioner Kamm moved to amend the motion, that the Elections Commission request that the Chief Election Officer require the County Clerks to produce reports based on verifiable paper trails of ballot envelopes collected and delivered to the counting centers, to instead have the Elections Commission advise the Chief Election Officer to require the County Clerks to produce daily reports based on hand counts of ballot envelopes collected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu and **carried**. [12:40 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu, Curtis

NO: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas

Commissioner Cushnie moved to send a letter from the Elections Commission to the USPS Inspector General asking them how many ballots were delivered to the County of Hawaii during the 2024 General Election broken out by how many ballots were returned by voters versus how many were simply undeliverable and returned to sender. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [12:54 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Papalimu

NO: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

VII. Formal complaints [1:04 PM]

- a) ECC-25-005
- b) ECC-25-006
- c) ECC-25-007
- d) ECC-25-008
- e) ECC-25-009
- f) ECC-25-010

The Commission recessed for 10 minutes before reconvening at [1:05 PM].

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony criticizing the Commission for failing to enforce election laws, alleging inadequate recordkeeping and transparency in ballot chain of custody procedures, and urging a return to verifiable, precinct-level voting.

Austin Martin provided testimony alleging election misconduct and lack of transparency, claiming officials ignored complaints and hindered fair participation.

Peter Bernegger provided testimony alleging HAVA violations involving missing mail-in envelopes and failure to retain election records, urging the Commission to reopen his complaint and enforce federal requirements.

Tara Rojas provided testimony expressing concern about corruption, ignored complaints, and lack of accountability within the Elections Commission, urging members to uphold the will of the people and ensure integrity in elections.

Shelby Billionaire provided testimony alleging widespread corruption and election fraud, expressing distrust in the election system and calling for independent accountability and transparency.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony about ongoing concerns with ballot chain of custody, urging the Commission to address unresolved issues and provide a response to her formal complaint.

Judith Mills-Wong provided testimony supporting factual, professional oversight of elections and audits, emphasizing that complaints are not facts and condemning threats made against Commissioners.

Jaerick Medeiros provided testimony criticizing the Commission's handling of elections, accusing members of corruption and incompetence, and calling for election control to return to the Counties.

Doug Pasnik provided testimony alleging that Hawaii's elections were certified unlawfully before meeting statutory requirements and criticized the Commission and Chief Election Officer for failing to investigate or enforce election laws.

Keoni Payton provided testimony urging a return to paper, county-run elections for transparency and safety, rejecting claims it would harm disabled voters.

Tara Malia Gregory provided testimony stating that Hawaii's election process violated state and federal chain of custody laws, urging the Commission to ensure transparency and compliance with HAVA requirements.

Jennifer Cabjuan provided testimony alleging poor chain of custody practices in Honolulu County's mail ballot process and urged a return to same-day, precinct-level voting to ensure transparency and accurate counts.

Michelle Stefanik provided testimony expressing concerns about limited transparency and lack of observer access during ballot counting, calling for greater accountability and openness in Hawaii's election process.

Representative Garner Shimizu provided testimony questioning the whereabouts of returned ballot envelopes and urging the Commission to verify the count and ensure that Hawaii's mail-in voting system complies with state laws requiring a verifiable paper audit trail.

Joan Schwandt provided testimony emphasizing the importance of protecting free speech, calling for in-person voting with ID verification, annual election audits, and greater transparency to restore public trust in the election process.

Chair Curtis lost connection to the meeting and rejoined at [2:11 PM]. The Commission recessed at [2:05 PM] and reconvened at [2:15 PM].

Commissioner Cushnie asked how the Commission could demonstrate transparency to the public and raised concerns about the verifiability of chain of custody records.

Commissioner Apana stated he wanted the public to have the best system possible and shared insights from meeting with the Maui County Clerk about ballot collection processes. He noted that while nothing is perfect, improvement

is the goal and some previous proposals were impractical without additional resources.

Commissioner McAdam emphasized that the Commission had previously recommended the Legislature form a bipartisan committee on chain of custody issues and suggested continuing that approach while also considering a PIG. Chair Curtis asked that the letter be resent.

Commissioner Papalimu stated she appreciated clarification that certain daily forms can be retrieved and believed this could simplify reporting. She underscored the need for regular information from County Clerks and expressed concern about perceived disregard for legal requirements.

Commissioner Sabas and Chair Curtis stressed the importance of building relationships with County Election Offices to support cooperation and system improvements.

Commissioner Osterkamp suggested forming a PIG to meet with County Clerks and develop recommendations, potentially including one Commissioner from each county.

Commissioner Cushnie supported resending the letter to the Legislature and forming a PIG to work with County Clerks on obtaining daily ballot collection counts.

DAG Ching advised postponing a vote on forming a PIG, citing Sunshine Law requirements and OIP guidance. Commissioner Cushnie disagreed, accusing DAG Ching of obstruction and requesting statutory citations. DAG Ching explained that PIGs are governed by HRS §92-2.5 and must be considered alongside HRS §92-7 on public meetings. Chair Curtis stated that the formation of a PIG would be placed on the next agenda.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to form a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to meet with the County Clerks to develop a solution to the chain of custody and to determine how to obtain accurate daily reports of ballots received. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sabas and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [2:38 PM]

YES: Apana, Cushnie

NO: Andrion, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

ABSTAIN: Papalimu

Chair Curtis stated that the motion was to place the formation of a PIG on the next agenda to address chain of custody issues. Commissioner Osterkamp said the motion seemed unclear, noting differing references to daily reports, and stated he would vote against it because a PIG should ask questions rather than begin with a predetermined conclusion.

Commissioner McAdam added that the PIG should focus on forward-looking improvements rather than past allegations.

Commissioner Osterkamp reiterated concerns that discussion continued to center on chain of custody allegations and daily reports. Chair Curtis responded that the PIG would address chain of custody matters consistent with Agenda Item VII, with its scope set at the next meeting.

Commissioner Papalimu moved to include on the next meeting's agenda the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to work with the County Clerks regarding chain of custody and daily reports. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sabas and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [2:48 PM]

YES: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, McAdam, Papalimu, Sabas, Curtis

NO: Osterkamp

Commissioner Osterkamp referenced public reports describing Bernegger's history of extensive litigation, false election-fraud claims, and related criminal charges, cautioning the Commission about the implications of validating the complaint.

Commissioner Cushnie stated that the Office of Elections mishandled the complaint and that the Commission should review its validity.

Commissioner Andrion added that the Commission should avoid disparaging public commenters and evaluate the complaint on its merits.

Commissioner Andrion moved to agendize the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate HAVA violations, in relation to agenda item VII(d) Formal Complaints ECC-25-008. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [2:54 PM]

YES: Papalimu

NO: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, McAdam, Osterkamp, Sabas, Curtis

Commissioner Cushnie restated his support for the motion and asked for guidance within 14 days. Commissioner McAdam requested removing the 14-day timeframe. Chair Curtis noted the Commission cannot set a response deadline but allowed the timeframe to remain in the motion.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to request a written opinion from the Attorney General within 14 days regarding whether Peter Bernegger's HAVA complaint, referenced in agenda item VII(d) Formal Complaints ECC-25-008, has merit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [3:00 PM]

YES: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, Papalimu, Sabas, Curtis

NO: McAdam, Osterkamp

Commissioner Cushnie moved to refer Doug Pasnik's complaint, referenced in agenda item VII(b) Formal Complaints ECC-25-006, to the Attorney General for investigation to determine whether the complaint has merit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [3:03 PM]

YES: Andrion, Apana, Cushnie, Papalimu, Sabas, Curtis

NO: McAdam, Osterkamp

Commissioner Cushnie voiced support for the motion, saying the Commission should be able to review return identification envelope images to verify whether they were mailed, noting that these envelopes are public information.

Commissioner Andrion asked DAG Ching whether the Commission had subpoena authority. DAG Ching explained that subpoenas apply only during evidentiary hearings tied to investigations. Following this, Commissioner Cushnie clarified that the motion sought the images through a request, not a subpoena.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to request from the County of Hawaii the wet envelope images when the envelopes were signature verified. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kamm. [3:06 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Papalimu

NO: Apana, McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

ABSTAIN: Sabas

VIII. Adjournment [3:12 PM]

Chair Curtis adjourned the meeting at 3:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Noel', is positioned above the printed name.

Nicole Noel  
Elections Commission Secretary

DRAFT

FROM: Peter F. Young, Chair & Commissioner  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission / Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)  
Anita Aquino, Member & Commissioner  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission / Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)  
Lindsay Kamm, Member (Outside Appointment)  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission / Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)

TO: Michael Curtis, Chair  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission

SUBJECT: Report on the Investigation into State and Kauai County Compliance with  
HAR 3-177 and Discrepancies in Ballot Counts and Recommendations to  
the State of Hawai'i Elections Commission

DATE: July 13, 2025

This is a report of the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), which concludes:

- The complaints regarding chain of custody and election result discrepancies on Kauai are valid.
- No logs or records complying with HAR 3-177-453 (b) requiring "The clerk shall maintain a complete and current count of all mark sense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county" were received from the County of Kauai.
- The count - based on scans of ballot envelopes into the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) - is not reconciled with any manual counts and is not verifiable.
- The number of mail-in ballots increased from the number collected (26,633 less 219 rejected in signature verification as reported by the County, but not officially) to the final number counted on Kauai (27,075 - as officially reported by the State). No plausible explanation for the increase of 661 ballots was offered by Chief Election Officer Scott Nago or the Kauai County Clerk.

### **PIG Investigation Summary**

The Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) was formed at the March 19, 2025 meeting of the Elections Commission with three members: Peter Young (Chair & Commissioner), Anita Aquino (Member & Commissioner), and Lindsay Kamm (citizen member). Its charge was to collect information to validate complaints regarding chain of custody and election results discrepancies on Kauai, then to present its findings and make recommendations back to the State of Hawai'i Elections Commission.



On March 17, 2025, Chief Election Officer Scott Nago wrote to the Elections Commission stating that, despite inquiries, “election officials, at all levels, work with the utmost integrity and dignity to ensure secure and accurate elections.” He also stated that the division of election responsibilities between the counties and the State is meant to prevent fraud. He further explained that the various checks and balances that assure an honest and accurate election may not be visible to an observer and may occur at some other point in time. The PIG recognizes the excellent work of the various election units throughout the State and commend their continued efforts to improve the processes involved in State of Hawai‘i [various] elections each year.

On April 11, 2025, the PIG sent letters to Mr. Nago and the County Clerk requesting the daily records of the number of ballot envelopes received by the counties, the number verified, and the number transferred to the Counting Centers. The PIG asked the Clerk to demonstrate how they fulfilled HAR 3-177-453, which specifies,

*“The clerk shall maintain a complete and current count of all mark sense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county. The accounting of mark sense ballots by the clerk shall be recorded on forms prescribed by the chief election officer.”*

Over the last three months, the PIG has had several written exchanges with Chief Election Officer Nago, Kauai County Clerk Jade Fountain-Tanigawa, and Kauai Deputy Clerk Lyndon Yoshioka. Both offices have responded to our requests, furnished documents, and offered explanations.

They have not, however, provided a clear understanding of how the checks and balances work, nor have they removed doubt about the integrity of the election procedures. The PIG did not receive documents that comply with the law cited above. There are discrepancies in the processes for us to have full confidence in 1) the County of Kauai’s ballot envelope count (manual hand-count vs. official count), or 2) the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS).

Specifically, the number of ballot envelopes increased from the number collected (26,633) to the number transferred to the Counting Center (26,954) after the 219 ballot envelopes that did not pass signature verification were removed. Both these counts are less than the total mail-in ballots counted on Kauai as reported by the State (27,075). Lyndon Yoshioka’s response to four separate questions is that

*“Any perceived inconsistency or correction within the manual hand-counts of return identification envelopes is irrelevant to the official election results, as they do not represent the official count.”*

While this quote is true to fact, it does leave the PIG members trying to understand why there is a manual hand-count if it is “irrelevant” and why this manual hand-count discrepancy is not noted throughout the County’s documentation to address this confusion. The word “irrelevant” is off-putting to the members of the PIG.

The breakdown with the County occurs because all the documents that record the number of ballot envelopes received from the post office and collected from the ballot boxes have a disclaimer printed on them:

*Figures in this spreadsheet represent a manual count of envelopes – not the number of ballots counted. This spreadsheet was created for internal purposes to track election progress with the understanding that it would not match official election results.*

If this manual hand-count is not official, providing a full explanation at each hand-count iteration would address this discrepancy from the counts that are official. The PIG could not find any iterative explanation between the manual hand-count and the official count. There appears to be no inventory control of ballot envelopes, and the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) logs are electronic and unverifiable by the PIG. Although the law clearly makes the Counties responsible for this task and the State assures the people that there is a chain of custody in which every ballot envelope is accounted for, there remain questions. In addition, the law does not provide for Official Observers outside of the Counting Room; if they are allowed to observe ballot envelope collection or signature verification, it is as a courtesy.

Mr. Nago stated in his letter to the PIG on April 25, 2025:

*“Overall, the structure of sharing responsibilities between entities (State and County) creates natural checks and balances such as the comparison of the number of voters who cast their vote in the election -maintained by the County Clerk, to the number of voted ballots counted – compiled by the Office of Elections.”*

In theory, it sounds valid, but in practice, there is no reconciliation between the two. One would expect the number of signature-verified ballot envelopes in SVRS to equal the number delivered to the Counting Center, but neither of those numbers are provided in real time, nor are they official. Mr. Nago states that the official count begins when the ballot envelopes are scanned by the Counties and recorded in the SVRS. This, then, is where the chain of custody begins, but there are opportunities to remove or add ballot envelopes prior to scanning.

## **PIG Recommendations**

Having concluded our investigation, the PIG's recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Hold the State and County officials accountable for what happened during the 2024 General Election:
  - a. From the County, request an official audit of ballot envelopes from the collection points to the transfer to the Counting Center.
  - b. From the State, request an official audit to confirm that the State has 27,075 mail-in paper ballots in its possession.
  - c. Hold a hearing to address the State and County elections officials about how the total number of mail-in ballots counted on Kauai grew to 27,075. This is in keeping with 3-170-9: "The elections commission may convene a public hearing to receive evidence and to solicit public comment concerning the investigation. Such a public hearing will be held within a reasonable time after the elections commission has completed its investigation."
- 2) Request that efforts be made to modify the administration of elections in the future and change the rules to ensure:
  - a. Counties keep an accurate official daily count of ballot envelopes collected and received and publish a summary of the same. Any discrepancies between manual hand-count and official count be explained and attached to all summary statements of an election. This is not irrelevant.
  - b. Allow Official Observers to be present for collection of ballot envelopes from ballot boxes and the sign-off on the numbers recorded.
  - c. Allow Official Observers to be present for all steps of Signature Verification and sign-off on results.
  - d. Counties keep an official record of the number of ballot envelopes that do not pass signature verification each day and publish a chart summarizing those numbers.
  - e. Counties keep an official count of ballot envelopes transported to the County Centers and publish those counts. These counts should be included in any manual hand-count vs. official count discrepancy reports that are attached to any election summary report.

FROM: Dylan Andrion, Chair & Commissioner  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission/Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)  
Lindsay Kamm, Commissioner  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission/Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)  
Ralph Cushnie, Commissioner  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission/Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)

TO: Michael Curtis, Chair  
State of Hawai'i Elections Commission

SUBJECT: Report on complaints relating to the chain of custody of election ballots  
and reported irregularities in the administration of the  
2024 General Election

DATE: August 27, 2025

## **Major Findings:**

- 1) Hawai'i's Election results based on electronic records are unverifiable. Election officials withhold the underlying daily data — ballot counts, over-under reports, signature verification logs, and audit data — preventing independent verification.
- 2) None of the four County Clerk offices have provided “chain-of-custody” records that comply with HAR §3-177-453, and there were more ballots counted in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) than counties reported collecting.
- 3) The Office of Elections misleads the public about ballot security and the integrity of elections.
- 4) The Chief Election Officer did not certify the 2024 General Election results in accordance with the requirements of HRS §11-155.
- 5) The Elections Commission and the Deputy Attorney General's office suppressed complaints and evidence of malfeasance.

## **Introduction**

On July 16, 2025, the Hawai'i State Elections Commission voted to establish a Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G.) to investigate matters relating to the chain of

custody of ballots and reported irregularities in the administration of the 2024 General Election.

The scope of the P.I.G. investigation was defined as follows:

(A) To investigate complaints relating to the chain of custody of election ballots. These concerns include similar issues that were considered by the Hawai'i Supreme Court in *SCEC-24-0000797*.

(B) To investigate claims of intentional malfeasance by County and State Clerks and Elections Officers during the Kauai County Councilmember race in the 2024 General Election.

The P.I.G. consists of three members of the Hawai'i State Elections Commission:

- Commissioner Dylan Andrion (Chair)
- Commissioner Lindsay Kamm
- Commissioner Ralph Cushnie

Our findings are made in reference to several statutes and administrative rules that are included in an Addendum at the end of this report for reference.

## Discussion of Major Findings

**1) Electronic records—including certified election results, over-under reports, signature verification, and audits conducted using ballot images—are not verifiable.**

The P.I.G. investigation found that the State's reliance on electronic records for election reporting, reconciliation, signature verification, and auditing cannot be independently verified.

Freedom of Information (Uniform Information Practices Act, UIPA) requests were submitted seeking access to the State's electronic election records, including:

- ballot images generated by the voting system,
- the electronic over/under reconciliation reports,
- audit documentation used to certify election results, and
- daily records from the SVRS.

All these requests were denied. The Office of Elections has consistently refused to release underlying electronic data, citing security concerns, while providing only summary reports. Receiving an electronic report without independent authentication

does not satisfy the requirement to maintain a complete and current count, nor does it ensure the reliability and validity of election results.

Furthermore, requests for third-party inspection of the electronic voting machines were denied. Without the ability for independent experts to review the hardware, software, and audit logs of the systems, there is no way to verify that the tabulation process was free from manipulation or error. These denials prevent the public, the Elections Commission, and independent experts from confirming that:

- the certified vote totals matched the actual votes cast,
- the over/under reports accurately reconciled the ballots received and ballots counted,
- signature verification was conducted properly, and
- ballot image audits were conducted properly.

Reliance on electronic systems without independent oversight or public access to records creates a “black box” system that cannot be validated. This lack of transparency undermines public trust in the election process and leaves unresolved questions about the accuracy and reliability of the reported results.

**2) None of the four County Clerk offices have provided records that comply with HAR §3-177-453, and there were more ballots counted in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) than counties reported collecting.**

Our review of records shows that the number of ballot envelopes reported in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) exceeds the number of envelopes that were collected by Kauai County and Hawai'i County. There is no lawful mechanism under Hawai'i election law for the number of ballot envelopes to increase after collection. The number of envelopes can only decrease due to:

- a non-matching signature,
- an envelope containing an incorrect ballot,
- an envelope containing no ballot, or
- an envelope containing multiple ballots.

The absence of daily collection records from Honolulu and Maui, combined with unexplained post-collection increases in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) for Kauai and Hawai'i, constitutes a clear violation of HAR §3-177-453 and renders mail-in voting unverifiable.

**a. The County of Hawai'i reported 19,042 fewer ballot envelopes collected than mail-in ballots counted by the State.**

In the 2024 General Election, official records from Hawai'i County show that:

- 27,912 ballots were collected from official drop boxes (2024 General Election Drop Box Logs)
- 29,641 ballots were received from the United States Postal Service (2024 General Election BRM Receipts)
- Total physical collections: 57,553 ballot envelopes

However, the State's General Election 2024 Summary Report lists 76,595 mail-in ballots counted for Hawai'i County, which is 19,042 more ballots than the number of ballot envelopes collected. These additional ballots appear in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) without any physical paper trail, raising questions about where they came from and if they even exist.

When candidate Keikilani Ho asked about this discrepancy, Hawai'i County Elections Program Administrator Cori Saiki responded: "USPS doesn't always provide us with receipts which is the difference in the envelope count you are inquiring about. Our office manually counts all election envelopes received daily via USPS, drop boxes, email, and voter service centers. Be assured we can account for all envelopes we receive (email dated January 8, 2025)."

Despite these assurances, no County records have been provided that account for the 76,595 mail-in ballots reported by the State. It is not enough for Hawai'i County Clerk Jon Henricks to maintain "No such discrepancy existed or exists (Letter of July 25, 2025)." It should be a simple matter to provide the records and satisfy the statutory requirements.

**b. The County of Kaua'i reported different collection totals on different dates and amended its records with no explanation.**

The P.I.G. investigation into the 2024 General Election uncovered significant discrepancies in Kaua'i County's ballot counts as well as altered collection records.

On November 21, Kaua'i County reported 23,303 ballot envelopes received from drop boxes and the USPS. On November 13, however, the State reported 27,075 mail ballots counted, resulting in a difference of 3,772.

On December 4, 2024, Kaua'i County produced a chart showing 26,633 mail ballot envelopes collected from both drop boxes and USPS, an increase of 3,330. On the first report, zero ballot envelopes were recorded from USPS on

October 22, 2024, but this figure was changed to 3,004 and added to the total without any signature, date, or explanation. A partial explanation was offered by Deputy County Clerk Lyndon Yoshioka in his response to the P.I.G.'s inquiries on August 8, 2025. In that letter he wrote:

The USPS count for October 22, 2024, was inadvertently omitted when the form was initially completed. By the time the staff noticed that the count was missing, the 2-part NCR form had already been separated and it was only written onto one copy of the form. Additionally, counts recorded on collection forms are routinely corrected if a discrepancy is identified between the actual quantity of envelopes collected and the corresponding number recorded on a form.

On July 29, 2025, in his response to the P.I.G., Chief Elections Officer Nago stated the Kaua'i total was 26,533, with no comment about reducing the total from 26,633 to 26,533. He neglected to explain that the collection for Hanalei Neighborhood Center on November 5 had been mistakenly recorded as 188, when it should have been 88, and he was correcting it after eight months.

Taking the County's last revised total of 26,533 and subtracting 219 ballot envelopes removed for non-matching signatures, the resulting total is 26,314 ballot envelopes. This is 761 ballots fewer than the 27,075 reported by the State.

The P.I.G. uncovered additional discrepancies. The P.I.G. requested receipts from USPS for the ballot envelopes returned to the voter service center on Kauai. On at least two occasions, the USPS numbers do not match the numbers recorded on the County's summary chart. As mentioned above, the County recorded (after the fact) 3,004 return envelopes on October 22, but the USPS receipt is for only 2,279 – a difference of 725. On November 5, the County recorded 985 ballot envelopes from USPS, but the receipt was for 655 – a difference of 330.

Kaua'i County has a disclaimer printed on all its collection forms. The disclaimer on the Envelope Counts spreadsheet states, "Figures in this spreadsheet represent a manual count of envelopes – not the number of ballots counted. This spreadsheet was created for internal purposes to track election progress with the understanding that it would not match official election results." It is understood that the number of envelopes collected will not equal the number of ballots counted, but it defies reason to transfer more ballot envelopes than were collected. Even if the reports were only for internal purposes, we expect the



County to explain where the extra ballots came from. The P.I.G. expects a verifiable paper audit trail that reconciles as follows:

- The number of ballot envelopes collected from drop boxes
- + The number of ballot envelopes from USPS
- The number of envelopes that fail signature verification
- = The number of mail-in envelopes delivered to the Counting Center

The misleading “unofficial” records from Kaua’i County undermine its credibility and fail to account for anything.

**c. The County of Maui provided no records documenting the number of ballot envelopes collected or transported, as required by HAR §3-177-453.**

In a letter dated March 17, 2025, Chief Election Officer Scott Nago admitted (page 5) that documentation concerning the transfer of validated mail ballot envelopes from Maui County to the State Counting Center was missing. Mr. Nago attributed the absence of records to “human error” caused by the volume of forms and documents handled during the election, and he asserted that this omission was “not indicative of a systemic issue or breach in the security of the ballots,” emphasizing that election processes are “purposefully layered for redundancies.” Nago downplayed the seriousness and dismissed the consequences of missing records.

While Mr. Nago further insisted that “the county clerks maintain a record of the number of envelopes accepted through the statewide voter registration system on a regular (e.g., daily) basis,” none of those records have been made available to the P.I.G. This lack of public transparency and failure to provide a verifiable paper audit trail directly contravenes HAR §3-177-453, which requires that county clerks “maintain a complete and current count of all marksense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county” and that this accounting be properly documented. Without such documentation, there is no way to confirm that the ballots counted at the State level correspond to ballot envelopes physically collected in Maui County. While Mr. Nago claimed that layers of redundancy protect the integrity of the mail-in voting process, the actual safeguards written into the law were ignored, thereby undermining confidence in election integrity.

**d. The City and County of Honolulu provided no records documenting the number of ballot envelopes collected or transported.**

The P.I.G. investigation determined that the City and County of Honolulu failed to provide detailed records documenting the number of ballot envelopes collected at each drop box during the 2024 General Election.

Although Honolulu election officials maintained internal forms indicating that ballot envelopes were picked up from drop boxes, these forms did not include the number of envelopes collected from each location. The lack of specific counts defeats the purpose of having a chain-of-custody record, which is to create a verifiable and continuous record of the number of ballot envelopes collected at each stage of handling, as required by statute HAR §3-177-453.

During the election, observer Jaimie Detwiler questioned why these numbers were not being recorded. She was told by Honolulu election officials that there was not enough time or manpower to count the envelopes collected from the drop boxes. This response indicates that the statutory requirement for documentation was knowingly set aside, providing another example of how the officials choose not to follow the law.

The failure to record counts for each drop box location undermines the ability to reconcile the total number of mail ballot envelopes collected with the number of ballots ultimately counted. Without these records, it is impossible to confirm that the vote totals reported for the City and County of Honolulu are accurate.

### 3) The Office of Elections has misled the public about ballot security and the integrity of mail-in voting.

The Office of Elections addresses voters' concerns on its website in a Q&A section that assures voters that their mail-in ballots are secure. One of the questions is, "How do you ensure election officials don't throw away ballots or add ballots?" The answer: "Ballots are **always** transported and processed in the presence of Official Observers. Official Observers serve as the 'eyes and ears' of the public and monitor that election officials are maintaining the security and integrity of the elections. Additionally, the number of ballots received and counted are reconciled **at the end of each day** to ensure there are no discrepancies." [emphasis added]

Election Security Q&A Guidance from the Office of Elections implies that Official Observers are present whenever ballot envelopes are handled, but Scott Nago explained in his letter of April 25 to the former P.I.G. that "the designation of Official Observers applies specifically to the handling of voted ballots as they are opened and

processed at the Counting Center. This is in contrast to the broad observation of election procedures, some of which may occur outside of the counting center and be under the purview of the County Clerks.” The P.I.G. emphasizes that the collecting, counting, handling, and packing of mail-in ballot envelopes by the counties is not subject to Official Observers. Sometimes a county will grant Official Observers access as a courtesy, but it is not required by law and does not happen routinely. The representation on the Office of Elections website is untrue.

It is also untrue that “the number of ballots received and counted are reconciled at the end of each day to ensure there are no discrepancies.” Clearly, this does not happen, as evidenced in the multiple reports from Kauaʻi County discussed above. In addition, the City and County of Honolulu and Maui County did not maintain any daily records of the number of ballot envelopes collected, as reported above. Hawaiʻi County also delivered reports that revealed discrepancies, but there was no reconciliation “at the end of each day.”

The language on the website refers to the meaning of HAR §3-177-453, which states “All ballots shall be safeguarded to prevent mishandling or misuse.” If there is no record of the ballots until the envelopes are scanned into SVRS, there is nothing to prevent mishandling or misuse. There are not multiple ways to interpret this language, yet Kauaʻi Deputy County Clerk Lyndon Yoshioka wrote: “For the record, the State and Counties fulfill requirements of HAR §3-177-453(b) through TotalVote, the statewide voter registration system and system of record for maintaining the complete and current count of ballots issued, spoiled, and received by the County (Letter dated August 8, 2025).” These electronic records, however, are summaries, and ballot envelopes can be in a county’s possession for days or weeks before a summary report is created. The count is not current, and on any given day it is not complete. For example, the first day ballot envelopes were received on Kauaʻi was October 18, 2024, when they recorded 81 envelopes from USPS. But the first date of an Envelope Transfer Form, which is based on scanning the envelopes into the system, was October 26, 2024. So, there was no “complete and current count” for eight days.

The members of this P.I.G. join the many citizens who have testified at Elections Commission meetings in expecting that “a complete and current count of marksense ballots” consists of paper records that tally the number of ballot envelopes or ballots at various points of collection or transfer. The purpose of this paper trail is to document that there has not been any tampering of ballots.

It is not known what happens in the County Clerk's office, but it is presumed that someone feeds the ballot envelopes into a scanner that records the voter information and assesses the signature, thereby creating a baseline for "a complete and current count." But there are problems with this methodology: a) the envelopes have already been collected or delivered, handled, and counted before they are scanned, and b) those electronic records can only be accessed by staff and cannot be verified by anyone else. In other words, there is NO transparency and NO accountability.

The P.I.G. sees discrepancies between the manual counts provided by Kaua'i and Hawai'i Counties and the ballots counted by the State, while the Office of Elections and the County Clerks maintain there are no discrepancies. This argument could be settled if the Office of Elections and the County Clerks would release the records to the Commission. There is no justification for suppressing the records. Officials presume exclusive control over the records and act as though the public has no right to the underlying truth. Continuing to insist that it doesn't matter how many envelopes were collected from the drop boxes or delivered by USPS will not satisfy the public's demand for verification.

#### **4) The P.I.G. investigation concluded that the Chief Election Officer did not certify the 2024 General Election results in accordance with the requirements of HRS §11-155.**

Despite the requirements of HRS §11-155 Certification of results of election (see Addendum), the Chief Election Officer certified the 2024 election results without reconciling the documented discrepancies in ballot counts between the counties and the State, without producing a paper trail, and without making the overage/underage report available for public inspection in a timely and transparent manner.

Ralph Cushnie challenged the Kaua'i election results in a case filed at the Hawai'i Supreme Court on November 25. On the same day, Scott Nago certified the election. On December 2, before the case was even heard, the Kaua'i County Clerk certified the County Council election and administered oaths of office at an inauguration ceremony. On December 18, the County Council met and conducted business, and it was not until December 20 that the Supreme Court dismissed the case. When questioned about certifying the election before "the expiration of time for bringing an election contest," the County Clerk wrote that the Councilmembers' certificates were withheld until after the judgment on December 20. That seems a moot point, considering that the Council was sworn in, attended meetings, and conducted business.

Significantly, it was not until March 17, 2025—months after the election had been certified—that the Chief Election Officer admitted in writing to the Elections Commission that Maui County had failed to produce the required records documenting ballot collections and transfers. This admission demonstrates that the certification of the election was completed without knowledge of whether Maui County’s statutory documentation requirements had been met, in direct conflict with the reconciliation process mandated by HRS §11-155.

#### **5) The Elections Commission and the Deputy Attorney General’s office suppressed complaints and evidence of malfeasance.**

The P.I.G. investigation has documented a pattern of suppression of complaints, denial of access to evidence, and obstruction of oversight by the Office of Elections, the Attorney General’s (AG) office assigned to the Office of Elections, and the Attorney General’s (AG) office assigned to the Elections Commission.

Records reviewed by the P.I.G. show that the Deputy Attorney General’s office consistently advises against transparency by issuing legal opinions that restrict public access to key election records. Notably, the DAG’s office has authorized and defended the redaction of email communication among the Chair of the Elections Commission, Chief Election Officer Scott Nago, and staff of the Office of Elections. These redactions have been claimed under attorney–client privilege, even though it is the Elections Commission, not the Chair, that is the client. This interpretation has been repeatedly used to shield discussions and decision-making from both commissioners and the public.

Even though the duties of the Elections Commission, pursuant to HRS § 11-7.5(3), include investigating and holding hearings for receiving evidence of violations and complaints, a majority of commissioners have consistently voted “NO” on motions to investigate complaints submitted by members of the public. Despite repeated public requests for investigation, numerous complaints have been left unresolved. The formation of this P.I.G. was long overdue, and we are grateful for the opportunity to conduct this investigation.

## **Recommendations**

- 1) An external, independent manual audit of all ballot envelopes, USPS receipts, and mail-in ballots is required to reconcile ballot discrepancies for the 2024 General Election.**

The P.I.G. investigation concludes that Hawai'i's election oversight structure is fundamentally incapable of self-policing. We recommend an external audit be conducted by an independent, non-government body to the same standards as apply to financial institutions. Prior to the audit, all records must remain in storage and out of reach of any officials or staff. This audit should consist of manual counts of:

- ballot envelopes for each county,
- USPS receipts for each county, and
- mail-in ballots for each county.

The audit should also include an examination of the signatures on the ballot envelopes compared to official signatures of record.

## **2) Return to in-person voting on paper ballots on Election Day.**

After studying the pitfalls associated with mail-in voting, the P.I.G. does not recommend trying to bolster the mail-in voting model in an effort to improve accountability and transparency. Modifying the system will require trial and error that will take years to accomplish. Rather, the P.I.G. recommends that the State of Hawai'i return to in-person voting with paper ballots on Election Day for the following reasons:

- Mail-in voting was supposed to be conducted only by Kaua'i County in 2020 as a trial, but due to COVID, it was expanded to the entire State. As an experiment, it has failed because the elections are unverifiable. The laws that were designed to secure the validity and reliability of mail-in voting have been routinely ignored or re-interpreted rather than followed to the letter.
- One of the arguments in favor of mail-in voting was that it would increase participation, but that has not been the case. These are statistics from the Office of Elections:

2016	34%
2018	38%
2020	51%
2022	39%
2024	32%

With the exception of 2020, when we were in lockdown, there was no significant difference in participation between in-person voting and mail-in voting.

- Returning to in-person voting on Election Day will eliminate the need for staff to collect from the drop boxes and to man the Voter Service Center.
- Returning to in-person voting does away with relying on USPS to deliver the bulk of the envelopes. As was noted above in the section about the County of Hawai'i, USPS has sometimes failed to produce receipts for return mail delivered.

- When people vote in person, their signatures are verified on the spot, eliminating the need to scan ballot envelopes and rely on computer algorithms. Signature verification has proven to be a time-consuming bottleneck on election day, delaying the election results until the following day.
- When people vote in person, transparency is assured because Observers watch ballots counted and recorded at the precincts and delivered to the Counting Center, where irregularities can be addressed on the spot using the voter verifiable paper audit trail.
- Election Day is already a state holiday that entitles citizens to vote in person.

### 3) **Terminate the employment of Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago.**

The P.I.G. refers to HRS §19-3. Election frauds:

The following persons shall be deemed guilty of election fraud

(8) Every public officer by law required to do or perform any act or thing with reference to any of the provisions in any law concerning elections who wilfully fails, neglects, or refuses to do or perform the same, or who is guilty of any wilful violation of any of the provisions thereof.

The Chief Elections Officer fails, neglects, or refuses to adhere to the law. The Chief Elections Officer does not comply with statutes and administrative rules for election reporting. His defense of missing records, non-standard procedures, and local variation in maintaining paper logs indicates a tolerance for deviating from the law. His posture raises serious concerns, as the law has clearly mandated procedures.

The P.I.G. refers to HRS §11-98 - Forms and materials used in elections:

Books, blanks, records, certificates, and other forms and materials required by this title shall be of uniform character suitable for the voting system in use and shall be prescribed by the chief election officer after consultation with the clerks involved.

Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago has asserted that the “forms” used to track the ballots are electronic, as opposed to physical, verifiable forms. He also admits that “In terms of the documentation of transfer, *each county does it in their own way* (emphasis added).” Rather than enforcing a standardized, verifiable paper trail, Nago tolerates and even defends a patchwork of different practices including no record-keeping at all.

The P.I.G. refers to HRS §11-155 Certification of results of election.

On receipt of certified tabulations from the election officials concerned, the chief election officer in a state election, or county clerk in a county election, shall compile, certify, and release the election results by district and precinct after the expiration of the time for bringing an election contest.

As outlined above in section 4, Mr. Nago certified the election while the results of that election were being challenged in the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Several months later, he also admitted that Maui County had failed to produce the required records documenting ballot collections and transfers.

The P.I.G. refers to The P.I.G. refers to HRS §11-2 Chief election officer; duties.

(a) The chief election officer shall supervise all state elections.

As the head of the mail-in voting system, Nago has created a culture of “us versus them” (officials versus public) that is also manifested at the County level. He creates controversy over simple requests for information and suppresses the facts from the public. The officials seem to think they only need to satisfy themselves about election accuracy. They feel free not to produce records or to explain them, and the rest of us are expected to take their word for it.

The P.I.G. recommends that the Elections Commission recruit a new Chief Elections Officer who would enthusiastically rebuild the Office of Elections to serve the public and restore its trust.

## **Addendum**

### **HAR §3-177-453 Accountability and security of ballots.**

*The chief election officer or designated representative shall maintain a complete count of marksense ballots. All ballots shall be safeguarded to prevent mishandling or misuse.*

*(b) The clerk shall maintain a complete and current count of all marksense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county. The accounting of marksense ballots by the clerk shall be recorded on forms prescribed by the chief election officer.*

### **HRS §16-41 Definitions.**

*“Voter verifiable paper trail” means the paper record that constitutes a complete record of ballot selections that is verified by the voter. The record may also be used to assess the accuracy of the voting machine’s electronic record and to verify election results.*

### **HRS §11-98 Forms and materials used in elections.**



*Books, blanks, records, certificates, and other forms and materials required by this title shall be of uniform character suitable for the voting system in use and shall be prescribed by the chief election officer after consultation with the clerks involved.*

**HRS §11-96 Records prima facie evidence.**

*Every record made pursuant to law by a board of registration of voters, or the precinct officials, shall be a prima facie evidence of the facts therein set forth, and shall be received as such in any court or tribunal in which the same is offered in evidence.*

**HRS §11-155 Certification of results of election**

*On receipt of certified tabulations from the election officials concerned, the chief election officer in a state election, or county clerk in a county election, shall compile, certify, and release the election results by district and precinct after the expiration of the time for bringing an election contest. The certification shall be based on a comparison and reconciliation of the following:*

- (1) The results of the canvass of ballots conducted pursuant to chapter 16;*
- (2) The audit of records and resultant overage and underage report;*
- (3) The audit results of the manual audit team;*
- (4) The results of any mandatory recount of votes conducted pursuant to section 11-158; and*
- (5) All logs, tally sheets, and other documents generated during the election and in the canvass of the election results.*

**HRS §19-3. Election frauds.**

*The following persons shall be deemed guilty of election fraud*

- (8) Every public officer by law required to do or perform any act or thing with reference to any of the provisions in any law concerning elections who wilfully fails, neglects, or refuses to do or perform the same, or who is guilty of any wilful violation of any of the provisions thereof.*

# State of Hawaii Elections Commission

## Permitted Interaction Group

### *Report on Purported Big Island Ballot Discrepancy*

September 29, 2025

Jeffrey M. Osterkamp, Chair/Commissioner

Clare McAdam, Member/Commissioner

Kahiolani Papalimu, Member/Commissioner

This permitted interaction group, at the request of the full State of Hawaii Elections Commission, hereby reports on its investigation into a purported discrepancy of more than 19,000 ballots between two different means of calculating ballots received by the County of Hawai‘i (the “**County**”) for the 2024 general election.

In short, we find a complete lack of credible evidence to support the claim of a significant ballot discrepancy. The claim—which depends on a comparison between the State-certified vote totals and the postal receipts for the ballot envelopes—is unfounded, because the County does not have, and has never claimed to have, complete records of the postal receipts. Further, neither the State of Hawai‘i (the “**State**”) nor the County purports to rely on postal receipts to validate vote counts, so they cannot reasonably be expected to have compiled this information. Instead, the State and the counties rely on their own tabulations of return identification envelopes. The Big Island’s envelope tally closely matches its ballot count.

We also reject any contention that the County is obligated to produce its confidential voter files in order to rebut an erroneous analysis. We have witnessed an unfortunate presumption in some quarters that any allegations of electoral wrongdoing are accurate unless disproven. As these allegations lack an apparent basis, we do not believe that the County is required to take additional steps.

#### **Background**

Based on records from the County, the State reported receiving 76,595 mail-in ballots, and included that number in its certified totals of the 2024 general election. (Appendix 1.)<sup>1</sup> The Big Island’s count of return identification envelopes was 76,587, an eight-ballot difference. (Appendix 2, p. 6.) However, Commissioner Ralph Cushnie represented that receipts of United States Postal Service (“**USPS**”) Business Reply Mail (“**BRM**”) Big Island mail-in envelopes totaled just 57,553. Accordingly, in the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Elections Commission, Commissioner Cushnie moved to form a permitted interaction group to investigate elections results discrepancies

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<sup>1</sup> The 76,595 mail-in ballots, together with 7,091 in-person ballots, comprised the Big Island “total turnout” of 83,686.

on the Big Island. (Appendix 3 at p. 5.) Commissioners Osterkamp, McAdam and Papalimu were appointed to the PIG. (Appendix 3 at p. 6.)

We are and were unaware of any purported Big Island elections results discrepancies other than the claims put forth by Commissioner Cushnie. Nevertheless, in a July 11, 2025 letter from our chair to Hawai'i County Clerk Jon Henricks, we requested, among other things, "[a]ny complaints received by your office concerning purported Hawai'i Island election ballot reporting inconsistencies, including with respect to a claimed 19,000 vote surplus." (Appendix 4.)

In an August 1, 2025 letter, Mr. Henricks responded by identifying no "complaints," but, apparently in the interest of transparency, he provided copies of email messages from three individuals requesting information about the purported 19,000 ballot discrepancy. (Appendix 5.) Mr. Henricks summarized his analysis of that issue as follows:

Our office was aware that concerns of discrepancies arose from an erroneous analysis utilizing Business Reply Mail (BRM) statements to determine the amount of ballot packet envelopes received by the County of Hawai'i via USPS. The County does not use BRM statements to reconcile ballot envelope counts. The process used to reconcile relies solely on cross checks with the voter registration system and the ballot counting system.

(Appendix 5 at p. 1, #2.)

On August 31, 2025, however, Commissioner Cushnie repeated his claim in an email to the Office of Elections. (Appendix 6.)<sup>2</sup> Commissioner Cushnie attached several documents, including apparent printouts of the daily USPS records of Big Island BRM envelopes (Appendix 7) and a spreadsheet that purports to tabulate the ballots received by the Big Island per day, both by dropbox location and by mail (Appendix 8).

### **Analysis**

Following a review of the above-referenced records and an interview of Mr. Henricks, this permitted interaction group has determined that no credible evidence exists to support the claim of a significant discrepancy in the Big Island general election totals. The USPS receipt totals plainly are incomplete. Further, as Mr. Henricks confirmed, the County has never relied on BRM receipts for its ballot count, so did not attempt to fully compile them. The BRM receipt tabulations provided to the County therefore are not, and were never intended to be, an accurate characterization of the County's mail-in votes.

The Big Island, like other counties, tabulates ballots by entering the information into the statewide voter registration system ("SVRS"), a database that tracks registration and voting. Through the SVRS, the number of return envelopes can be compared to the number of voted ballots. In the words of Chief Election Officer Scott Nago:

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<sup>2</sup> Commissioner Cushnie incorrectly stated in this email that "[t]he State reported counting 76,595 ballots." (Appendix 6.) The State actually reported 76,595 *mail-in* ballots, but a total ballot count of 83,686. (Appendix 1.)

[T]he counties receive, validate, and track return identification envelopes, from voters using the statewide voter registration system. From there, the validated return identification envelopes are transferred to the State-operated counting center to open, process, and count. As voted ballots are processed at the counting center, our office compares the number of return envelopes accounted for in the statewide voter registration system to the number of voted ballots counted by the voting system.

(Appendix 2 at p. 2.)

Further:

The [SVRS] tracks the issuance of ballots for both mail and in-person voting. In terms of mail voting, the return identification envelope includes a barcode with a unique identifier associated with each voter. Return identification envelopes are scanned by the county clerks as part of the validation process and the statewide voter registration system is updated to reflect the receipt of the return identification envelopes. The system can also track other situations. For example, it can track if a previously validly issued ballot needs to be invalidated, such as when a voter changes address and requires a new ballot associated with the contests in their new community to be issued to them and the previously issued ballot to be invalidated.

(Appendix 2 at p. 2.)

Mr. Nago’s explanation indicates that the State already compiles totals of the ballot envelopes as a safeguard. Commissioner Cushnie, despite having access to those totals, sought out a separate source for tabulating ballot envelopes. However, the BRM receipt totals presented by Commissioner Cushnie are substantially incomplete, so do not allow for a valid comparison.

The BRM records encompass October 17, 2024 through November 5, 2024 and include two separate tallies: “Qualified BRM” and “High-Volume Qualified BRM.” (Appendix 7.)<sup>3</sup> Excluding Saturdays and Sundays, the relevant period includes 14 days. (Appendix 8.) Based on collections of both Qualified BRM and High-Volume Qualified BRM each day, 28 separate subtotals were necessary to result in a complete tally. But 10 of the 28 subtotals are absent:

Date	Qualified BRM	High-Volume Qualified BRM
10/17/2024	?	?
10/18/2024	?	1,306
10/21/2024	2,208	?
10/22/2024	?	3,640

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<sup>3</sup> The BRM records do not include the envelopes deposited in County dropboxes—represented by Mr. Cushnie to total 27,912—or ballots completed in-person.

10/23/2024	2,230	2,597
10/24/2024	1,710	1,876
10/25/2024	1,697	1,782
10/28/2024	?	2,691
10/29/2024	?	1,943
10/30/2024	?	1,732
10/31/2024	?	1,373
11/1/2024	?	783
11/4/2024	170	1,470
11/5/2024	90	343

Mr. Henricks, when interviewed for this report, stated that, although the County had received partial BRM totals from the USPS, it had not attempted to compile of them, and that as a result, the BRM numbers did not represent a reliable total. Again, as he stated in his August 1, 2025 response to our records request: “The County does not use BRM statements to reconcile ballot envelope counts. The process used to reconcile relies solely on cross checks with the voter registration system and the ballot counting system.” (Appendix 5 at p. 1.)

Moreover, even if the County or the State chose to collect all of the available BRM receipt totals, it is highly questionable whether they could rely on them. According to an October 10, 2023 Audit Report by the Office of Inspector General entitled “Business Reply Mail Operations,” the USPS’s BRM records system is not trustworthy. (Appendix 9.) In a section entitled “What We Found,” the Inspector General cited “processing delays, insufficient data, and incomplete close-out procedures,” and concluded that “BRM data was also unreliable as ... daily processed and unprocessed volumes were not captured in any system.” (Appendix 9 at p. 1.)

Further, it is not credible to suggest that only 57,553 mail-in ballots were cast in the Big Island 2024 general election. Together with the 7,091 ballots cast in-person, the result would be a total turnout of just 64,644, or less than 48%, far below historic precedent. In presidential elections since 1996, Big Island turnout has averaged 65%, and has never fallen below 58.4% in that time. (Appendix 10.) The actual 2024 Big Island turnout of 62% (Appendix 1) aligns both with precedent and the 2024 statewide turnout of 60.7% (Appendix 11). Accordingly, this permitted interaction group does not believe that common sense warrants accepting incomplete and unreliable USPS data as indicative of a “discrepancy” in the Big Island voting totals.

Finally, we cannot endorse the idea that the County is required to take further steps to disprove the unfounded allegations discussed above. We are aware of assertions that Hawaii Administrative

Rule (“HAR”) § 3-177-453 requires the County to disclose “records”—beyond the tabulation already provided—of ballot envelopes, but that is incorrect. Section 3-177-453 provides only that:

(a) The chief election officer or designated representative shall maintain a complete count of marksense ballots. All ballots shall be safeguarded to prevent mishandling or misuse.

(b) The clerk shall maintain a complete and current count of all marksense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county. The accounting of marksense ballots by the clerk shall be recorded on forms prescribed by the chief election officer.

(Appendix 12.) Nothing in the cited rule requires counties to produce ballot envelopes to the public. Further, this permitted interaction group rejects the notion that unfounded allegations and an erroneous analysis should force the County to do so.

### **Conclusion**

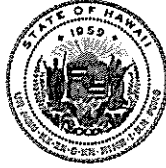
As commissioners, it is appropriate to identify problems that need resolution, but it is also our responsibility not to unnecessarily feed mistrust in voting or otherwise harm the system we oversee. Elections succeed because the citizenry trusts the process. When we encourage voters to pursue conspiracies or to believe that government workers are hiding ballots or creating new ones, we significantly damage the system on which our democracy depends. This permitted interaction group does not pretend that any election is perfect, but can assure the public that, at least in the case of these allegations, the claims of a significant voting discrepancy have no apparent basis.

## **APPENDIX 1**

<i>President and Vice President</i>	<i>State Representative, Dist 6</i>	<i>HAWAII: County Council Vacancy in Office</i>
(D) HARRIS, Kamala D. For PRESIDENT WALZ, Tim For VICE PRESIDENT	(D) KAHALOA, Kirstin (R) MADISON, Sylvie M.	YES NO
(R) TRUMP, Donald J. For PRESIDENT VANCE, JD For VICE PRESIDENT	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:
(G) STEIN, Jill For PRESIDENT WARE, Rudolph For VICE PRESIDENT	<i>State Representative, Dist 7</i>	<i>HAWAII: Mayoral Appointment of Department Heads</i>
(L) OLIVER, Chase For PRESIDENT TER MAAT, Mike For VICE PRESIDENT	(D) LOWEN, Nicole (R) DALHOUSE, Timothy A. (Tim)	YES NO
(SL) DE LA CRUZ, Claudia For PRESIDENT GARCIA, Karina For VICE PRESIDENT	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:
(S) SONSKI, Peter For PRESIDENT ONAK, Lauren For VICE PRESIDENT	<i>State Representative, Dist 8</i>	<i>HAWAII: Term of Office for the Cost of Government Commission</i>
Blank Votes: Over Votes:	(D) TARNAS, David A. (R) PERREIRA, Monique CobbAdams	YES NO
	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:
<i>U.S. Senator</i>	<i>Molokai Resident Trustee</i>	REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT
(D) HIRONO, Mazie K. (R) MCDERMOTT, Bob (G) POHLMAN, Emma Jane Avila (W) BILLIONAIRE, Shelby Pikachu	ALAPA, Luana NIHIPALI, R. Kunani	***** GENERAL *****
Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	TOTAL REGISTRATION TOTAL TURNOUT MAIL TURNOUT IN-PERSON TURNOUT
<i>U.S. Representative, Dist II</i>	<i>Kauai Resident Trustee</i>	
(D) TOKUDA, Jill N. (R) BOND, Steve (L) TOMAN, Aaron (N) MEYER, Randall Kelly	AHUNA, Dan LINDSEY, Laura A.	
Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	
<i>State Senator, Dist 3</i>	<i>At-Large Trustee</i>	
(D) KANUHA, Dru Mamo (R) SULLIVAN, Kurt (Sulli)	AKINA, Keli'i AHU ISA, Lei	
Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	
<i>State Representative, Dist 3</i>	<i>Mayor, County of Hawai'i</i>	
(D) TODD, Christopher L.T. (R) WILSON, Kanoa (L) MARTIN, Austin D. (Shiloh)	ALAMEDA, C. Kimo ROTH, Mitch	
Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	
<i>State Representative, Dist 4</i>	<i>Councilmember, Dist 5, County of Hawai'i</i>	
(D) ILAGAN, Greggor (R) HO, Keikilani	KANEALI'I-KLEINFELDER, Matt RODENHURST, Ikaika	
Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	
<i>State Representative, Dist 5</i>	<i>Councilmember, Dist 9, County of Hawai'i</i>	
(D) KAPELA, Jeanne (R) OYAMA, Ashley (L) FOGEL, Frederick F.	HUSTACE, James E. EVANS, Cindy	
Blank Votes: Over Votes:	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	
	<i>CON. AMEND.: Marriage</i>	
	YES NO	
	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	
	<i>CON. AMEND.: Senate Confirmation Process for Judicial Appointments</i>	
	YES NO	
	Blank Votes: Over Votes:	



## **APPENDIX 2**



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

March 17, 2025

Chair Curtis and Members of the Elections Commission  
c/o Office of Elections  
802 Lehua Avenue  
Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Chair Curtis and Members of the Elections Commission:

Our office has heard various concerns related to the handling of ballots by the county clerks prior to their receipt at our State counting center. They have come in the form of lawsuits, correspondence with our office, and correspondence with the Elections Commission taking issue with various aspects of what these concerns term "chain of custody." In response, our office would like to provide an overview of the roles of the Office of Elections and county clerks, and the associated transfer of materials from the county to the State.

**I. ROLES OF THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS AND THE COUNTY CLERKS**

The roles and responsibilities in the administration of elections in Hawaii are divided between State and county offices.

The Office of Elections is a State agency administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services that provides support to the Chief Election Officer. See HRS § 11-1.5. As provided for in Article IV, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, the Legislature has established specific statutory responsibilities of the Chief Election Officer that are found in Title 2, HRS.

At the county level, there are the county clerks who are appointed by their respective county councils and have duties and responsibilities based on their county charters, along with specific state laws, a significant portion of which involve the conduct of elections.

The regularly scheduled primary election and general election are considered combined federal, state, and county elections in which federal, state, and county contests, along with questions, appear on the same ballot. Since 2020, all elections are

required to be conducted by mail, with accommodations for voting in person at designated voter service centers. See HRS §§ 11-101 and 11-109.

The duties and responsibilities of the Office of Elections and county clerks in these types of elections are primarily summarized in HRS §§ 11-110(b)(1)(A) & (B). Specifically, “[t]he counties shall be responsible for voter registration, absentee voting, voter service centers, places of deposit, and the mailing and receipt of ballots,” while “[t]he State shall be responsible for the printing and counting of ballots. *Id.* The counting of ballots occurs at State counting centers operated by the Office of Elections. See HRS § 16-41. One of the benefits of the roles and responsibilities of election officials being divided is that it naturally establishes checks and balances of the processes such that there is no single entity completing all tasks and reconciliation.

As an example, the counties receive, validate, and track return identification envelopes, from voters using the statewide voter registration system. From there, the validated return identification envelopes are transferred to the State-operated counting center to open, process, and count. As voted ballots are processed at the counting center, our office compares the number of return envelopes accounted for in the statewide voter registration system to the number of voted ballots counted by the voting system.

## II. TRANSFER BETWEEN COUNTY AND STATE

As provided for in HRS § 11-102, election officials “mail a ballot package by non-forwardable mail to each registered voter[.]” except for those who are “identified as having an outdated or non-deliverable mailing address.” The ballot package itself includes: (1) the ballot, (2) return identification envelope; and (3) secrecy sleeve. Voters are also able to choose to vote at a voter service center. See HRS § 11-109.

The statewide voter registration system tracks the issuance of ballots for both mail and in-person voting. In terms of mail voting, the return identification envelope includes a barcode with a unique identifier associated with each voter. Return identification envelopes are scanned by the county clerks as part of the validation process and the statewide voter registration system is updated to reflect the receipt of the return identification envelopes. The system can also track other situations. For example, it can track if a previously validly issued ballot needs to be invalidated, such as when a voter changes address and requires a new ballot associated with the contests in their new community to be issued to them and the previously issued ballot to be invalidated.

For in-person voting, the issuance of a ballot to a voter at a voter service center is tracked by the statewide voter registration system. The voter directly casts the ballot in the voting machine, which scans it and drops it into a secure ballot box. Ballots issued at a voter service center are simultaneously considered received for purposes of the statewide voter registration system in terms of crediting the voter with having voted.

This tracking mechanism in the statewide voter registration system effectuates the language of HAR § 3-177-453(b) (i.e. "The clerk shall maintain a complete and current count of all marksense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county. The accounting of marksense ballots by the clerk shall be recorded on forms prescribed by the chief election officer). In other words, the "form" is electronic in that the county clerks interact with the statewide voter registration system for purposes of tracking the issuance, receipt, and spoiling of ballots.

The validated return identification envelopes are transferred by the county clerks to the State for purposes of opening and counting at the State counting center, along with the ballots that were already processed by the voting machines at the voter service centers. The amount of return identification envelopes and voter service center ballots are known values due to the previously mentioned statewide voter registration system that the county clerks interact with to track the ballots.

While the transfer of return identification envelopes and voter service center ballots is the responsibility of the county clerks, we seek to work collaboratively with their offices to conduct honest and efficient elections. As an outline, first, the county clerks secure the voted materials (e.g., return identification envelopes, voted ballot containers). Second, they transfer these items using Official Observers as witnesses to the State counting center. This typically involves a handoff at the county clerk's office to a team of election officials and Official Observers who take custody of the items.

To emphasize, the counties know the exact number of ballots transferred to the counting center, due to the previously noted statewide voter registration system. In terms of the documentation of the transfer, each county does it in their own way (e.g. some additionally indicate in their documentation the number of envelopes in their documentation, while others do not). The documentation itself consists of either the counties using the State's multi-purpose Certification of Sealing/Unsealing form, which

is a form used within the State's counting center, or creating its own paperwork to accompany the ballots.<sup>1</sup>

At the counting center, the return identification envelopes are opened, and the voted ballots are scanned by the vote counting system and securely stored. However, this does not apply to those having invalid ballot conditions. Invalid ballot conditions which stop a ballot from being counted, such as the envelope or secrecy sleeve is returned without a ballot or the voter returned two voted ballots (e.g. two household members accidentally enclose both of their ballots in a single return identification envelope) are tracked. Ballots invalidated at the counting center are not counted and are securely maintained by the Office of Elections.

### **2024 General Election Seal Certification Forms**

The documents related to the transfer of ballots from the county clerks to our State counting centers are enclosed.

The County of Hawaii used the State's Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing form to transfer materials to the State counting center. The form is a multipurpose form that can be used for various containers and associated content. The Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing documents reflect the documents that a reasonable search of our records have produced that could have been used in connection with the transfer of ballots from the county to the State counting center. All of them have been provided, and they have been bates stamped HAWAII 001 to HAWAII 114.

The County of Maui used the State's Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing form to transfer materials to the State counting center. The form is a multipurpose form that can be used for various containers and associated content. The Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing documents reflect the documents that a reasonable search of our records have produced that could have been used in

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<sup>1</sup> The Certification of Sealing/Unsealing form addresses various procedural matters and is found on pages 33, 51, 57, 83, 100, 108, and 125 of our 2024 Counting Center manual. *Counting Center*, Office of Elections, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024-Counting-Center-manual.pdf>, Accessed 12 Mar. 2025. For example, seals are used in conjunction with the documentation of the sealing and unsealing of the following: (1) ballot transport containers (BTCs); (2) discard boxes; (3) equipment transport containers (ETCs); (4) security cages; (5) voted ballot containers (VBCs); (6) written vDrive cans; and (7) other containers. The contents of these items could include the following: (1) certified results; (2) County USB archives; (3) defective ballots; (4) duplicate ballot stock; (5) invalidated ballots; (6) test ballots; (7) test results; (8) unprocessed control packets; (9) vDrives (blank); (10) vDrives (test & accumulation); (11) vDrives (written & audit); (12) Verity Transmit devices; (13) voted ballots (counted); (14) voted ballots (uncounted); and (15) other items.

connection with the transfer of ballots from the county to the State counting center. All of them have been provided, and they have been bates stamped MAUI 001 to MAUI 036.

Our review of these documents reflected that some of the documents concerning the transfer of validated mail ballots, as opposed to voter service center ballots, that we expected to see were not present and may have been misplaced due to human error. We contacted the County of Maui, and it confirmed the process by which it would use the Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing document each time it sealed validated return identification envelopes for transfer. Likewise, we confirmed with counting center staff that they unsealed the containers and filled out the Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing forms as they had in prior elections. The forms ultimately should have been placed in the cut seals envelope, but our search of those envelopes does not reflect the forms.

We would emphasize that this human error appears to have resulted from the volume of forms and documents handled in the course of the election and is not indicative of a systemic issue or breach in the security of the ballots. Election processes are purposefully layered for redundancies. In this and all instances related to the security of the handling of the return envelopes, the county clerks maintain a record of the number of envelopes accepted through the statewide voter registration system on a regular (e.g., daily) basis. Likewise, our office tracks the number of voted ballots counted by the voting system on the dates of counting.

The County of Kauai used their own forms for the transfer of mail ballots, while using the State's Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing forms for voted ballots from the voter service centers. As such, the county created forms, and all of the Certification of Sealing/Certification of Unsealing forms have been provided. They have been bates stamped KAUAI 001 to KAUAI 023.

The City and County of Honolulu used their own forms for the transfer of mail ballots and voter service center ballots. They have been bates stamped CITY 001 to CITY 159. The documentation of ballots associated with the transfer of mail ballots involved two forms. The first is their seal certification form. To the extent the form indicated a security cage or another container held uncounted ballots from its AIPA location, there was a corresponding form entitled "Mail Ballot Transfer Form," which would repeat the name of the container, indicate the number trays, and state the number of envelopes. This would be followed by a sheet of paper indicating each individual tray and how many envelopes were in each tray. Otherwise, the seal certification form was used to transfer voted ballots from its voter service centers. The form would indicate if the location was Honolulu Hale, Kapolei Hale, Kaneohe District

Park, or Wahiawa District Park. Please note that in relation to Seal No. 2456635 (CITY 156 to CITY 159), while it was originally sealed using the City's form, the unsealing of it was documented on the State's form. Otherwise, the unsealing of the City's ballots at the State counting center was done using the original form that had been used to document the initial sealing.

**2024 General Election Over/Under Report**

Throughout the election, officials regularly track the number of return identification envelopes accounted for in the statewide voter registration system and the number of voted ballots counted by the vote counting system. The final reconciliation, or the Over/Under Report, of the 2 systems is compiled after each election in relation to the certification of the results. The 2024 General Election Over/Under Report is enclosed.

The reconciliation process in which we compare the number of ballots received and validated by the county clerks as documented in the statewide voter registration system against the number of ballots our office counted is one of the safeguards we follow to ensure chain of custody – or the handling, accounting, and security of the ballots. The information in the statewide voter registration system as to who voted is supported by the signed return identification envelopes for all voters who voted by mail and the in-person applications signed by all voters who voted in person. Likewise, the election results are supported by the actual ballots that have been preserved. We would note that the accounting of mail ballots is adjusted to address invalid ballot conditions that were recorded during the ballot opening process at the State counting centers.

As a summary of the 2024 General Election Over/Under report, the table below provides a cumulative comparison on the number of return envelopes received by the county clerk (i.e., Adj. Mail Total, Walk Turnout) as compared to the number of ballots counted at the State-operated counting centers (i.e., Mail Prec. Report, In-Person Prec. Report):

	Adj. Mail Total	Mail Prec. Report	Walk Turnout	In-Person Prec. Report
County of Hawaii	76,587	76,595	7,091	7,091
County of Maui	57,681	57,713	5,860	5,860
County of Kauai	27,050	27,075	3,484	3,491
City and County of Honolulu	321,734	321,695	22,698	22,716

Total (Statewide)	483,052	483,078	39,133	39,158
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### III. CONCLUSION

Recently, the issue of election integrity has been raised by some who allege what they see as “chain of custody” concerns. The processes by which Hawaii election officials maintain “chain of custody” come in many shapes and forms, all of which have merit and credibility. Our election officials, at all levels, work with the utmost integrity and dignity to ensure secure and accurate elections.

Among the allegations is a concern that there is a lack of transparency in the transfer of materials from the county to the State. However, any discussion regarding any alleged risks or opportunities for tampering with our elections first requires an understanding of how our elections operate and the procedures and safeguards that are in place. For example, when someone seeks to review and challenge a single process in isolation, they might not appreciate that the election has to be viewed in totality and that a check may already have been applied or will be conducted later in the process to address the issue they are concerned about. The layered safeguards and intentional checks election officials implement as part of their election processes are meant to work together to prevent and identify issues.

These processes include division of responsibilities between the county clerk and State Office of Elections as well as the tracking, accounting for, and securing ballots by hundreds of county and State election officials and volunteers, statewide. As we strive for excellence with each election, we will continue to work with the county clerks to refine the process of transferring materials between entities.

Finally, we would emphasize that there are provisions to file election contests with the Hawaii Supreme Court to resolve anomalies that challenge the accuracy and integrity of the results. Specifically, complaints in such cases are required to “set forth any cause of causes, such as but not limited to, provable fraud, overages, or underages, that could cause a difference in the election results.” See HRS §11-172. Allegations regarding “chain of custody” must necessarily allege provable fraud, overages, or underages that could cause a difference in the election results.



Elections Commission  
March 17, 2025  
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SCOTT T. NAGO', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SCOTT T. NAGO  
Chief Election Officer

Enclosures

## **APPENDIX 3**



MICHAEL CURTIS  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

## STATE OF HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION

### MINUTES

#### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION

March 19, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Pursuant to Section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Elections Commission (EC) will be meeting remotely using interactive conference technology.

#### Commissioners in Attendance:

Michael Curtis, Chair  
Dylan Andrion  
Anita Aquino  
Ralph Cushnie  
Jeffrey Kuwada  
Clare McAdam  
Jeffrey Osterkamp  
Kahiolani Papalimu

#### Support Staff in Attendance:

Jordan Ching, Department of the Attorney General (AG)  
Jazelle Aolahiko, Office of Elections  
Scott Nago, Office of Elections  
Aaron Schulaner, Office of Elections  
Aulii Tenn, Office of Elections

### PROCEEDINGS

#### I. Call to Order [10:00 a.m.]

The regular meeting of the Elections Commission was called to order by Chair Curtis.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum [10:00 a.m.]

All members of the Elections Commission were present at the meeting with the exception of Commissioner Young.

Commissioner Osterkamp entered the meeting at 10:01 a.m. and Commissioner Kuwada entered the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

III. Approval of the Written Minutes from the January 15, 2025 meeting [10:00 a.m.]

Commissioner McAdam moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie. [10:00 a.m.]

Commissioner Cushnie moved to amend the minutes to add Scott Nago, Aaron Schulaner, and Aulii Tenn to the list of attendees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **carried** unanimously noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada and Commissioner Young. [10:01 a.m.]

Commissioner Aquino moved to amend the minutes to include “composed of members of the legislature and elections commission” to Commissioner Young’s motion made at 1:29 pm regarding the creation of the bipartisan task force. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie and **carried** unanimously noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada and Commissioner Young. [10:03 a.m.]

IV. Communications & Correspondence, Received for the Record [10:05 a.m.]

Commissioner McAdam moved to receive Communications & Correspondence for the record. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuwada and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [10:09 a.m.]

YES: Kuwada, McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

NO: Andrion, Aquino, Cushnie, Papalimu

Commissioner Cushnie moved to amend the motion to receive and discuss the written Communications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [10:11 a.m.]

YES: Andrion, Aquino, Cushnie, Papalimu

NO: Kuwada, McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

V. Matters of Public Record [10:15 a.m.]

VI. Records Request; Refer to OIP [10:15 a.m.]

VII. Results of the Audit of HD 37 from the 2022 General Election [10:17 a.m.]

Andy Crossland provided testimony urging the Commission to vote on investigating official complaints regarding election issues like chain of custody and discrepancies in ballot counts between the counties and the state.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony expressing concerns about delays in the audit process for District 37 and the lack of communication from the Office of Elections, as well as inconsistencies in the chain of custody procedures during the transportation and handling of ballots, urging the Commission to improve communication and oversight in future elections.

Tara Rojas provided testimony criticizing the Commission for silencing public input and failing to address formal complaints, calling for immediate intervention, an independent review, and the restoration of public trust and transparency.

Karl Dicks provided testimony presenting footage and evidence, criticizing the use of plastic bins for ballot storage, claiming it compromised election security, and stated that his formal complaints have been ignored, asserting that the elections are fraudulent.

Shelby Billionaire provided testimony expressing frustration over the lack of progress on election bills, criticized the influence of party control on the legislative process, and announced the creation of a new political party, the Ohana Unity Party, to challenge the current system.

AnnMarie Hamilton provided testimony criticizing the weaknesses in Hawaii's election chain of custody, highlighted a case of ballot discrepancies in Kauai, and called on the Commission to investigate and address potential fraud and vulnerabilities in the system.

Doug Pasnik testified about the failure to reconcile election records and procedural errors in the 2024 general election, urging the Commission to investigate and enforce compliance with election laws.

Nolan Chang testified about issues with the chain of custody, signature verification, and the lack of transparency and accountability in Hawaii's election process, offering several recommendations for improvement.

Jenn Hunt provided testimony expressing frustration over the lack of action on her formal complaint regarding chain of custody violations, missing official observers, and the disregard for election laws, particularly in Maui County.

Keone Payton provided testimony reiterating concerns about the broken chain of custody in elections, calling for an investigation and criticizing those who support the current system.

Lindsay Kamm provided testimony sharing concerns about the lack of chain of custody documentation for election envelopes, urging an investigation and improvements to the system for better transparency.

Kellyna Campbell provided testimony expressing frustration that the people's concerns are not being addressed, highlighting a breach of trust by public officials and urging accountability.

Jaerick Medeiros provided testimony expressing frustration that complaints about chain of custody and election procedures are being ignored, warned that officials will be held personally accountable, and criticized the current political system in Hawaii.

Marcin Wyszogrodzki provided testimony questioning how the elections were certified without proper chain of custody and criticized public officials for not listening to the public's concerns.

Wallyn Christian provided testimony raising concerns about a violation of the Hawaii Constitution regarding party identification on ballots and the broken chain of custody, calling for accountability and investigation.

Haunani Kahea provided testimony expressing concerns about election integrity, called for a recount with honest people, criticized the board for ignoring public testimony, and demanded accountability for Scott Nago.

Jenn Hunt provided additional testimony requesting that her official complaint be moved to the correct category, as it is not a records request but concerns her efforts to obtain chain of custody information from the Maui County Clerk's office.

Victoria provided testimony raising concerns about the failure to follow proper election processes, questioned the Elections Commission's competence, and stated she would file charges for fraud and theft.

Mary Healy provided testimony calling for election system reforms, including firing Scott Nago, implementing watermarked ballots, removing drop boxes, and securing elections in Hawaii ahead of the 2026 elections.

Jennifer Cabjuan testified about a chain of custody issue involving her father's vote in 2020, requesting an investigation into the ballot envelope and supporting reforms like one-day voting, paper ballots, and voter ID.

Robyn McCreary provided testimony supporting the idea of watermarking ballots, suggested one-day voting with no internet access, and offered to help run a voting location.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to subpoena all ballot batch reports for the 2022 General Election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [11:37 a.m.]

YES: Andrion, Aquino, Cushnie, Papalimu

NO: Kuwada, McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

VIII. HAR 3-170-7 Official Complaints, Assign Task Force to Determine Validity & Recommend Formal Investigation [11:42 a.m.]

Commissioner Cushnie moved to form a permitted interaction group (PIG) to investigate chain of custody complaints on Kauai and elections results discrepancies on the Big Island. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [11:44 a.m.]

YES: Andrion, Aquino, Cushnie, McAdam, Osterkamp, Papalimu, Curtis

NO: Kuwada

Deputy AG Jordan Ching explained the process of forming a PIG under the Sunshine Law. The PIG allows board members to investigate and present findings, but it must be defined, voted on, and have a clear scope and authority. When a PIG concludes its investigation, it presents findings and recommendations at a subsequent meeting, and the Commission would not be able to vote or comment until a subsequent meeting follows that.

Ching clarified that the PIG does not have separate subpoena powers. Any subpoena requests made by the PIG would need to be presented to the Commission for approval, in compliance with the Commission's existing subpoena powers. This means the PIG cannot unilaterally subpoena documents or responses. Subpoena decisions must be made at an agenda-approved meeting.

Additionally, Ching noted that while non-Commission members can participate in a PIG, they would not have special authority. The Commission must define the scope of each member's authority, including non-Commission participants, for the PIG.

Commissioner Papalimu made a motion to limit the membership of the PIG to only Election Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aquino and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [12:08 p.m.]

YES: Andrion, Aquino, Cushnie, Kuwada, McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

NO: Papalimu

Commissioner Cushnie moved to appoint Commissioners Osterkamp, McAdam, and Papalimu to the PIG, investigating election results discrepancies on the Big Island. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu and **carried** unanimously noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [12:14 p.m.]

Commissioner Cushnie moved to appoint Commissioner Young, Commissioner Aquino, and Lindsay Kamm to the PIG, investigating the chain of custody complaints and any other irregularities on Kauai. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [12:18 p.m.]

YES: Andrion, Aquino, Cushnie, Kuwada, McAdam, Papalimu, Curtis

NO: Osterkamp

IX. Formal Complaint Regarding Signed Certificate before Certification [12:25 p.m.]

Tara Rojas provided testimony criticizing the commission for not listening to the public, calling the meetings unproductive and accusing members of bullying and shutting down opposing voices.

Wallyn Christian provided testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for appointing individuals that sway the commission in favor of one side and for not allowing people's voices to be heard, urging that board members should be elected, not appointed.

Keone Payton provided testimony criticizing Chair Mike Curtis for his handling of complaints, claiming he is not following proper procedures and is acting in a biased manner, urging his removal from the commission.

Jaerick Medeiros provided testimony expressing frustration with the commission's decisions, criticizing certain members for blocking progress, acting against the people, and making biased, unilateral choices.

Shelby Billionaire provided testimony expressing frustration with the commission's actions, criticizing political bias, corruption, and a lack of



adherence to laws and the state constitution, while urging for change to better serve the public.

Victoria provided testimony emphasizing the importance of consulting and ensuring qualifications for appointees, suggested offering the public an opportunity to apply, and recommended that voters should have a say in the appointments.

Wendy Balido provided testimony expressing frustration with the meeting's lack of participation, criticized Chair Curtis's leadership, and called for more attention to the people's concerns over party influence.

Nicole Berinobis provided testimony calling for the removal of Mr. Curtis, accusing him of corruption, bias, and obstructing transparency in the election process, and supported Ralph for his efforts in addressing these issues.

Lindsay Kamm provided testimony expressing uncertainty about her involvement in the committee, leaving the decision to the group, and noted that she was unsure of the proceedings.

Jenn Hunt provided testimony requesting that her formal complaint about chain of custody be moved to the proper category for review, as it was mistakenly filed under the wrong category.

Jessica Priya provided testimony expressing frustration with the meeting's conduct, criticizing the lack of accountability and responsiveness to the people's concerns, and called out the Chair for disregarding their voices.

Karl Dicks provided testimony emphasizing that while the Chair can appoint members to the committee, objections should lead to opening the floor for nominations, following Robert's rules of order.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to have the Deputy Attorney General answer Doug Pasnik's question if it was lawful for Scott Nago to certify an election before it was certified. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Young. [1:00 p.m.]

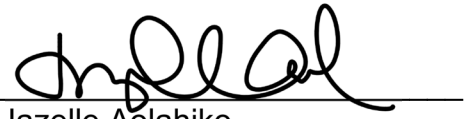
YES: Andrion, Aquino, Cushnie, Papalimu

NO: Kuwada, McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

X. Adjournment [1:04 p.m.]

Chair Curtis adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jazelle Aolahiko', written over a horizontal line.

Jazelle Aolahiko  
Elections Commission Secretary

DRAFT

## **APPENDIX 4**



Jeffrey M. Osterkamp  
Chair, Permitted Interaction Group  
Hawai'i Island Election Ballot Issues

**STATE OF HAWAII  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

July 11, 2025

Jon Henricks, County Clerk  
Hawai'i County Office of the County Clerk  
Elections Division  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1502  
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Henricks:

The State of Hawai'i Elections Commission has approved the creation of a Permitted Interaction Group to review complaints concerning purported Hawai'i Island election ballot reporting inconsistencies. As the chair of the Permitted Interaction Group, I hereby request that you provide the following documents:

- 1) Any complaints received by your office concerning purported Hawai'i Island election ballot reporting inconsistencies, including with respect to a claimed 19,000 vote surplus.
- 2) Any analysis or substantiation of the above-referenced complaints.
- 3) Any determinations that one or more of the above-referenced complaints lack merit or substantiation.
- 4) Any responses to the above-referenced complaints by your office or any other governmental entity.

I respectfully ask that all such records be provided electronically to the Elections Commission at [elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov). Alternatively, the records may be transmitted to the Elections Commission, c/o Office of Elections, 802 Lehua Avenue, Pearl City, HI 96782. In either case, please specify that the records are to be directed to my attention.

Jon Henricks, County Clerk  
July 11, 2025  
Page 2

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please call the Office of Elections at (808) 453-8683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Osterkamp", with a stylized flourish at the end.

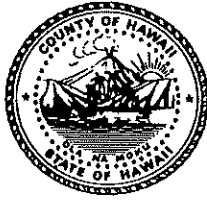
Jeffrey M. Osterkamp  
Chair, Permitted Interaction Group  
Hawai'i Island Election Ballot Issues

JO:rd  
EC-25-003

c: Michael Curtis, Elections Commission Chair

## **APPENDIX 5**

*JON HENRICKS*  
County Clerk



*AARON BROWN*  
Deputy County Clerk

***County of Hawai'i***  
***Office of the County Clerk***  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 961-8255 • Fax (808) 961-8912

August 1, 2025

State of Hawai'i Elections Commission  
Via email: [elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)

Re: PIG - Hawai'i Island Election Ballot Issues

Commissioner Osterkamp:

Please see below responses to the Permitted Interaction Group's July 11, 2025, request for information regarding complaints of election ballot reporting inconsistencies.

- 1) Any complaints received by your office concerning purported Hawai'i Island election ballot reporting inconsistencies, including with respect to a claimed 19,000 vote surplus.

Attached are emails received from the following individuals, which could be characterized as inquiries as opposed to complaints but are being provided given the context of the PIG's review:

- Dalene McCormick (11/24/24)
- Ikaika Kailiawa-Smith (1/6/25)
- Keikilani Ho (1/7/25)

Additionally, Elections Commissioner Ralph Cushnie registered his concerns via phone call.

- 2) Any analysis or substantiation of the above-referenced complaints.

Our office was aware that concerns of discrepancies arose from an erroneous analysis utilizing Business Reply Mail (BRM) statements to determine the amount of ballot packet envelopes received by the County of Hawai'i via USPS. The County does not use BRM statements to reconcile ballot envelope counts. The process used to reconcile relies solely on cross checks with the voter registration system and the ballot counting system.

- 3) Any determination that one or more of the above-referenced complaints lack merit or substantiation.

See response to Item 2.

- 4) Any responses to the above-referenced complaints by your office or any other governmental entity.

Responses are contained within the thread of the emails referenced in Item 1.

Additionally, I had a substantial phone conversation with Elections Commissioner Ralph Cushnie, who obtained via UIPA the Business Reply Mail statements our office received during the 2024 General Election.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small loop.

Jon Henricks

Hawai'i County Clerk



**Saiki, Cori**

---

**From:** Saiki, Cori  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Henricks, Jon; Brown, Aaron  
**Subject:** RE: Chain of Custody Documents

Hi Dalene:

Hope all is well with you. Hope you had a very Happy New Year.

The BRM receipts you reviewed were provided to us by USPS. USPS doesn't always provide us with receipts which is the difference in the envelope count you are inquiring about. Our office manually counts all election envelopes received daily via USPS, drop boxes, email, and voter service centers. Be assured we can account for all envelopes we received.

On another note, envelope counts will never match with the state's summary report. The summary report is ballots counted. As you know, envelopes opened at counting center may come in empty, with more than one ballot in an envelope, or contain a wrong election ballot (primary ballot in a general election envelope) which will all play a part in the reconciliation process. For example, if 10 envelopes were received by our office but one envelope was empty, summary report will show only 9 ballots were counted.

Thank you,  
Cori

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 3:43 PM  
**To:** Saiki, Cori <Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov>; Henricks, Jon <Jon.Henricks@hawaiicounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Chain of Custody Documents

Aloha Cori and Jon,

Happy New Year, I hope you both had an amazing holiday season. I wanted to reach out for some thoughts on mail in ballots and the data you sent me. We compiled this data along with the records of business reply mail that was received by the USPS and the numbers are off by quite a bit. The total I received from your report was 27,913 drop box ballots and the USPS provided a total of 29,479 mail in ballots so the total mail in count for 10/17 to 11/6 should be 57,392 but the office of election report indicates a total mail in volume for Hawaii County at 76,595, that's a difference of 19,203. What could be causing this discrepancy?

Dalene McCormick  
Chair, West Hawaii GOP  
[REDACTED]

From: Saiki, Cori <Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 9:44 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Henricks, Jon <Jon.Henricks@hawaiicounty.gov>  
Subject: RE: Chain of Custody Documents

Good Morning Dalene:

Hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

Attached are the chain of custody documents you requested for the drop boxes. Also, the documents being used to transfer ballot envelopes to Counting Center is the Seal Certification Forms which are turned over to the State.

Thank you,  
Cori

From: Saiki, Cori  
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 4:28 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Henricks, Jon <Jon.Henricks@hawaiicounty.gov>  
Subject: RE: Chain of Custody Documents

Hi Dalene:

Yes, we received your email and are working on your request. Hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you,  
Cori

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 8:21 PM  
To: Saiki, Cori <Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov>  
Subject: Fw: Chain of Custody Documents

Hi Cori,

Let me know if my original email is sufficient for you to gather this documentation or if you need any clarification. Happy to set up a phone call if needed. Thanks for your efforts.

Dalene McCormick  
Chair, West Hawaii GOP  
[REDACTED]

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From: Henricks, Jon <Jon.Henricks@hawaiicounty.gov>  
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 8:58 AM  
To: Saiki, Cori <Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov>  
[REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Chain of Custody Documents

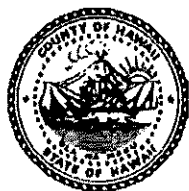
Cori,

Please assist with Dalene's request detailed in her email below.

Thank you,  
Jon

**Jon Henricks**

County Clerk  
County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni St Room 1402  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 961-8580



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2024 5:29 PM  
To: Henricks, Jon <[Jon.Henricks@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Jon.Henricks@hawaiicounty.gov)>  
Subject: Chain of Custody Documents

Hey John,

I have been in touch with some of my neighbor island counterparts and they have collected "chain of custody" documentation and are suggesting I do the same for the Big Island. Can you send me the report or documents you use to record the number of ballots you pick up at the post office and at the drop boxes. I just need this for collection during the general election. Does the signature verification process yield reports of what you send over to the counting center? If so, that would be helpful, otherwise I can get those counts from Aulii. I appreciate your help. Let me know if there is something you need other than this email request. Thanks

Dalene McCormick  
Chair, West Hawaii GOP  
[REDACTED]

**Saiki, Cori**

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**From:** Henricks, Jon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** Saiki, Cori; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Brown, Aaron  
**Subject:** RE: Big Isle Envelope count

Aloha Mr. Kailiawa-Smith,

Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss.

Regards,  
Jon

**Jon Henricks**

County Clerk  
County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni St Room 1402  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 961-8580



**From:** Smith Family [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 5:24 PM  
**To:** Saiki, Cori <[Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Big Isle Envelope count

Ok thank you, If the states ballots reported counted ballots shouldn't that number be lower the then county's reported numbers due to empty envelopes, more then one ballot ext.? If the county sends the state only verified ballots how does the state have 19 thousand more ballots then the county?

On Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 4:36 PM Saiki, Cori <[Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov)> wrote:

Aloha:

The BRM receipts you reviewed were provided to us by USPS. USPS doesn't always provide us with receipts which is the difference in the envelope count you are inquiring about . Our office manually counts all election envelopes received daily via USPS, drop boxes, email, and voter service centers. Be assured we can account for all envelopes we receive.

On another note, envelope counts will never match with the state's summary report. The summary report is ballots counted. Envelopes opened at counting center may come in empty, with more than one ballot in an envelope, or contain a wrong election ballot (primary ballot in a general election envelope) which will all play a part in the reconciliation process.

Mahalo,

**Cori Saiki**

*Elections Program Administrator*

Tel: (808) 964-8277

Email: [cori.saiki@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cori.saiki@hawaiicounty.gov)

From: Smith Family [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 12:31 PM  
To: Clerk-Council <[clerk-council@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:clerk-council@hawaiicounty.gov)>  
Subject: Big Isle Envelope count

Good afternoon, my name is Ikaika kailiawa-smith, I am trying to find out where the state got an extra 19,042 ballots from. The drop boxes and the receipts from the county do not match the amount of ballots counted. Could you please inform me if I am missing something. When it comes to the general IBRM you will find the pages in question if your scroll down. Thank you for you time. I look forward to hearing from you. This count is only for the county of Hawaii.

**Saiki, Cori**

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**From:** Henricks, Jon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** keikilani kealoha; Saiki, Cori  
**Cc:** Brown, Aaron  
**Subject:** RE: Please review and confirm important information

Aloha Ms. Ho,

Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss.

Regards,  
Jon

**Jon Henricks**

County Clerk  
County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni St Room 1402  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 961-8580



**From:** keikilani kealoha [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:12 PM  
**To:** Saiki, Cori <Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Henricks, Jon <Jon.Henricks@hawaiicounty.gov>; Brown, Aaron <Aaron.Brown@hawaiicounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Please review and confirm important information

Aloha Ms. Saiki,

This is good news. Would you please send the records that support your claim that your office can account for all the envelopes received by the county during the 2024 General Election? This is great to hear.

As you mentioned, envelopes that are empty or contain more than one ballot would be removed from the total count - so the number of mail in ballots reported should be equal or less than the number of envelopes collected by the county.

My supporters will be happy to see proof that the election was conducted properly.

Thank you so much for helping to resolve this issue, and for your quick response. I appreciate you.

Have a beautiful day.

Sincerely,

Keikilani Ho

On Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 4:32 PM Saiki, Cori <[Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Cori.Saiki@hawaiicounty.gov)> wrote:

Aloha Ms. Ho:

The BRM receipts you reviewed were provided to us by USPS. USPS doesn't always provide us with receipts which is the difference in the envelope count you are inquiring about. Our office manually counts all election envelopes received daily via USPS, drop boxes, email, and voter service centers. Be assured we can account for all envelopes we receive.

On another note, envelope counts will never match with the state's summary report. The summary report is ballots counted. Envelopes opened at counting center may come in empty, with more than one ballot in an envelope, or contain a wrong election ballot (primary ballot in a general election envelope) which will all play a part in the reconciliation process.

Thank you,

**Cori Saiki**

*Elections Program Administrator*

Tel: (808) 961-8277

Email: [cori.saiki@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cori.saiki@hawaiicounty.gov)

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**From:** keikilani kealoha [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 11:08 AM  
**To:** Clerk-Council <clerk-council@hawaiicounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Please review and confirm important information

Dear Mr. Henricks,

Attached is a summary spreadsheet compiling data from the Hawai'i County 2024 General Drop Box Collection Data sheets and Business Reply Mail receipts for mail return ballot envelopes along with the state final summary report for the County of Hawai'i.

The Data shows that there were 57,553 Mail in Ballot Envelopes collected by the County of Hawai'i.

The State report shows there were 76,595 Mail in Ballots reported by the State (of Hawai'i).

Please look at this information and let me know if there is anything missing.

According to this information there were 19,042 more mail in votes counted by the State then Collected by the County via drop boxes and from the USPS.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Keikilani G. Ho

Candidate for State House of Representatives, District 4- Puna (2024 Hawai'i State Elections)



## **APPENDIX 6**

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On Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 8:23 AM OE.Elections.Commission <[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)>

wrote: Hi Chair Curtis,

Forwarding email below from Commissioner Cushnie.

Thanks,

Ray

---

**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 31, 2025 1:31 PM

**To:** OE.Elections.Commission <[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Big Island evidence of ballots being inserted electronically.

Hello Raymond or whomever is reading this e-mail. Please put this on the next meeting agenda and distribute to the rest of the commissioners especially Jeffery Osterkamp and Claire McAdam. Please let the public see this documentation.

The State reported counting 76,595 ballots.

The County has a record of collecting 27,912 ballot envelopes from drop boxes across the Big Island. They also provided receipts from the USPS for 29,641 ballot envelopes. For a total of 57,553 ballot envelopes received. They can not account for 19,042 ballot envelopes.

The County of Hawaii's reason for the discrepancy is that the USPS did not send receipts for 19,042 envelopes worth over \$13,000.

I recently sent a UIPA records request to get the communication from Hawaii County to the USPS to get missing invoices. There has been no communication.

The state claims that 76,595 envelopes were signature verified and counted. They have provided a one-page electronic print out with no back up documentation.

The 19,042 ballots were added electronically into the SVRS Statewide Voter Registration System with no paper records. Read Scott Nago's March 17 letter(OE-25-042) to the elections commission page 3 second Paragraph.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

## **APPENDIX 7**

[Close Window](#)

P.S. 3582 - C

Business Reply Postage

COST CENTER: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

DATE: 10/18/24

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

Where Issued: n/a

Comments:

PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Current Balance: EPS \$234,089.07

Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/18/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202429214395048BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	3.5	1,306	0.707	0.030	962.522
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$962.52
Customer Reference ID						

The above amount has been deducted from your advance deposit account.

Clerk Initials: DPY

Duplicate Copy

## Business Reply Postage

RECEIVED

DATE: 10/20/24

Current Balance: EPS \$230,100.04  
24 OCT 21 P12:22  
Contact: CORI SAIKI

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

PO of Mailing: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: COUNTY OF HAWAII  
14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Type of BRM Invoice: Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/21/2024

Final

TRANS# 202429416030694BM

Line Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
C4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	1.000	2208	\$0.707	\$0.020	-\$1,605.220
Total Postage:						-\$1,605.220

Customer Reference ID: IMBAccounting

Clerk Initials: IMB

[Close Window](#)

P.S. 3582 - C

Business Reply Postage

COST CENTER: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

RECEIVED DATE: 10/22/24

'24 OCT 22 P 7:14

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
Where Issued: n/a

Current Balance: EPS \$226,492.67  
Contact: CORLSAIKI

COUNTY CLERK  
ELECTIONS DIVISION  
COUNTY OF HAWAII

Comments:  
PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/22/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202429614240113BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	3.5	3,640	0.707	0.030	2,682.680
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$2,682.68
Customer Reference ID						

The above amount has been deducted from your advance deposit account.

Clerk Initials: JSM

Duplicate Copy

## Business Reply Postage

DATE: 10/23/24



Current Balance: EPS \$222,188.78  
Contact: CORI SAIKI



Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

PO of Mailing: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Type of BRM Invoice: Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/23/2024

Final

TRANS# 202429710000153BM

Line Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
C4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	1.000	2230	\$0.707	\$0.020	-\$1,621.210
Total Postage:						-\$1,621.210

Customer Reference ID: IMBAccounting

Clerk Initials: IMB



[Close Window](#)

P.S. 3582 - C

Business Reply Postage

COST CENTER: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

DATE: 10/23/24



Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
Where Issued: n/a

Current Balance: EPS \$222,188.78  
Contact: CORI SAIKI



Comments:  
PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/23/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202429715192231BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	3.5	2,597	0.707	0.030	1,913.989
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,913.99
Customer Reference ID						

The above amount has been deducted from your advance deposit account.

Clerk Initials: JSM

[Personal Profile](#) | [Logout](#)

Restricted Information

BMEU

[BRM Dashboard Search](#) > [BRM Dashboard Results](#) > [BRM Transaction Details](#)Today's Date:  
10/24/2024[Message Center](#)**BRM Transaction Details**[Account Management](#)[Balance and Fees](#)[Mail.DAT & Mail.XML Metrics](#)

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

PO of Mailing: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Current Balance: EPS \$219,031.62

Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

[Customer Assistance](#)[Dashboard](#)[Reports](#)

Type of BRM Invoice: Qualified BRM

Final

[Transactions](#)

TRANS# 202429810000287BM

[Select Acceptance Unit](#)

Line Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
C4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	1.000	1710	\$0.707	\$0.020	-\$1,243.170

[Unpaid Mail \(Update\)](#)

Customer Reference ID : IMBAccounting

[Unpaid Mail \(Add Items\)](#)

Clerk Initials: IMB

[Print](#)[Back To Results](#)[Finalize At Current Rate](#)[Nonprofit](#)[Seamless Acceptance Incentive Report](#)

Verification Assessment Summary	
Verification Method	Mailpiece Review, Weight Verification
Verification Required	Yes
Sample Size	69
Verifying Employees Initials	JSM

[BMFU Admin](#)[Continue To Verification](#)[Certification Tool](#)[Data Admin Console](#)[Error Mapping Admin Console](#)[Five Day Delivery](#)

[Close Window](#)

P.S. 3582 - C

Business Reply Postage

COST CENTER: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

DATE: 10/24/24

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

Where Issued: n/a

Comments:

PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Current Balance: EPS \$219,031.62

Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/24/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202429814243128BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz	3.5	1,876	0.707	0.030	1,382.612
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,382.61
Customer Reference ID						

The above amount has been deducted from your advance deposit account

Clerk Initials: JSM

Duplicate Copy

Business Reply Postage

RECEIPT

DATE: 10/25/24



Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
PO of Mailing: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Current Balance: EPS \$216,415.29  
Contact: CORI SAIKI  
PO of Permit: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI  
ELECTIONS  
COUNTY OF HAWAII

Type of BRM Invoice: Qualified BRM  
Mailing Date: 10/25/2024

Final

TRANS# 202429910000262BM

Line Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
C4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	1.000	1697	\$0.707	\$0.020	\$1,233.720
Total Postage:						-\$1,233.720

Customer Reference ID: IMBAccounting

Clerk Initials: IMB



[Close Window](#)

P.S. 3582 - C

Business Reply Postage

COST CENTER: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

RECEIVED

DATE: 10/25/24

24 OCT 25 AM 11:46

Current  
Balance: EPS \$216,415.29  
Contact: CORI SAKIMOTOCompany: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
Where Issued: n/aComments:  
PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/25/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202429914161198BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	3.5	1,782	0.707	0.030	1,313.334
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,313.33
Customer Reference ID						

The above amount has been deducted from your advance deposit account.

Clerk Initials: JSM



## BRM Postage (First-Class Mail)

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
Where Issued: n/a

Comments:  
PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Opening Balance: EPS \$213,472.03  
Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

RECEIVED

OCT 29 AM 10:08

COUNTY CLERK  
14-1900-0321 HILO, HI  
COUNTY OF HAWAII

The following postage and per piece fees (if applicable) have been charged to this account.

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/28/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202430215142205BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz	3.5	2,691	0.707	0.030	1,983.267
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,983.27
Customer Reference ID						

Clerk Initials: ALL

[Print](#)

[New Transaction On The Same Account](#)

The above entered data have been submitted to the System Successfully. Click "Print" button to get printable copy of this transaction.

## BRM Postage (First-Class Mail)

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
 Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
 HILO, HI 96720-4245  
 Where Issued: n/a

Comments:  
 PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Opening Balance: EPS \$210,201.24  
 Contact: CORI SAKI

RECEIVED

OCT 29 AM 10:08

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

COUNTY CLERK  
 CL 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI  
 COUNTY OF HAWAII

The following postage and per piece fees (if applicable) have been charged to this account.

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/29/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202430314475779BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	3.5	1,943	0.707	0.030	1,431.991
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,431.99
Customer Reference ID						

Clerk Initials: ALL

[Print](#) [New Transaction On The Same Account](#)

The above entered data have been submitted to the System Successfully. Click "Print" button to get printable copy of this transaction.

## BRM Postage (First-Class Mail)

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
Where Issued: n/a

Comments:  
PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Opening Balance: EPS \$207,629.31  
Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

RECEIVED

OCT 30 AIO :57

COUNTY OF HAWAII  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
COUNTY OF HAWAII

The following postage and per piece fees (if applicable) have been charged to this account.

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/30/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202430414411796BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	3.5	1,732	0.707	0.030	1,276.484
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,276.48
Customer Reference ID						

Clerk Initials: ALL

[Print](#)

[New Transaction On The Same Account](#)

The above entered data have been submitted to the System Successfully. Click "Print" button to get printable copy of this transaction.



## BRM Postage (First-Class Mail)

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

Where Issued: n/a

Comments:

PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Opening Balance: EPS \$205,561.13

Contact: CORI SAIKI

RECEIVED

31 A11 :03

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

The following postage and per piece fees (if applicable) have been charged to this account.

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 10/31/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202430514544087BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz	3.5	1,373	0.707	0.030	1,011.901
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,011.90
Customer Reference ID						

Clerk Initials: ALL

Print

New Transaction On The Same Account

The above entered data have been submitted to the System Successfully. Click "Print" button to get printable copy of this transaction.

## BRM Postage (First-Class Mail)

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

Where Issued: n/a

Comments:

PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Opening Balance: EPS \$203,787.33

Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

The following postage and per piece fees (if applicable) have been charged to this account.

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 11/01/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202430614353070BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz	3.5	783	0.707	0.030	577.071
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$577.07
Customer Reference ID						

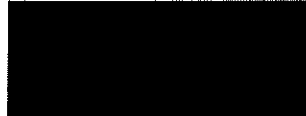
Clerk Initials: ALL

[Print](#)[New Transaction On The Same Account](#)

The above entered data have been submitted to the System Successfully. Click "Print" button to get printable copy of this transaction.

Duplicate Copy

## Business Reply Postage

RECEIVED  
DATE: 11/03/24Current Balance: EPS \$202,436.00  
Contact: CORLSAIKI

24 NOV -4 AIO :34

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

PO of Mailing: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

COUNTY CLERK  
ELECTIONS DIVISION  
COUNTY OF HAWAII

Type of BRM Invoice: Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 11/04/2024

Final

TRANS# 202430816051090BM

Line Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
C4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	1.000	162	\$0.707	\$0.020	-\$117.770
Total Postage:						-\$117.770

Customer Reference ID: IMBAccounting

Clerk Initials: IMB

[Close Window](#)

P.S. 3582 - C

Business Reply Postage

COST CENTER: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

DATE: 11/04/24

4 NOV -4 AIO :34

Current Balance: EPS \$202,436.00

Contact: CORLSAIKI

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245  
Where Issued: n/a

Comments:

PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 11/04/2024

Final

TRANS# 202430912352725BM

Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	3.5	1,470	0.707	0.030	1,083.390
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$1,083.39
Customer Reference ID						

The above amount has been deducted from your advance deposit account.

Clerk Initials: JSM

Duplicate Copy

## Business Reply Postage

RECEIVED

DATE: 11/04/24

Current Balance: EPS \$202,436.00  
Contact: CORI SAIKI

24 NOV -4 A10:34

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

PO of Mailing: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

PO of Permit: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

COUNTY CLERK  
ELECTIONS DIVISION  
COUNTY OF HAWAII

Type of BRM Invoice: Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 11/04/2024

Final

TRANS# 202430911000295BM

Line Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
C4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	1.000	8	\$0.707	\$0.020	\$5.820
Total Postage:						\$5.820

Customer Reference ID: IMBAccounting

Clerk Initials: IMB

[Close Window](#)

P.S. 3582 - C

Business Reply Postage

COST CENTER: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

DATE: 11/05/24

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS  
Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

Where Issued: n/a

Comments:

PO of Mailing: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Current Balance: EPS \$201,287.18

Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: Cost Center 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 11/05/2024						
						Final
TRANS# 202431012094814BM						
Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
D1	Postcards	0	0	0.537	0.030	0.000
D4	Letters up to 3.5 oz	3.5	343	0.707	0.030	252.791
D6	Postage Due	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Postage:						\$252.79
Customer Reference ID						

The above amount has been deducted from your advance deposit account.

Clerk Initials: JSM

Duplicate Copy

## Business Reply Postage

DATE: 11/05/24

Company: COUNTY OF HAWAII-ELECTIONS

Address: 25 AUPUNI ST STE 1502  
HILO, HI 96720-4245

PO of Mailing: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Current Balance: EPS \$201,287.18  
Contact: CORI SAIKI

PO of Permit: 14-1900-0321 HILO, HI

Type of BRM Invoice: Qualified BRM

Mailing Date: 11/05/2024

Final

TRANS# 202431011000288BM

Line Seq#	Description	Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Number of Pieces	Postage per Piece	Per Piece Handling Charge	Postage
C4	Letters up to 3.5 oz.	1.000	90	\$0.707	\$0.020	-\$65.430
Total Postage:						-\$65.430

Customer Reference ID: IMBAccounting

Clerk Initials: IMB

## **APPENDIX 8**



## Envelope Counts

[illegible]

## **APPENDIX 9**

# Business Reply Mail Operations

## AUDIT REPORT

Report Number 23-087-R24 | October 10, 2023



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# Highlights

## Background

Mailers recently expressed concerns with the timeliness and consistency of the Postal Service's Business Reply Mail (BRM) service, a service which enables qualified mailers to provide a recipient with a convenient, prepaid method for replying to a mailing. The Postal Service processed over 310 million BRM pieces generating \$177 million in revenue in fiscal year 2022. Operationally, BRM is accepted through normal channels (e.g., carrier pick up) then eventually is sent to a local facility, where counting, verifying, billing, delivery (or pick up), and other close-out procedures occur. Effective operations are crucial to ensuring BRM value for the Postal Service, mailers, and customers.

## What We Did

Our objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Postal Service's BRM operations. We reviewed BRM policies and procedures, analyzed data, observed operations at 11 judgmentally selected sites, and met with Postal Service staff and BRM mailers.

## What We Found

Postal Service mailers and their customers value BRM service, but processing delays, insufficient data, and incomplete close-out procedures hinder operational effectiveness and customer satisfaction. We observed BRM delays for nearly 180,000 pieces with some delayed over 13 days at eight of 11 facilities. BRM data was also unreliable as delays were not reported prior to our observations (except at one facility), related workhours were not recorded at 598 sites nationwide, and daily processed and unprocessed volumes were not captured in any system. Finally, required close-out procedures were not consistently completed at nine facilities, resulting in verification and data risks.

Postal Service officials acknowledged these issues and attributed them to staffing and service prioritization challenges, and system limitations. While we recognize those issues, we believe the broader operational effectiveness problems resulted from insufficient management and oversight. The Postal Service began corrective actions and initiated a working group to automate processes and enhance training. Ensuring sufficient management and oversight and enhancing systems will help strengthen BRM value for the Postal Service, mailers, and customers, particularly as untimely processing could delay election mail, nonprofit donations, or other recipient replies.

## Recommendations

We recommended management develop strategies to ensure sufficient management and oversight of BRM operations, particularly related to timely processing, recording accurate BRM data (e.g., delays, volumes, and workhours), and completing close-out procedures and complete system enhancements to more effectively track BRM operational data and establish processes for assessing related performance.

# Transmittal Letter



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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October 10, 2023

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** ELVIN MERCADO  
VICE PRESIDENT, RETAIL & POST OFFICE OPERATIONS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Amanda H. Stafford", is positioned above the typed name.

**FROM:** Amanda H. Stafford  
Deputy Assistant Inspector General  
for Retail, Marketing & Supply Management

**SUBJECT:** Audit Report – Business Reply Mail Operations  
(Report Number 23-087-R24)

This report presents the results of our audit of Business Reply Mail Operations.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies provided by your staff. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Josh Bartzen, Director, Retail, or me at 703-248-2100.

Attachment

cc: Postmaster General  
Corporate Audit Response Management

# Results

## Introduction/Objective

This report presents the results of our self-initiated audit of the Business Reply Mail (BRM) Operations (Project Number 23-087). Our objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Postal Service's BRM operations. See Appendix A for additional information about this audit.

## Background

The BRM service enables qualified mailers to provide a recipient with a convenient, prepaid method for replying to a mailing. BRM pieces can include postcards, letters, flats, parcels, or election ballots,<sup>1</sup> and can either be First-Class Mail® or Priority Mail® (see Figure 1). Under BRM, the mailer, not the customer, pays the return postage. The Postal Service processed over 310 million BRM pieces and recorded \$177 million in BRM-related revenue in fiscal year (FY) 2022.

BRM affords benefits to mailers, their customers, and the Postal Service. For mailers, BRM provides postage cost savings on large volumes when a customer response is not assured. BRM also offers the customer greater convenience and cost savings by not needing to pay return postage, supply a mailpiece, or add a return address. BRM is used by:

- Direct marketers seeking to encourage orders.
- Researchers seeking survey response data.
- Publishers soliciting subscriptions.
- Businesses collecting receipts or documents from employees.
- Nonprofit organizations to obtain donations.
- Election officials for mail-in ballots.

The Postal Service receives revenue from the postage on both the outbound piece (to the customer) and on the returned BRM, as well as a per-piece fee on the returned BRM. Mailers must apply for a permit to participate in the BRM program, and there were about 178,000 active permits as of June 2023.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 1. BRM Examples**



Source: U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) staff.

Many entities throughout the Postal Service network have responsibilities for BRM operations. Local Postal Service staff conduct a variety of pre-mailing BRM program activities, such as reviewing mailer permit applications, assigning the mailer a permit number, and inputting the permit account information into PostalOne!.<sup>3</sup> Operationally, BRM enters the Postal Service system through typical mail acceptance channels (e.g., such as carriers picking it up along a route or customers dropping it off at a local post office). BRM then flows through the Postal Service's processing network to its destinating facility, such as a post office, delivery unit, or finance station ("unit").<sup>4</sup> At that destinating unit, Postal Service retail staff — BRM clerks or local management — perform a variety of operations such as:

<sup>1</sup> From October 2022 through April 2023, over 13 million completed ballots destined for local election offices were sent through the Postal Service as BRM election mail. Not all election ballots are mailed using BRM, but all completed ballots sent through the Postal Service are processed at a minimum of First-Class service levels.

<sup>2</sup> A permit entitles a sender to distribute an unlimited number of BRM pieces and pay per-piece charges only on returned pieces. Permit holders agree to pay an annual permit fee to use this service.

<sup>3</sup> PostalOne! is the Postal Service's automated system for managing and recording BRM transactions, including deposits, account balances, volumes, invoices, billing, refunds, and reporting (BRM data for non-PostalOne! units is recorded and traced manually).

<sup>4</sup> A post office that accepts mail from customers and offers retail services to customers and handles their mail, but does not offer delivery.

- counting, weighing, and processing arriving BRM, including entering data into PostalOne!;
- calculating the postage that should be collected for the mailing, verifying if the permit account is current and has sufficient funds to pay the applicable postage and fees, and invoicing the cost to the permit account;
- releasing/delivering<sup>5</sup> BRM to the mailer (this could entail the mailer picking up from their designated unit or being delivered by the carrier) and validating completion through close-out operations; and
- performing daily post-processing documentation and verification actions including:
  - completing the End-of-Day Close-Out report, which documents BRM volumes that were processed, invoiced, and staged.
  - recording any BRM delays<sup>6</sup> in the Delivery Condition Visualization (DCV) report.
  - recording corresponding BRM-related workhours.

Mailers we recently spoke with expressed concerns with untimely BRM service, including BRM pieces that appeared to be delayed by multiple weeks (based on the cancellation date on the mailpiece or customer complaints). Effective operations are crucial to ensuring BRM value for the Postal Service, mailers, and their customers.

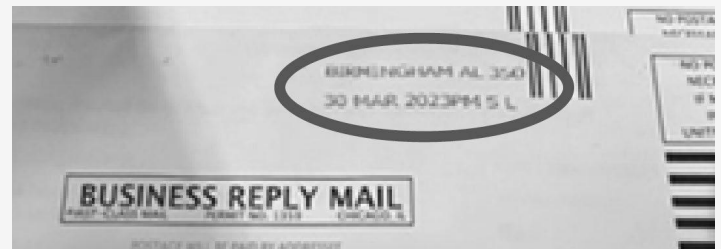
### Finding: BRM Operational Effectiveness Could Be Improved

Postal Service mailers and customers value BRM service, but processing delays, insufficient data, and incomplete close-out procedures hinder operational effectiveness and customer satisfaction.

#### Processing Delays and Data

We observed nearly 180,000 pieces of delayed BRM at eight of 11 facilities we visited, with some pieces delayed by over 13 days (see Figure 2). Management and staff also acknowledged delays prior to our visits, with one office mentioning about 4,000 pieces of delayed BRM election ballots during the previous week.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 2. Examples of Delayed BRM**



*Example: Piece postmarked March 30, 2023 (8 days prior to OIG team observation)*



*Example: Letter Tray labelled April 3, 2023 (4 days prior to OIG team observation)*

Source: OIG observations at the Chicago Cent Carrier Annex Post Office, IL, and Cardiss Collins Finance Station, IL, on April 7, 2023.

- 5 BRM mailers with insufficient funds or expired fees will have their mailpieces held at the facility until the account is properly paid. Mailers should be notified that pieces are being held and postal employees should place the transaction in a pending status in PostalOne.
- 6 BRM received by a unit's established processing cut-off time (i.e., Critical Entry Time [CET]) should be ready for delivery or pick up that day. BRM received after an office's CET is to be processed for delivery or pick up no later than the next business day. When mail arrives prior to the unit's CET but is not ready for delivery or pick up that day, it is considered "delayed" and is required to be reported.
- 7 Although not processed timely, these ballots were delivered prior to the tabulation of the election results.



To assess the potential magnitude and breadth of observed BRM delays, we contacted major BRM mailers and reviewed Postal Service facility-specific and national data. Mailers we spoke with expressed concerns about the timeliness and inconsistency of BRM service. We also reviewed national and facility-specific delayed mail data in DCV and found service and reliability issues based on the following:

- *Delayed Mail Data Likely Underreported for Facilities Visited.* While we observed nearly 180,000 pieces of delayed BRM during our visits, only one site<sup>8</sup> had previously reported any delayed BRM volume from October 2022 until the OIG visits in April-May 2023. All other sites had zero reported delays in DCV between October 2022 and our individual visits. As stated earlier, Postal Service policy requires BRM delayed volumes to be accurately recorded in DCV.
- *Delayed Mail Data Likely Underreported Nationally.* Postal Service nationwide DCV data showed 614,351 delayed BRM pieces between October 2022 and June 2023. These numbers were likely understated as 87 percent of those delayed volumes (533,951) were reported between April-June 2023 by only two facilities — Cardiss Collins Finance Station and Chicago Cent Carrier Annex — *after* our visits. Staff at these two facilities acknowledged that prior to our visits, they were not recording delays and started doing so afterward.

### Workhour Data

We also found similar data reliability concerns when reviewing BRM-related workhours. National data between October 2022 and June 2023 showed a total of 1.6 million workhours allocated to BRM. These numbers were likely understated as zero (0) workhours were recorded at 598 facilities — facilities that cumulatively processed over 20 million pieces of BRM (10 percent of total BRM volume) during that time. Of those facilities reporting zero work hours from October 2022 through June 2023:

- One facility reported processing 8 million BRM pieces,
- Another facility (one we visited — the Phoenix Main Post Office), reported processing 1.7 million BRM pieces, and

“While we observed nearly 180,000 pieces of delayed BRM during our visits, only one site had previously reported any delayed BRM volume from October 2022 until the OIG visits in April-May 2023.”

- 24 other facilities reported processing over 100,000 pieces.

### Close-Outs

We reviewed FY 2023 year-to-date (October 2022–June 2023) national and facility-specific data on the completeness of close-out procedures. Regarding national performance, data showed that nearly 90,000 required close-outs (9 percent)<sup>9</sup> were not completed. Staff explanations for these incomplete close-outs (10,141 of the nearly 18,600 incomplete close-outs that included an explanation), were attributed to a variety of reasons, including staffing shortages, management oversight issues, and that BRM processing was not a priority. We then reviewed specific data for the facilities we visited and found incomplete close-out procedures at nine of the 10 facilities.<sup>10</sup>

### Postal Service Perspectives and Impacts

Postal Service officials acknowledged processing delays, delayed volume and workhour data issues, and incomplete close-outs. Local and headquarters management attributed them to staffing, service prioritization, and system limitation challenges as follows:

- *Staffing.* Officials stated that these operational and data shortfalls arose due to staffing constraints, such as not having staff trained or assigned to process BRM when the primary staff was on their day off or on leave. For example, management at nine of 11 facilities we visited did not assign a backup or train other staff to complete BRM processing. In these instances, BRM would not be processed until the primary clerks returned.

<sup>8</sup> Loop Station (Chicago, IL), which reported 1,495 pieces in mid-March.

<sup>9</sup> About 90,000 of the expected 928,285 close-outs. Of those 90,000, only 18,600 had narrative explanations for why they were incomplete.

<sup>10</sup> Cardiss Collins Finance Station and Chicago Cent Carrier Annex report closeout data jointly; therefore, we considered these sites as one location (reducing the sites reviewed to 10) for this analysis.

- **Prioritization:** Officials noted that other retail operations and mail processing would oftentimes take priority over timely BRM processing, accurate delayed BRM and workhour tracking, and conducting close-out procedures. We also found that officials at 7 of 11 facilities we visited did not know that delayed BRM should be reported or acknowledged delayed BRM was not reported in DCV.
- **System Limitations:** Officials noted BRM system limitations related to tracking key BRM data necessary to allow management visibility into BRM processing. For example, the system was unable to track the amount of incoming BRM volume arriving at the unit on a given day and compare it to how much was processed. Having the ability to review this information would provide management with more clarity into the amount of delayed BRM and locations having operational issues.

“The Postal Service has already initiated actions to help improve BRM processing, timeliness, and data.”

and oversight for ensuring timely processing, following policies to accurately record delayed mail and workhours, and completing close-out procedures. Continued BRM processing delays, data integrity problems (both delayed mail and workhour data), and system limitations would (1) negatively impact BRM mailer and customer experiences, particularly as untimely processing could delay election mail, nonprofit donations, or other recipient replies; and (2) hinder the Postal Service’s visibility into BRM service and operational performance, including identifying potential operational gaps, weaknesses, or vulnerabilities. Continued close-out deficiencies would result in verification and

data risks related to whether BRM operations were completed daily. In conclusion, insufficient management and oversight of BRM operations and system limitations are putting Postal Service revenue, costs, and brand as a trusted service provider at risk.

The Postal Service has already initiated the following actions to help improve BRM processing, timeliness, and data:

- **BRM Workgroup:** The Postal Service and leading BRM mailers created a joint working group<sup>11</sup> in April 2023 to focus on BRM issues — such as automating more processes and enhancing training — to increase BRM usage and importance.
- **BRM Mailer Promotion:** The Postal Service announced a May 2023 promotion to help improve BRM efficiency and visibility. The Reply Mail IMbA (Intelligent Mail Barcode Accounting) Promotion provides qualifying mailers discounts if they incorporate static or serialized barcodes into their BRM, which are actions that help automate manual aspects of the counting and invoicing processes.
- **BRM System Enhancements:** By the end of 2023, the Postal Service reports it will implement a dashboard to more effectively track key BRM operational data, including daily arriving and processed volumes.

While we recognize those issues and corrective actions, the broader operational effectiveness problems resulted from insufficient management

#### Recommendation #1

We recommend the **Vice President, Retail & Post Office Operations**, develop strategies to ensure sufficient management and oversight of Business Reply Mail operations, particularly related to timely processing, recording accurate Business Reply Mail data (e.g., delays, volumes, and workhours), and completing close-out procedures.

#### Recommendation #2

We recommend the **Vice President, Retail & Post Office Operations**, complete system enhancements to more effectively track Business Reply Mail operational data and establish processes for assessing related performance.

### Management’s Comments

Management agreed with the finding and both recommendations, but they disagreed with two anecdotes included in the report. First, where the report mentioned mailers concerns about untimely BRM service, including that some pieces appeared to be delayed by multiple weeks, management requested the statement be removed or reworded as no additional, specific customer information was included. Second, where the report mentioned that BRM operational issues “would negatively impact BRM mailer and customer experiences,

<sup>11</sup> Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), Work Group #196 – Review Business Reply Mail Processes, Rules and Regulations.

particularly as untimely processing could delay election mail, nonprofit donations, or other recipient replies,” management requested the reference to election mail be removed or adjusted to “mail.” Management felt the intent of the verbiage would create a false sense of alarm, while acknowledging the report stated the observed delayed election mail was delivered prior to the tabulation of any election results.

Regarding recommendation 1, management stated they have already initiated strategies associated with BRM workgroups, dashboards, and system enhancements to improve timeliness of BRM processing and accuracy of BRM volume, workhours and processing delays, and close-out procedures. In subsequent discussions, management further clarified these ongoing strategies, stating they will perform better oversight of timely processing, more accurately allocate workhours and compare them to workload, and enhance visibility into BRM delays and close out performance.

Regarding recommendation 2, management stated they are finalizing the development of the BRM dashboard, which will more effectively track operational data and performance. The target implementation date is January 31, 2024.

See Appendix B for management’s comments in their entirety.

### **Evaluation of Management’s Comments**

The OIG considers management’s comments responsive to both recommendations, and corrective actions should resolve the issues identified in the report.

Regarding management’s disagreement with the report’s description of mailer concerns about delayed BRM, we chose to summarize mailer BRM concerns while appropriately retaining the anonymity of individual mailers. Regarding management’s disagreement with the report’s description of potential election mail delays resulting from BRM operational issues, we are retaining this verbiage based on election mail being a key BRM segment and Postal Service staff acknowledging associated delays during our observations.

All recommendations require OIG concurrence before closure. Consequently, the OIG requests written confirmation when corrective actions are completed. With OIG’s review of supporting documentation around the Postal Service’s newly developed

strategies associated with BRM workgroups, dashboards, and system enhancements, we agree to close recommendation 1 as implemented upon the report’s issuance. Recommendation 2 should not be closed in the Postal Service’s follow-up tracking system until the OIG provides written confirmation that the recommendation can be closed.

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# Appendix A: Additional Information

## Scope and Methodology

Our objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Postal Service's BRM operations. To accomplish our objective, we:

- Reviewed Postal Service policies and procedures related to BRM operations (e.g., processing, handling, invoicing, etc.).
- Analyzed BRM operational data from PostalOne! for FY 2022 and year-to-date FY 2023 (June), including volumes, BRM active permits, and the number of days BRM transactions were not processed by location.
- Analyzed nationwide delayed BRM from the DCV report, housed within Informed Visibility, from October 2022 through June 2023.
- Analyzed BRM close-out compliance, causes for noncompliance, and BRM associated workhours nationally for October 2022 through June 2023 from the Postal Service's Enterprise Data Warehouse/Application System Reporting systems.
- Conducted on-site observations of BRM operations at 11 judgmentally selected facilities

nationwide that encompassed all four delivery and retail areas, large BRM volume locations, and nearby smaller volume locations. See Table 1 for the facilities visited, Postal Service Area, and observation dates.

During these site visits, we determined the amount of BRM on hand (current and pending), assessed its processing timeliness, interviewed BRM staff and management, and observed staff completing the processing and invoicing of BRM transactions.

Reviewed data from the Postal Service's Customer 360 system to learn about instances where customers raised issues or concerns about BRM operations and service.

Interviewed Postal Service headquarters officials about pertinent issues relating to BRM operations including challenges with BRM operations and actions the Postal Service plans to take or has taken to address them.

Interviewed judgmentally selected BRM mailers to discuss their BRM operations, issues at Postal Service locations, how they monitor their BRM, and their overall Postal Service interactions.

**Table 1. Sites and Dates Visited to Observe BRM Operations**

Area	Facility	Date Attended
Central Area Retail and Delivery Operations	Joliet, IL, Post Office	April 6, 2023
	Cardiss Collins Finance Station	April 7, 2023
	Chicago Cent Carrier Annex	April 7, 2023
	Loop Carrier Annex	April 7, 2023
Atlantic Area Retail and Delivery Operations	Lanham-Seabrook, MD, Post Office	May 9, 2023
	Hagerstown, MD, Post Office	May 10, 2023
Southern Area Retail and Delivery Operations	Doraville, GA, Post Office	May 11, 2023
WestPac Area Retail and Delivery Operations	Phoenix, AZ, Main Post Office	May 18, 2023
	Phoenix, AZ, Cactus Post Office	May 18, 2023
Central Area Retail and Delivery Operations	Dayton, OH, Main Post Office	May 23, 2023
	Cincinnati, OH, Main Post Office	May 24, 2023

Source: Facilities Database and OIG-generated based on-site observations and dates attended.

We conducted this performance audit from April through October 2023 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and included such tests of internal controls as we considered necessary under the circumstances. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We discussed our observations and conclusions with management on September 8, 2023, and included their comments where appropriate.

In planning and conducting the audit, we obtained an understanding of the internal control structure related to BRM to help determine the nature, timing, and extent of our audit procedures. We reviewed the management controls for overseeing the program and mitigating associated risks. Additionally, we assessed the internal control components and underlying principles, and we determined that the following three components were significant to our audit objective: control activities, information and communication, and monitoring.

We developed audit work to ensure that we assessed these controls. Based on the work performed, we identified significant internal control deficiencies within the context of our objective. Our recommendations, if implemented, should correct the weaknesses we identified for future programs.

We assessed the reliability of computer-generated data from the PostalOne!, Informed Visibility, Enterprise Data Warehouse, Application System Reporting, Facilities Database, and Customer 360 systems when performing our data analysis. We assessed the reliability of the data by discussing the data with headquarters and Post Office management who use this data to oversee operations and performance. We determined the data were sufficiently reliable for the purpose of this report.

### **Prior Audit Coverage**

The OIG did not identify any prior audits or reviews related to the objective of this audit within the last five years.

# Appendix B: Management's Comments

ELVIN MERCADO  
VICE PRESIDENT, RETAIL AND POST OFFICE OPERATIONS  
HEADQUARTERS



October 2, 2023

JOHN CIHOTA  
DIRECTOR, AUDIT SERVICES

SUBJECT: Management Response: Business Reply Mail (BRM) Operations  
(23-087-DRAFT)

Thank you for providing the Postal Service with an opportunity to review and comment on the findings and recommendations contained in the draft report — *Business Reply Mail Operations*.

**Finding #1: BRM Operational Effectiveness Could Be Improved:**

While Management agrees with Finding #1 as a whole, it disagrees with two anecdotal statements made in the audit report:

1. The report states, "Mailers we recently spoke with expressed concerns with untimely BRM service, including BRM pieces that *appeared* to be delayed by multiple weeks (based on the cancellation date on the mail piece or customer complaints)." Management had requested the statement be removed or reworded, as no specific information was provided to the Postal Service relating to comments shared by customers with the Office of Inspector General (OIG).
2. The report states, "Continued BRM processing delays, data integrity problems (both delayed mail and workhour data), and system limitations would negatively impact BRM mailer and customer experiences, particularly as untimely processing could delay election mail, nonprofit donations, or other recipient replies." Management had requested the reference to election mail be removed or replaced with simply the word "mail." Management felt the intent of the current verbiage was to create a false sense of alarm, despite the fact all Election Mail referenced in the report was delivered prior to the tabulation of any election results.

Following are Management's comments on the two (2) recommendations:

**Recommendation #1:**

We recommend the Vice President, Retail & Post Office Operations, develop strategies to ensure sufficient management and oversight of Business Reply Mail operations, particularly related to timely processing, recording accurate Business Reply Mail data (e.g., delays, volumes, and workhours), and completing close-out procedures.

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WASHINGTON DC 20260

-2-

Management Response/Action Plan:

Management agrees with this recommendation. The Postal Service has already initiated the following strategies acknowledged by the OIG in its report to improve timeliness of BRM processing, accuracy of BRM volume, workhours and processing delays, and close-out procedures.

- BRM Workgroups to automate more processes and enhance training.
- BRM Dashboard to enhance visibility and effectively track key BRM operational data.
- BRM System Enhancements.

Therefore, Management requests closure of this recommendation.

Target Implementation Date: N/A

Responsible Official: N/A

Recommendation #2:

We recommend the Vice President, Retail & Post Office Operations, complete system enhancements to more effectively track Business Reply Mail operational data and establish processes for assessing related performance.

Management Response/Action Plan:

Management agrees with this recommendation. Management is finalizing the development of the BRM dashboard, which will more effectively track operational data and Business Reply performance.

Target Implementation Date: 01/31/2024

Responsible Official: Manager, Retail & Post Office Operations

E-SIGNED by TRACY.R RAYMOND  
on 2023-10-02 15:14:59 EDT

Tracy R. Raymond  
on behalf of Elvin Mercado

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## **APPENDIX 10**

GENERAL ELECTION - STATE OF HAWAII - COUNTY OF HAWAII  
 NOVEMBER 5, 1996  
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 Number 7.

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PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT	56/ 56/ 56/	STATE REP - DIST 2	9/ 9/ 9/	COUNCIL DIST I	11/ 11/ 11/
	100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0
(D) CLINTON/GORE	27262 54.0	(D) CHANG, JERRY LESLIE	5945 71.8	(D) YAGONG, DOMINIC	3106 56.2
(R) DOLE/KEMP	13516 26.8	(R) HUMPHERS, STEVE	1671 20.2	(R) LAMBETH, PHOEBE M.	2166 39.2
(RF) PEROT/CHOATE	5137 10.2	Blank Votes	658 8.0	Blank Votes	249 4.5
(G) NADER/LADUKE	2489 4.9	Over Votes	1 0.0	Over Votes	1 0.0
(L) BROWNE/JORGENSEN	422 0.8				
(NL) HAGELIN/TOMPKINS	102 0.2	STATE REP - DIST 3	8/ 8/ 8/	COUNCIL DIST II	6/ 6/ 6/
(T) PHILLIPS/TITUS	49 0.1		100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0
Blank Votes	1145 2.3				
Over Votes	342 0.7	(D) HAMAKAWA, ERIC G.	6506 66.0	(D) LEITHEAD-TODD, B.	3553 59.0
U.S. REP - DIST 2	56/ 56/ 56/	(R) ARTHURS, BOB	2738 27.8	(R) SHIN, LORRAINE P.	2227 37.0
	100.0/100.0	Blank Votes	606 6.2	Blank Votes	239 4.0
		Over Votes	2 0.0	Over Votes	1 0.0
(D) MINK, PATSY T.	29248 58.0	STATE REP - DIST 4	8/ 8/ 8/	COUNCIL DIST III	5/ 5/ 5/
(R) PICO, TOM JR.	14057 27.9		100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0
(L) KEEFE, JAMES M.	2008 4.0				
(N) CRABBE, NOLAN	1770 3.5	(D) HERKES, ROBERT N.	5415 61.9	(D) ARAKAKI, JAMES	3332 51.1
(NL) TOULON, AMANDA	859 1.7	(R) REED, ROBERT	2647 30.2	(R) LAM, MERLE	2963 45.5
Blank Votes	2465 4.9	Blank Votes	693 7.9	Blank Votes	218 3.3
Over Votes	57 0.1	Over Votes	0 0.0	Over Votes	2 0.0
STATE SEN - DIST 2	17/ 17/ 17/	STATE REP - DIST 5	10/ 10/ 10/	COUNCIL DIST IV	5/ 5/ 5/
	100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0
(D) MATSUURA, RICHARD	13601 75.0	(R) WHALEN, PAUL	4391 55.0	(D) CHUNG, AARON S. Y.	2393 48.6
(R) BOYD, STEWART K.	3343 18.4	(D) COHN, ELAINE	3232 40.5	(R) OSORIO, ELROY T. L.	1917 38.9
Blank Votes	1181 6.5	Blank Votes	354 4.4	(G) JOHNS, DONNALYN N.	480 9.7
Over Votes	2 0.0	Over Votes	5 0.1	Blank Votes	131 2.7
STATE SEN - DIST 3	18/ 18/ 18/	STATE REP - DIST 6	7/ 7/ 7/	Over Votes	6 0.1
	100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0	COUNCIL DIST V	3/ 3/ 3/
					100.0/100.0
(D) LEVIN, ANDREW	10744 64.2	(D) TARNAS, DAVID A.	4106 53.3		
(R) FITZGERALD, BRYAN	5121 30.6	(R) MCDERMOTT, RICK	3097 40.2	(D) SMITH, AL	1965 37.2
Blank Votes	867 5.2	Blank Votes	493 6.4	(R) VAN HOVEN, TOM	1573 29.8
Over Votes	5 0.0	Over Votes	2 0.0	(G) LEIALOHA, JULIE	1478 28.0
STATE REP - DIST 1	14/ 14/ 14/	HAWAII MAYOR	56/ 56/ 56/	(L) CHRISTIE, ROGER	151 2.9
	100.0/100.0		100.0/100.0	Blank Votes	113 2.1
				Over Votes	2 0.0
(D) TAKAMINE, DWIGHT Y.	5488 69.5	(D) YAMASHIRO, STEPHEN	19807 39.2	COUNCIL DIST VI	10/ 10/ 10/
(R) HUTCHISON, TERRY L.	1827 23.1	(G) BONK, KEIKO	16659 33.0		100.0/100.0
Blank Votes	586 7.4	(R) RATH, JIM	11724 23.2		
Over Votes	1 0.0	(L) ANDERSON, AARON	393 0.8	(R) SANTANGELO, JOHN L.	2106 36.9
		(N) ADLER, JONATHAN	391 0.8	(G) JACOBSON, JULIE	1896 33.2
		Blank Votes	1460 2.9	(D) TABBADA, STEPHANIE	1448 25.3
		Over Votes	30 0.1	Blank Votes	264 4.6
				Over Votes	1 0.0

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COUNCIL DIST VII	6/ 6/ 6/	100.0/100.0	OHA - HAWAII	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0
(R) REYNOLDS, JOE	2976	49.7	SPRINGER, HANNAH K.	2684	30.0	QUALIFYING FOR FED	YES	22537 44.7
(D) BREESE-RABIN, T.	2623	43.8	AKAKA, MOANIKEALA	2601	29.1	FINANCIAL AID	NO	16776 33.3
Blank Votes	391	6.5	AKAMU-SCOTT, LOVEYMAE	1416	15.8	Blank Votes		11079 22.0
Over Votes	0	0.0	KAUHANE, FRANCIS N.	1406	15.7	Over Votes		8 0.0
COUNCIL DIST VIII	4/ 4/ 4/	100.0/100.0	FERGERSTROM, BRUDDA HANK	437	4.9	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0
(R) TYLER, J. CURTIS	3090	63.0	OHA - KAUAI	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0	CONVENTION TO REVISE	YES	21721 43.1
(D) SCHLEIGER, JIM	1428	29.1	KEALE, MOSES K., SR.	3542	39.6	OR AMEND CONST	NO	21882 43.4
(NL) CONNAUGHTON, ED	181	3.7	KAIWI, BENE HAKAKA K.	1380	15.4	Blank Votes		6789 13.5
Blank Votes	205	4.2	PERRY, WARREN C. R.	1033	11.5	Over Votes		8 0.0
Over Votes	0	0.0	MANSFIELD, LOPAKA	713	8.0	HAWAII CHARTER	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0
COUNCIL DIST IX	6/ 6/ 6/	100.0/100.0	NA'EA, ERIC J., SR.	442	4.9	COUNCIL TERM LIMITS		
(R) RAY, JOHN	3032	54.2	SMITH, HENRY E., JR.	410	4.6	LIMIT TO 4 CONSE-	YES	33542 66.5
(N) ELARIONOFF, L.	2312	41.4	REGO, RANDY S. NAUKANA	217	2.4	CUTIVE 2-YR TERMS	NO	10428 20.7
Blank Votes	243	4.3	Blank Votes	1201	13.4	Blank Votes		6429 12.7
Over Votes	2	0.0	Over Votes	6	0.1	Over Votes		31 0.1
BOE - 1ST DEPT SCH	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0	OHA - MOLOKAI	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0	HAWAII CHARTER	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0
WATANABE, HERBERT S.	23948	47.5	KEALOHA, SAMUEL LYONS	3092	34.6	VACANCY IN OFFICE		
FOX, ROBERT A.	21822	43.3	RITTE, WALTER	2465	27.6	VAC ONLY IF TERM	YES	23758 47.1
Blank Votes	4636	9.2	MACHADO, COLETTE PIIPII	2211	24.7	OF OFFICE OVERLAPS	NO	18333 36.4
Over Votes	24	0.0	Blank Votes	1174	13.1	Blank Votes		8318 16.5
OHA - AT LARGE	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0	Over Votes	2	0.0	Over Votes		21 0.0
APOLIONA, HAUNANI	4255	47.6	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0			
KAMALI'I, KINA'U BOYD	2215	24.8	HURRICANE RELIEF FUND					
WATSON, BERNIE MOKIHANA	520	5.8	AUTH REV BONDS FOR	YES	30473 60.5			
KALANI, DWAYNE K.	408	4.6	HURRICANE RELIEF FUND NO	13526 26.8				
KIPILII, FRANK K.	319	3.6	Blank Votes	6370 12.6				
HERRON, NOHEALANI	253	2.8	Over Votes	31 0.1				
KEKIPI, ALOHA VELMA P.	236	2.6	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT	56/ 56/ 56/	100.0/100.0			
MANUEL, CARLOS MAHI	144	1.6	SCHOOL CONSTR PROJECTS					
Blank Votes	541	6.0	PAYING FOR SCHOOL	YES	32725 64.9			
Over Votes	53	0.6	CONSTR PROJECT	NO	11238 22.3			
			Blank Votes	6428 12.8				
			Over Votes	9 0.0				

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REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT|
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*****|
GENERAL|
*****|
TOTAL REGISTRATION..... 71270|
TOTAL TURNOUT..... 50464 70.8|
PRECINCT TURNOUT..... 39555 55.5|
  A  BALLOTS CAST..... 39555 55.5|
  B  BALLOTS CAST..... 39553 55.5|
  C  BALLOTS CAST..... 39552 55.5|
|
ABSENTEE TURNOUT..... 10909 15.3|
  A  BALLOTS CAST..... 10909 15.3|
  B  BALLOTS CAST..... 10877 15.3|
  C  BALLOTS CAST..... 10848 15.2|
|
*****|
OFF. OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS|
*****|
TOTAL REGISTRATION 13928|
TOTAL TURNOUT..... 8944 64.2|
PRECINCT TURNOUT..... 7086 50.9|
ABSENTEE TURNOUT..... 1858 13.3|
=====|
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NOVEMBER 7, 2000

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PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT			OHA - SP VAC AT LARGE (3)			OHA - SP VAC MAUI (1)		
	60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
(D )GORELIEBERMAN	28,670	55.8	AKANA, Rowena M.N.	7,993	5.2	OTA, Charles S.	10,438	20.3
(R )BUSHCHENEY	17,050	33.2	KAMAKAWIWOOLE, Reynolds N.	7,221	4.7	HAO, Louis	6,944	13.5
(G )NADERLaDUKE	4,604	9.0	WAIHE'E, John D., IV	7,212	4.7	KALALAU, Sam	3,642	7.1
(L )BROWNEIOLIVIER	276	0.5	TRASK, Mililani B.	7,056	4.6	KAAHUMANU, Laki P.	3,084	6.0
(RF)BUCHANANFOSTER	157	0.3	STENDER, Oswald K.	5,494	3.6	RUST, Jimmy	2,336	4.5
(C )PHILLIPSFRAZIER	52	0.1	OLDS, Nalani	4,105	2.7	CLUBB, Genevieve (Lehua)	2,300	4.5
(NL)HAGELINGOLDHABER	51	0.1	DESOTO, A. Frenchy	3,954	2.6	GRANTHAM, Roger L.	1,531	3.0
BLANK VOTES	441	0.9	ROSE, Charles (Kale Loke)	3,564	2.3	PELEKAI, Edward P.	1,011	2.0
OVER VOTES	67	0.1	KAAPU, Kekoa David Jr.	2,856	1.9	BLANK VOTES	20,058	39.0
=====			BRANDT, Nani G.	2,815	1.8	OVER VOTES	24	0.0
U.S. SENATOR			KOTOMORI, Janet	2,727	1.8	=====		
	60 of 60	100.0	KAMALI'I, Kina'u Boyd	2,649	1.7	OHA - AT LARGE (1)		
(D )AKAKA, Daniel K.	34,092	66.4	LEE, Richard	2,349	1.5		60 of 60	100.0
(R )CARROLL, John	12,468	24.3	MCGREGOR, Bob	2,138	1.4	CARPENTER, Dante Keala	9,074	17.7
(NL)CLEGG, Lauri A.	770	1.5	BATES, Beverly R.	2,115	1.4	APOLIONA, Haunani	6,146	12.0
(L )MALLAN, Lloyd Jeffrey	755	1.5	DE COSTA, Denise Mahealani	1,559	1.0	AIONA, Darrow L. Kananakui	2,027	4.0
(C )PORTER, David	324	0.6	TUNGPALAN, Eloise Ululani Y	1,493	1.0	WAIWAI'OLE, Healani G. G.	1,798	3.5
BLANK VOTES	2,943	5.7	GREENWOOD, Alice U. Oupnui	1,478	1.0	AKAU, Lucy	1,631	3.2
OVER VOTES	16	0.0	WONG, Jimmy	1,457	0.9	CONKLIN, Kenneth R.	1,602	3.1
=====			BURKE, Gene P. K. (Kini)	1,426	0.9	ROBINSON, Thurston	1,467	2.9
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - [D 2]			EVANS, Kimo Keanu	1,401	0.9	KA'AUWAI-IWAMOTO, Linda	1,324	2.6
	60 of 60	100.0	KELIIHOLOKAI, Jennifer	1,340	0.9	STONE, Nancy (Pohaku)	1,246	2.4
(D )MINK, Patsy Takemoto	28,388	55.3	GILES, Jason C.	1,200	0.8	LEE, Brian Akana	1,219	2.4
(R )FRANCIS, Russ	18,298	35.6	HUBBARD, Lela Malina	1,105	0.7	KAMA, Peter	1,163	2.3
(L )DUQUESNE, Lawrence G.K.	1,436	2.8	PARK, Bernadette (Akiona)	1,034	0.7	NALUAI, D. Keala (Dottie)	657	1.3
BLANK VOTES	3,236	6.3	EBISU, Tulane E.	957	0.6	KAHUI, Craig (Bo)	636	1.2
OVER VOTES	10	0.0	MORRISON, Harriet Ilima	906	0.6	CLARK, Kauila	547	1.1
=====			HANALEI, Ralph (Hana)	834	0.5	KAPELE, Jay Jay (Jeff)	413	0.8
STATE SENATOR - [D 2]			KAUHANE, Mike	830	0.5	KALUA, V. Halemano	409	0.8
	17 of 17	100.0	KALEIKINI, Lovell F.	828	0.5	AMONG, Les A.	372	0.7
(D )MATSUURA, David M.	10,126	58.1	PEABODY, George (Aloha)	827	0.5	HAUPU, Wave	360	0.7
(R )O'LEARY, Paul (Bow Tie Guy)	6,349	36.4	KANEKOA, Mitchell III	818	0.5	AMSTERDAM, Kaui Jochanan	258	0.5
BLANK VOTES	950	5.5	AKINA, Crayn Kauahi	764	0.5	KIPILII, Franklin	246	0.5
OVER VOTES	4	0.0	WONG, Edwina A.L.	690	0.4	BLANK VOTES	18,169	35.5
=====			EBEL, Bud	654	0.4	OVER VOTES	370	0.7
STATE SENATOR - [D 3]			SCHNEIDER, Loyson Earl	636	0.4	=====		
	22 of 22	100.0	GORA, Francis Keoua	546	0.4	OHA - HAWAII (1)		
(D )LEVIN, Andrew (Andy)	12,203	69.3	PADEKEN, Charmaine H.	480	0.3		60 of 60	100.0
(R )FUJIKAWA, Earl	4,635	26.3	KUPAU, O.	464	0.3	SPRINGER, Hannah (Kihalani)	12,182	23.8
BLANK VOTES	769	4.4	CAIRES, Gordon Kona	461	0.3	HOKE, Arthur A.	8,958	17.5
OVER VOTES	4	0.0	HAIA, Thomas A.K.	460	0.3	DELA CRUZ, Linda K.	7,194	14.1
=====			KELIIHOLOKAI, Demitrius	434	0.3	KUAMO'O, Aileen M.	4,239	8.3
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - [D 4]			TOLER, Dustin	395	0.3	HALL, Kainoa J.	2,369	4.6
	11 of 11	100.0	FINAI, Charl Kaleialohaona	374	0.2	BLANK VOTES	16,157	31.6
(D )HALE, Helene H.	3,445	37.3	PALCIC, Michael (Big Mike)	362	0.2	OVER VOTES	35	0.1
(R )REED, Robert	2,798	30.3	TIWANAK, Eric Kuualoha	361	0.2	=====		
(G )ASTE, Virginia (Ginny)	1,797	19.4	YIN, Thomas M.	355	0.2	OHA - KAUAI (1)		
(L )ANDERSON, Aaron	815	8.8	SABEY, John L.	332	0.2		60 of 60	100.0
BLANK VOTES	387	4.2	PELTIER, Victor (Umi)	328	0.2	CATALUNA, Don	9,892	19.3
OVER VOTES	5	0.1	ELDERTS, Maitland P. K.	284	0.2	BENIAMINA, Jean Ilei Keale	5,862	11.5
=====			MALTERRE, Walter G.	224	0.1	OCLIT, Eloise Kaneakua Tutu	3,890	7.6
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - [D 5]			UNDER VOTES	61,165	39.8	REGO, Randy S. Naukana	3,655	7.1
	11 of 11	100.0	OVER VOTES	198	0.1	TORIO, James Kapule	3,329	6.5
(R )WHALEN, Paul K.	4,313	51.6	=====			BLANK VOTES	24,494	47.9
(D )SBELL, Virginia	3,853	46.1	OHA - SP VAC OAHU (1)			OVER VOTES	12	0.0
BLANK VOTES	196	2.3		60 of 60	100.0	=====		
OVER VOTES	2	0.0	HEE, Clayton	19,647	38.2	OHA - MOLOKAI (1)		
=====			TAKAMINE, Vicky Holt	7,650	14.9		60 of 60	100.0
			THOMPSON, Richard	5,460	10.6	KEALOHA, Samuel L., Jr.	15,145	29.6
			MURATA, Todd	1,795	3.5	MACHADO, Colette Y. Piipii	11,340	22.2
			WONGHAM, Greg	915	1.8	BLANK VOTES	24,644	48.2
			BLANK VOTES	15,871	30.9	OVER VOTES	5	0.0
			OVER VOTES	30	0.1	=====		
=====			=====			MAYOR - COUNTY OF HAWAII		
							60 of 60	100.0
						(R )KIM, Harry	25,289	49.2
						(D )HOLSCHUH, Fred C.	14,989	29.2
						(G )BONK, Keiko	10,004	19.5
						BLANK VOTES	1,079	2.1
						OVER VOTES	7	0.0
						=====		

(A) = ALOHA 'AINA

(C) = CONSTITUTION

(G) = HAWAII GREEN

(NL) = NATURAL LAW

(RF) = REFORM

(D) = DEMOCRAT

(L) = LIBERTARIAN

(N) = NONPARTISAN

(R) = REPUBLICAN

NOVEMBER 7, 2000

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COUNCILMEMBER - HAWAII [D 2]			CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: APPOINT TAX REVIEW			HAWAII CHARTER: WATER DEPARTMENT		
	6 of 6	100.0	COMMISSION	60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
(D )LEITHEAD-TODD, Bobby Jean	3,942	67.6	YES	15,406	30.1	YES	37,021	72.4
(L )KEEFE, Jim (O'Keefe)	1,367	23.4	NO	30,152	59.0	NO	7,681	15.0
BLANK VOTES	524	9.0	BLANK VOTES	5,551	10.9	BLANK VOTES	6,419	12.6
OVER VOTES	1	0.0	OVER VOTES	25	0.0	OVER VOTES	13	0.0
COUNCILMEMBER - HAWAII [D 5]			CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: STAGGERED SENATE			HAWAII CHARTER: SALARY COMMISSION		
	6 of 6	100.0	TERMS	60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
(D )SAFARIK, Gary	2,702	47.3	YES	33,273	65.1	YES	29,507	57.7
(G )HIRAKAMI, Steven A. (Steve)	1,860	32.6	NO	10,593	20.7	NO	14,116	27.6
(R )EVANS, Roger	958	16.8	BLANK VOTES	7,256	14.2	BLANK VOTES	7,494	14.7
BLANK VOTES	182	3.2	OVER VOTES	12	0.0	OVER VOTES	17	0.0
OVER VOTES	6	0.1						
COUNCILMEMBER - HAWAII [D 6]			HAWAII CHARTER: NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS			HAWAII CHARTER: COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION		
	10 of 10	100.0		60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
(G )JACOBSON, Julie	3,037	51.7	YES	26,244	51.3	YES	25,113	49.1
(R )SANTANGELO, John	2,527	43.0	NO	20,374	39.8	NO	18,641	36.5
BLANK VOTES	309	5.3	BLANK VOTES	4,496	8.8	BLANK VOTES	7,364	14.4
OVER VOTES	2	0.0	OVER VOTES	20	0.0	OVER VOTES	16	0.0
COUNCILMEMBER - HAWAII [D 7]			HAWAII CHARTER: MANAGING DIRECTOR AUTHORITY			HAWAII CHARTER: HAWAII REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY		
	7 of 7	100.0		60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
(D )PISICCHIO, Nancy	3,699	59.2	YES	26,962	52.7	YES	31,548	61.7
(R )REYNOLDS, Mary	2,196	35.2	NO	17,536	34.3	NO	11,938	23.3
BLANK VOTES	350	5.6	BLANK VOTES	6,627	13.0	BLANK VOTES	7,627	14.9
OVER VOTES	2	0.0	OVER VOTES	9	0.0	OVER VOTES	21	0.0
COUNCILMEMBER - HAWAII [D 8]			HAWAII CHARTER: FIRE COMMISSION			HAWAII CHARTER: COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN KONA		
	4 of 4	100.0		60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
(R )TYLER, Curtis	4,066	74.3	YES	28,934	56.6	YES	38,443	75.2
(NL)CONNAUGHTON, Ed (Mr. Ed)	827	15.1	NO	16,350	32.0	NO	6,587	12.9
BLANK VOTES	580	10.6	BLANK VOTES	5,837	11.4	BLANK VOTES	6,094	11.9
OVER VOTES	0	0.0	OVER VOTES	13	0.0	OVER VOTES	10	0.0
COUNCILMEMBER - HAWAII [D 9]			HAWAII CHARTER: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT			HAWAII CHARTER: LIQUOR COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP		
	6 of 6	100.0		60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
(R )ELARIONOFF, Leningrad	2,373	38.9	YES	26,535	51.9	YES	29,257	57.2
(D )AKANA, Eddie	2,158	35.4	NO	19,153	37.5	NO	15,638	30.6
(G )CAZIMERO, Tanny	1,340	22.0	BLANK VOTES	5,436	10.6	BLANK VOTES	6,231	12.2
BLANK VOTES	229	3.8	OVER VOTES	10	0.0	OVER VOTES	8	0.0
OVER VOTES	2	0.0						
BOE 1st DEPT/HAWAII (1)			HAWAII CHARTER: HOLD-OVER OF BOARD AND COMMISSIONS			HAWAII CHARTER: CODE OF ETHICS		
	60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
WATANABE, Herbert S.	25,658	49.9	YES	32,092	62.8	YES	34,369	67.2
QUINTANA-DAVIES, Nani	16,390	31.9	NO	13,296	26.0	NO	8,832	17.3
BLANK VOTES	9,316	18.1	BLANK VOTES	5,731	11.2	BLANK VOTES	7,926	15.5
OVER VOTES	4	0.0	OVER VOTES	15	0.0	OVER VOTES	7	0.0
BOE 2nd DEPT/MAUI (1)			HAWAII CHARTER: SAFETY COORDINATOR'S OFFICE			HAWAII CHARTER: RESIDENCY OF BOARD & COMMISSION MEMBERS AFTER REDISTRICTING		
	60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0		60 of 60	100.0
MYERS, William (Bill)	9,367	18.2	YES	29,728	58.1	YES	31,771	62.1
UEOKA, Meyer M.	6,886	13.4	NO	13,939	27.3	NO	12,016	23.5
NAKAO, Dwight	6,873	13.4	BLANK VOTES	7,455	14.6	BLANK VOTES	7,336	14.3
BLUNDELL, Brian K.	3,689	7.2	OVER VOTES	12	0.0	OVER VOTES	11	0.0
LINARES, Vinnie	3,134	6.1						
BLANK VOTES	21,389	41.6	HAWAII CHARTER: QUALIFICATIONS OF DEPARMENT	60 of 60	100.0	REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT		
OVER VOTES	30	0.1	HEADS	60 of 60	100.0	*****		
BOE 7th DEPT/KAUAI (1)			YES	36,888	72.1	GENERAL		
	60 of 60	100.0	NO	7,750	15.2	*****		
HARA, Sherwood	18,938	36.9	BLANK VOTES	6,490	12.7	TOTAL REGISTRATION		
NAKASHIMA, Mitsugi	11,013	21.4	OVER VOTES	6	0.0	84,421		
BLANK VOTES	21,415	41.7				TOTAL TURNOUT		
OVER VOTES	2	0.0	HAWAII CHARTER: POLICE DEPARTMENT	60 of 60	100.0	51,368 60.8		
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: UH SELF GOVERNANCE			YES	43,019	84.1	PRECINCT TURNOUT		
	60 of 60	100.0	NO	2,965	5.8	40,241 47.7		
YES	34,511	67.5	BLANK VOTES	5,139	10.1	A BALLOTS CAST		
NO	12,081	23.6	OVER VOTES	11	0.0	40,074		
BLANK VOTES	4,524	8.8				B BALLOTS CAST		
OVER VOTES	18	0.0				ABSENTEE TURNOUT		
						11,127 13.2		
						A BALLOTS CAST		
						11,127		
						B BALLOTS CAST		
						11,060		

(A) = ALOHA 'AINA

(C) = CONSTITUTION

(G) = HAWAII GREEN

(NL) = NATURAL LAW

(RF) = REFORM

(D) = DEMOCRAT

(L) = LIBERTARIAN

(N) = NONPARTISAN

(R) = REPUBLICAN

President and Vice President			1st Departmental School District Seat (Hawaii)			Number To Vote For:		
71 of 71			71 of 71			REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT		
(D) KERRY, John F. For PRESIDENT 35,116 60.6%			WATANABE, Herbert S. 28,840 49.7%			*****		
(R) BUSH, George W. For PRESIDENT 22,032 38.0%			DAVIES-QUINTANA, Nadia 18,778 32.4%			GENERAL		
(G) COBB, David For PRESIDENT 321 0.6%			Blank Votes: 10,361 17.9%			*****		
(L) BADNARIK, Michael For PRESIDENT 233 0.4%			Over Votes: 9 0.0%			TOTAL REGISTRATION 87,812		
Blank Votes: 276 0.5%			7th Departmental School District Seat (Kauai) 71 of 71			TOTAL TURNOUT 57,994 66.0%		
Over Votes: 16 0.0%			COX, Maggie 22,640 39.1%			PRECINCT TURNOUT 39,624 45.1%		
U.S. Senator 71 of 71			NAKASHIMA, Mitsugi 13,678 23.6%			ABSENTEE TURNOUT 18,370 20.9%		
(D) INOUE, Daniel K. 41,840 72.2%			Blank Votes: 21,647 37.3%			*****		
(R) CAVASSO, Cam 11,583 20.0%			Over Votes: 6 0.0%			OVERSEAS BALLOTS CAST		
(L) MALLAN, Jeff 1,272 2.2%			"At Large" Trustee 71 of 71			*****		
(N) BREWER, Jim 1,250 2.2%			APOLIONA, Haunani 22,878 39.5%			OVERSEAS TURNOUT 0		
Blank Votes: 2,001 3.5%			HILL, Kau (Bu La'ia) 5,831 10.1%			1ST CONGRESSIONAL 0		
Over Votes: 11 0.0%			KAWELO, Frankie Kay 5,140 8.9%			2ND CONGRESSIONAL 0		
U.S. Representative, Dist 2 71 of 71			SABEY, John L. (Kione) 4,400 7.6%			PRESIDENTIAL 0		
(D) CASE, Ed 37,629 64.9%			Blank Votes: 19,691 34.0%					
(R) GABBARD, Mike 19,167 33.0%			Over Votes: 13 0.0%					
Blank Votes: 1,184 2.0%			Hawaii Resident Trustee 71 of 71					
Over Votes: 14 0.0%			KAMAKAWIWOOLE, Reynolds N. 13,503 23.3%					
State Senator, Dist 3 23 of 23			DELA CRUZ, Linda K. 7,134 12.3%					
(R) WHALEN, Paul 9,661 50.0%			HAO, Louis 6,839 11.8%					
(D) FOX, Steven 9,076 46.9%			NELSON, Dickie 4,877 8.4%					
Blank Votes: 593 3.1%			KINIMAKA-STOCKSDALE, Kahea 2,847 4.9%					
Over Votes: 7 0.0%			BURKE, Jackie (Kahookole) 2,793 4.8%					
State Representative, Dist 2 9 of 9			CHUN, Kaliko 2,359 4.1%					
(D) CHANG, Jerry (Leslie) 5,851 71.2%			Blank Votes: 17,566 30.3%					
(R) VANNATTA, Sharon (DeMello) 1,983 24.1%			Over Votes: 18 0.0%					
Blank Votes: 381 4.6%			CON AMEND: Sexual Assault 71 of 71					
Over Votes: 1 0.0%			YES 35,414 61.1%					
State Representative, Dist 3 9 of 9			NO 16,555 28.6%					
(D) TSUJI, Clifton K. (Clift) 5,696 61.1%			Blank Votes: 5,985 10.3%					
(R) SMITH, Andy 3,447 37.0%			Over Votes: 9 0.0%					
Blank Votes: 174 1.9%			CON AMEND: Public Right to Information 71 of 71					
Over Votes: 0 0.0%			YES 39,328 67.9%					
State Representative, Dist 4 9 of 9			NO 12,911 22.3%					
(D) HALE, Helene H. 4,239 54.9%			Blank Votes: 5,703 9.8%					
(R) JORDAN, Brian F. 2,912 37.7%			Over Votes: 15 0.0%					
(L) TRIGLIA, Dennis 364 4.7%			CON AMEND: Rights of Accused Law 71 of 71					
Blank Votes: 207 2.7%			YES 27,313 47.1%					
Over Votes: 2 0.0%			NO 23,640 40.8%					
State Representative, Dist 5 12 of 12			Blank Votes: 6,977 12.0%					
(D) HERKES, Robert (Bob) 4,898 61.6%			Over Votes: 16 0.0%					
(R) TABBADA, Stephanie (Dancel) 2,618 32.9%			CON AMEND: Felony Prosecutions 71 of 71					
Blank Votes: 431 5.4%			YES 28,594 49.3%					
Over Votes: 2 0.0%			NO 21,745 37.5%					
State Representative, Dist 6 9 of 9			Blank Votes: 7,636 13.2%					
(D) GREEN, Joshua 4,337 52.4%			Over Votes: 6 0.0%					
(R) JERNIGAN, Mark 3,646 44.0%								
Blank Votes: 295 3.6%								
Over Votes: 2 0.0%								
State Representative, Dist 7 8 of 8								
(D) EVANS, Cindy 4,671 55.3%								
(R) SANBORN, J. William (Bill) 3,518 41.7%								
Blank Votes: 252 3.0%								
Over Votes: 2 0.0%								



<b>President and Vice President</b>			<b>"At Large" Trustee</b>			<b>Hawaii: Windward and Leeward Planning Commissions</b>		
67 of 67			67 of 67			67 of 67		
(D) OBAMA, Barack / BIDEN, Joe	50,819	75.6%	APOLIONA, Haunani	20,544	30.5%	YES	38,260	56.9%
(I) McCain, John / PALIN, Sarah	14,866	22.1%	HONDA, Helene S.M.	10,170	15.1%	NO	22,375	33.3%
(R) NADER, Ralph / GONZALEZ, Matt	619	0.9%	KIPPEN, Colin C.	9,700	14.4%	Blank Votes:	6,592	9.8%
(L) BARR, Bob / ROOT, Wayne A.	232	0.3%	NALUA'I, Sol	4,483	6.7%	Over Votes:	31	0.0%
(G) McKINNEY, Cynthia / CLEMENTE, Rosa	197	0.3%	Blank Votes:	22,336	33.2%	<b>Hawaii: Initiative and Referendum</b>		
(C) BALDWIN, Chuck / CASTLE, Darrell L.	183	0.3%	Over Votes:	25	0.0%	67 of 67		
Blank Votes:	317	0.5%	<b>Hawaii Resident Trustee</b>			YES	32,674	48.6%
Over Votes:	25	0.0%	67 of 67			NO	22,957	34.1%
<b>US Representative, Dist II</b>			LINDSEY, Bob K.	29,763	44.3%	Blank Votes:	11,600	17.2%
67 of 67			MEYERS, William (Willy)	13,160	19.6%	Over Votes:	27	0.0%
(D) HIRONO, Mazie	46,482	69.1%	Blank Votes:	24,317	36.2%	<b>Hawaii: Office of the Legislative Auditor</b>		
(R) EVANS, Roger B.	13,038	19.4%	Over Votes:	18	0.0%	67 of 67		
(L) MALLAN, Lloyd J. (Jeff)	1,224	1.8%	<b>Kauai Resident Trustee</b>			YES	28,009	41.6%
(I) STENSHOL, Shaun	1,166	1.7%	67 of 67			NO	27,584	41.0%
Blank Votes:	5,310	7.9%	CATALUNA, Donald B.	27,278	40.6%	Blank Votes:	11,646	17.3%
Over Votes:	38	0.1%	Blank Votes:	39,980	59.4%	Over Votes:	19	0.0%
<b>State Senator, Dist 1</b>			Over Votes:	0	0.0%	<b>Hawaii: Civil and Criminal Penalties</b>		
25 of 25			<b>Molokai Resident Trustee</b>			67 of 67		
(D) TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.	12,972	60.2%	67 of 67			YES	36,921	54.9%
(R) HONG, Ted H.S.	7,560	35.1%	PURDY, Waipa	16,054	23.9%	NO	20,842	31.0%
Blank Votes:	1,013	4.7%	MACHADO, Colette Y. Piipii	15,992	23.8%	Blank Votes:	9,464	14.1%
Over Votes:	11	0.1%	Blank Votes:	35,196	52.3%	Over Votes:	31	0.0%
<b>State Representative, Dist 1</b>			Over Votes:	16	0.0%	<b>Hawaii: Lowest Law Enforcement Priority of Cannabis</b>		
15 of 15			<b>Mayor, County of Hawaii</b>			67 of 67		
(D) NAKASHIMA, Mark M.	5,801	64.3%	67 of 67			FOR	35,689	53.1%
(R) OFFENBAKER, Steven A.	2,360	26.2%	KENOI, Billy	37,368	55.6%	AGAINST	25,940	38.6%
Blank Votes:	853	9.5%	PILAGO, K. Angel	27,510	40.9%	Blank Votes:	5,587	8.3%
Over Votes:	3	0.0%	Blank Votes:	2,368	3.5%	Over Votes:	42	0.1%
<b>State Representative, Dist 3</b>			Over Votes:	12	0.0%	<b>REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT</b>		
8 of 8			<b>Councilmember, Dist 4</b>			*****		
(D) TSUJI, Clifton (Clift)	7,958	79.7%	6 of 6			GENERAL		
(R) TAVARES, Deirdre (Moana)	1,413	14.2%	ONISHI, Dennis (Fresh)	3,646	59.7%	*****		
Blank Votes:	613	6.1%	BACLIQ, Andres (Andy)	1,989	32.6%	TOTAL REGISTRATION		
Over Votes:	1	0.0%	Blank Votes:	471	7.7%	99,337		
<b>State Representative, Dist 4</b>			Over Votes:	1	0.0%	TOTAL TURNOUT		
8 of 8			<b>Councilmember, Dist 5</b>			67,258 67.7%		
(D) HANOHANO, Faye P.	5,324	50.9%	6 of 6			PRECINCT TURNOUT		
(R) BLAS, Fred	4,429	42.3%	NAEOLE, Emily I.	4,127	51.1%	39,471 39.7%		
Blank Votes:	701	6.7%	SAFARIK, Gary S.	3,615	44.8%	ABSENTEE TURNOUT		
Over Votes:	11	0.1%	Blank Votes:	331	4.1%	27,787 28.0%		
<b>State Representative, Dist 6</b>			Over Votes:	3	0.0%	*****		
8 of 8			<b>Councilmember, Dist 8</b>			OVERSEAS BALLOTS CAST		
(D) COFFMAN, Denny	4,520	47.6%	7 of 7			*****		
(R) SMITH, Andy	4,378	46.1%	GREENWELL, Kelly	3,662	47.6%	OVERSEAS TURNOUT		
Blank Votes:	587	6.2%	HECHT, Debbie	3,044	39.6%	0 0.0%		
Over Votes:	10	0.1%	Blank Votes:	987	12.8%	1ST CONGRESSIONAL		
<b>State Representative, Dist 7</b>			Over Votes:	1	0.0%	0		
8 of 8			<b>CON CON: Constitutional Convention Question</b>			2ND CONGRESSIONAL		
(D) EVANS, Cindy	6,250	62.1%	67 of 67			0		
(R) DELA CRUZ, Ronald (Makaula)	3,017	30.0%	YES	22,300	33.2%	PRESIDENTIAL		
Blank Votes:	776	7.7%	NO	41,275	61.4%	0		
Over Votes:	15	0.1%	Blank Votes:	3,648	5.4%			
<b>1st Departmental School District Seat (Hawaii)</b>			Over Votes:	35	0.1%			
67 of 67			<b>CON AMEND: Age Qualification for Governor</b>			67 of 67		
WATANABE, Herbert S.	28,312	42.1%	67 of 67			YES	12,860	19.1%
SANBORN, J. William (Bill)	27,675	41.1%	YES	22,300	33.2%	NO	50,826	75.6%
Blank Votes:	11,252	16.7%	NO	41,275	61.4%	Blank Votes:	3,536	5.3%
Over Votes:	19	0.0%	Blank Votes:	3,536	5.3%	Over Votes:	36	0.1%
<b>7th Departmental School District Seat (Kauai)</b>			Over Votes:	36	0.1%			
67 of 67								
COX, Maggie	29,224	43.5%						
FILLHART, Larry	6,524	9.7%						
Blank Votes:	31,499	46.8%						
Over Votes:	11	0.0%						

<b>President and Vice President</b> 43 of 43 (D) OBAMA, Barack / BIDEN, Joe 47,224 74.0% (R) ROMNEY, Mitt / RYAN, Paul 14,753 23.1% (L) JOHNSON, Gary / GRAY, James P. 749 1.2% (G) STEIN, Jill / HONKALA, Cheri 728 1.1% Blank Votes: 331 0.5% Over Votes: 27 0.0%	<b>Kauai Resident Trustee</b> 43 of 43 AHUNA, Dan 9,026 14.1% PACHECO, Haunani 4,334 6.8% BURKE, Jackie Kahookole 3,233 5.1% KAGAWA FU, Kanani 3,048 4.8% YADAO, Leland K. (Radar) 2,962 4.6% POMROY, Sharon A. 2,575 4.0% SWAIN, Billy Kealamaikahiki 2,215 3.5% SANTOS, D. Kaliko 1,541 2.4% ALBAO, Liberta Hussey 1,151 1.8% ALALEM WORTHINGTON, Keola 802 1.3% SAHUT, Ronson K. 260 0.4% Blank Votes: 32,608 51.1% Over Votes: 57 0.1%	<b>Councilmember, Dist 6</b> 8 of 8 FORD, Brenda 3,216 48.0% DAVID, Maile (Medeiros) 3,052 45.5% Blank Votes: 434 6.5% Over Votes: 2 0.0%
<b>US Senator</b> 43 of 43 (D) HIRONO, Mazie 43,383 68.0% (R) LINGLE, Linda 19,491 30.5% Blank Votes: 922 1.4% Over Votes: 16 0.0%	<b>Molokai Resident Trustee</b> 43 of 43 MACHADO, Colette (Piipii) 28,393 44.5% Blank Votes: 35,419 55.5% Over Votes: 0 0.0%	<b>Councilmember, Dist 9</b> 3 of 3 WILLE, Margaret 3,486 47.3% SHIMAOKA, Oliver (Sonny) 3,072 41.7% Blank Votes: 812 11.0% Over Votes: 1 0.0%
<b>US Representative, Dist 2</b> 43 of 43 (D) GABBARD, Tulsi 49,995 78.3% (R) CROWLEY, Kawika 11,158 17.5% Blank Votes: 2,619 4.1% Over Votes: 40 0.1%	<b>"At Large" Trustee</b> 43 of 43 APOLIONA, Haunani 15,244 23.9% LEE, Cal 6,647 10.4% RITTE, Walter 5,672 8.9% AKINA, Keli'i 4,970 7.8% MAKEKAU, Kealii J. 2,895 4.5% LINCOLN, Lancelot Haili 2,859 4.5% Blank Votes: 25,485 39.9% Over Votes: 40 0.1%	<b>CON AMEND: Relating to Dams and Reservoirs</b> 43 of 43 YES 31,357 49.1% NO 25,326 39.7% Blank Votes: 7,095 11.1% Over Votes: 34 0.1%
<b>State Senator, Dist 2</b> 9 of 9 (D) RUDERMAN, Russell E. 10,487 71.5% (R) SMITH, Daryl Lee 3,154 21.5% Blank Votes: 1,008 6.9% Over Votes: 10 0.1%	<b>OHA Vacancy: Maui</b> 43 of 43 LINDSEY, Carmen Hulu 11,917 18.7% KANE, Dain Pomaika'i 4,680 7.3% KAPU, Ke'eumoku 4,414 6.9% GOMES, Doreen Pua 4,332 6.8% AU, Glenn G. 2,590 4.1% DUEY, Rose 2,339 3.7% AMORIN, Johanna Kuulei Shin 1,486 2.3% Blank Votes: 32,030 50.2% Over Votes: 24 0.0%	<b>CON AMEND: Relating to Retired Judges</b> 43 of 43 YES 32,755 51.3% NO 24,287 38.1% Blank Votes: 6,744 10.6% Over Votes: 26 0.0%
<b>State Senator, Dist 3</b> 12 of 12 (D) GREEN, Josh 11,351 74.4% (R) LAFRANCE, Jeff R. 3,192 20.9% Blank Votes: 719 4.7% Over Votes: 4 0.0%	<b>Mayor, County of Hawaii</b> 43 of 43 KENOI, Billy 31,806 49.8% KIM, Harry 30,368 47.6% Blank Votes: 1,619 2.5% Over Votes: 19 0.0%	<b>1. HAWAII: Records and Meetings Open to the Public</b> 43 of 43 YES 39,616 62.1% NO 15,814 24.8% Blank Votes: 8,346 13.1% Over Votes: 36 0.1%
<b>State Senator, Dist 4</b> 13 of 13 (D) SOLOMON, Malama 9,828 60.9% (G) GREENWELL, Kelly 4,934 30.6% Blank Votes: 1,368 8.5% Over Votes: 10 0.1%	<b>Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii</b> 43 of 43 ROTH, Mitch 28,317 44.4% ASHIDA, Lincoln 28,192 44.2% Blank Votes: 7,285 11.4% Over Votes: 18 0.0%	<b>2. HAWAII: Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Fund</b> 43 of 43 YES 35,079 55.0% NO 21,065 33.0% Blank Votes: 7,629 12.0% Over Votes: 39 0.1%
<b>State Representative, Dist 3</b> 7 of 7 (D) ONISHI, Richard H.K. 4,937 54.8% (R) HAPAI, Marlene (Nachbar) 2,832 31.5% (L) FOGEL, Frederick F. 860 9.6% Blank Votes: 363 4.0% Over Votes: 10 0.1%	<b>Councilmember, Dist 1</b> 8 of 8 POINDEXTER, Valerie 3,869 54.4% YAGONG, Chelsea 2,723 38.3% Blank Votes: 524 7.4% Over Votes: 1 0.0%	<b>3. HAWAII: Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation</b> 43 of 43 YES 36,072 56.5% NO 19,772 31.0% Blank Votes: 7,941 12.4% Over Votes: 27 0.0%
<b>State Representative, Dist 5</b> 8 of 8 (D) COFFMAN, Denny 5,464 63.2% (R) BATEMAN, Dave 2,631 30.4% Blank Votes: 544 6.3% Over Votes: 7 0.1%	<b>Councilmember, Dist 4</b> 3 of 3 ILAGAN, Greggor 3,941 59.2% BLAS, Fred 2,463 37.0% Blank Votes: 255 3.8% Over Votes: 3 0.0%	<b>4. HAWAII: Establishing Special Funds</b> 43 of 43 YES 15,052 23.6% NO 41,335 64.8% Blank Votes: 7,386 11.6% Over Votes: 39 0.1%
<b>State Representative, Dist 6</b> 5 of 5 (D) LOWEN, Nicole 5,336 63.9% (R) EBERT, Roy 2,487 29.8% Blank Votes: 520 6.2% Over Votes: 2 0.0%		<b>5. HAWAII: Eligibility for Redistricting Commissioners to be Candidates for County</b> 43 of 43 YES 40,063 62.8% NO 14,151 22.2% Blank Votes: 9,555 15.0% Over Votes: 43 0.1%
<b>Hawaii Resident Trustee</b> 43 of 43 LINDSEY, Robert K. 27,049 42.4% MEYERS, William (Willy) 8,864 13.9% MIRANDA, Edwin L.P. 6,300 9.9% Blank Votes: 21,576 33.8% Over Votes: 23 0.0%		<b>6. HAWAII: Establishing a Game Management Advisory Commission</b> 43 of 43 YES 37,380 58.6% NO 19,756 31.0% Blank Votes: 6,638 10.4% Over Votes: 38 0.1%

November 6, 2012

Printed on: 11/20/2012 at 05:47:39 pm

## SUMMARY REPORT

\*\*FINAL SUMMARY REPORT\*\*

## REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT

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## GENERAL

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TOTAL REGISTRATION	104,323	
TOTAL TURNOUT	63,812	61.2%
PRECINCT TURNOUT	32,086	30.8%
ABSENTEE TURNOUT	31,726	30.4%

SUMMARY REPORT  
\*\*FINAL SUMMARY REPORT\*\*

Printed on: 11/10/2016 at 05:45:06 pm

<b>President and Vice President</b> <div>43 of 43</div> (D) CLINTON, Hillary / KAINE, Tim 41,259 62.5% (R) TRUMP, Donald J. / PENCE, Michael R. 17,501 26.5% (G) STEIN, Jill / BARAKA, Ajamu 2,852 4.3% (L) JOHNSON, Gary / WELD, Bill 2,470 3.7% (C) CASTLE, Darrell L. / BRADLEY, Scott N. 785 1.2% Blank Votes: 1,124 1.7% Over Votes: 30 0.0%			<b>State Representative, Dist 6</b> <div>5 of 5</div> (D) LOWEN, Nicole E. 6,013 64.9% (R) PRATT, Bruce C. 2,896 31.3% Blank Votes: 356 3.8% Over Votes: 2 0.0%			<b>REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT</b> GENERAL TOTAL REGISTRATION 113,083 TOTAL TURNOUT 66,021 58.4% PRECINCT TURNOUT 26,470 23.4% ABSENTEE TURNOUT 39,551 35.0%		
<b>U.S. Senator</b> <div>43 of 43</div> (D) SCHATZ, Brian 47,003 71.2% (R) CARROLL, John 12,766 19.3% (C) ALLISON, Joy J. 1,695 2.6% (L) KOKOSKI, Michael A. 1,276 1.9% (A) GIUFFRÉ, John M. (Raghu) 275 0.4% Blank Votes: 2,986 4.5% Over Votes: 20 0.0%			<b>State Representative, Dist 7</b> <div>5 of 5</div> (D) EVANS, Cindy 5,934 59.7% (R) COAKLEY, Jeffrey (Jeff) 3,581 36.0% Blank Votes: 430 4.3% Over Votes: 1 0.0%					
<b>U.S. Representative, Dist II</b> <div>43 of 43</div> (D) GABBARD, Tulsi 51,047 77.3% (R) KAAIHUE, Angela Aulani 11,453 17.3% Blank Votes: 3,498 5.3% Over Votes: 23 0.0%			<b>Hawaii Resident Trustee</b> <div>43 of 43</div> LINDSEY, Robert K. (Bob) 29,493 44.7% TRASK, Mililani B. 22,416 34.0% Blank Votes: 14,097 21.4% Over Votes: 15 0.0%					
<b>State Senator, Dist 1 Vacancy</b> <div>9 of 9</div> (D) KAHELE, Kai'i'i 14,488 82.7% (L) ARIANOFF, Kimberly 1,816 10.4% Blank Votes: 1,207 6.9% Over Votes: 1 0.0%			<b>At-Large Trustee</b> <div>43 of 43</div> AKINA, Keli'i 24,675 37.4% APOLIONA, Haunani 22,813 34.6% Blank Votes: 18,524 28.1% Over Votes: 9 0.0%					
<b>State Senator, Dist 2</b> <div>10 of 10</div> (D) RUDERMAN, Russell E. 11,664 76.6% (L) FOGEL, Frederick F. 2,488 16.3% Blank Votes: 1,062 7.0% Over Votes: 4 0.0%			<b>Councilmember, Dist 3, County of Hawaii</b> <div>5 of 5</div> LEE LOY, Susan (Sue) 4,399 54.9% KELII, Moana M.H. 3,009 37.6% Blank Votes: 598 7.5% Over Votes: 1 0.0%					
<b>State Representative, Dist 1</b> <div>9 of 9</div> (D) NAKASHIMA, Mark M. 7,492 73.5% (R) YOUNG, Byron 1,921 18.8% Blank Votes: 779 7.6% Over Votes: 3 0.0%			<b>Councilmember, Dist 4, County of Hawaii</b> <div>4 of 4</div> OHARA, Eileen 3,405 49.6% GREENE, Madie 2,861 41.7% Blank Votes: 602 8.8% Over Votes: 1 0.0%					
<b>State Representative, Dist 3</b> <div>7 of 7</div> (D) ONISHI, Richard H.K. 6,184 67.8% (G) PISCIOTTA, Kealoha 1,333 14.6% (L) ARIANOFF, Gregory 813 8.9% Blank Votes: 779 8.5% Over Votes: 7 0.1%			<b>CON AMEND: Jury Trials in Civil Cases</b> <div>43 of 43</div> YES 30,961 46.9% NO 27,835 42.2% Blank Votes: 7,206 10.9% Over Votes: 19 0.0%					
<b>State Representative, Dist 4</b> <div>4 of 4</div> (D) SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. 5,846 67.6% (N) JONES, Luana 1,247 14.4% (C) STEPHENS, Moke 648 7.5% Blank Votes: 900 10.4% Over Votes: 7 0.1%			<b>CON AMEND: Disposition of Excess Revenues</b> <div>43 of 43</div> YES 33,747 51.1% NO 23,500 35.6% Blank Votes: 8,751 13.3% Over Votes: 23 0.0%					
<b>State Representative, Dist 5</b> <div>8 of 8</div> (D) CREAGAN, Richard P. 6,176 68.3% (L) LAST, Michael L. 1,766 19.5% Blank Votes: 1,106 12.2% Over Votes: 0 0.0%			<b>HAWAII: Expanding Scope of the County of Hawai'i General Plan</b> <div>43 of 43</div> YES 43,153 65.4% NO 15,809 23.9% Blank Votes: 7,045 10.7% Over Votes: 14 0.0%					

<b>President and Vice President</b>			<b>Molokai Resident Trustee</b>			<b>HAWAII: Public Access, Open Space, &amp; Natural Resources Preservation Fund</b>		
(D) BIDEN / HARRIS	58,731	66.3%	ALAPA, Luana	31,022	35.0%	YES	46,142	52.1%
(R) TRUMP / PENCE	26,897	30.4%	MACHADO, Colette (Piipii)	23,132	26.1%	NO	31,657	35.7%
(L) JORGENSEN / COHEN	1,027	1.2%	Blank Votes:	34,435	38.9%	Blank Votes:	10,784	12.2%
(G) HAWKINS / WALKER	805	0.9%	Over Votes:	19	0.0%	Over Votes:	25	0.0%
(AS) PIERCE / BALLARD	220	0.2%	<b>At-Large Trustee</b>			<b>HAWAII: Discipline of Council Members</b>		
(C) BLANKENSHIP / MOHR	134	0.2%	AKINA, Keli'i	32,204	36.3%	YES	72,087	81.4%
Blank Votes:	741	0.8%	SOUZA, Keoni	27,829	31.4%	NO	7,657	8.6%
Over Votes:	53	0.1%	Blank Votes:	28,553	32.2%	Blank Votes:	8,845	10.0%
<b>U.S. Representative, Dist II</b>			Over Votes:	22	0.0%	Over Votes:	19	0.0%
(D) KAHELE, Kaiiali'i (Kai)	55,774	62.9%	<b>Mayor, County of Hawaii</b>			<b>HAWAII: Department of Information Technology</b>		
(R) AKANA, Joe	20,897	23.6%	ROTH, Mitch	50,421	56.9%	YES	33,234	37.5%
(L) TIPPENS, Michelle Rose	2,471	2.8%	MARZO, Ikaika	35,933	40.6%	NO	41,175	46.5%
(A) HOOMANAWANUI, Jonathan	1,752	2.0%	Blank Votes:	2,237	2.5%	Blank Votes:	14,168	16.0%
(N) BURRUS, Ron	935	1.1%	Over Votes:	17	0.0%	Over Votes:	31	0.0%
(AS) GIUFFRE, John (Raghu)	243	0.3%	<b>Councilmember, Dist 1, County of Hawaii</b>			<b>HAWAII: Establishment of a Disaster &amp; Emergency Fund</b>		
Blank Votes:	6,480	7.3%	KIMBALL, Heather L.	4,667	51.0%	YES	45,497	51.3%
Over Votes:	56	0.1%	YAGONG, Dominic	3,855	42.1%	NO	32,520	36.7%
<b>State Senator, Dist 2</b>			Blank Votes:	623	6.8%	Blank Votes:	10,564	11.9%
(D) SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy	14,225	67.8%	Over Votes:	3	0.0%	Over Votes:	27	0.0%
(A) KA-IPO, Ron G.	4,694	22.4%	<b>Councilmember, Dist 5, County of Hawaii</b>			<b>HAWAII: Public Access, Open Space, &amp; Natural Resources Preservation Maintenance Fund</b>		
Blank Votes:	2,056	9.8%	KANEALI'I-KLEINFELDER, Matt	4,357	47.4%	YES	39,020	44.0%
Over Votes:	6	0.0%	RODENHURST, Ikaika	3,978	43.3%	NO	37,104	41.9%
<b>State Representative, Dist 1</b>			Blank Votes:	849	9.2%	Blank Votes:	12,453	14.1%
(D) NAKASHIMA, Mark M.	8,851	68.1%	Over Votes:	6	0.1%	Over Votes:	31	0.0%
(R) SHIN, Lorraine Pualani	3,497	26.9%	<b>HAWAII: Technical, Linguistic, &amp; Grammatical Revisions of the Charter</b>			<b>HAWAII: Mandatory Charter Reviews</b>		
Blank Votes:	637	4.9%	YES	57,606	65.0%	YES	61,330	69.2%
Over Votes:	5	0.0%	NO	18,497	20.9%	NO	13,201	14.9%
<b>State Representative, Dist 2</b>			Blank Votes:	12,490	14.1%	Blank Votes:	14,062	15.9%
(D) TODD, Christopher L.T.	9,552	77.3%	Over Votes:	15	0.0%	Over Votes:	15	0.0%
(A) MCMACKIN, Devin Shaw, Sr.	1,589	12.9%	<b>HAWAII: Council Meeting Locations</b>			<b>HAWAII: Corporation Counsel</b>		
Blank Votes:	1,212	9.8%	YES	68,392	77.2%	YES	62,921	71.0%
Over Votes:	4	0.0%	NO	11,349	12.8%	NO	13,971	15.8%
<b>State Representative, Dist 3</b>			Blank Votes:	8,849	10.0%	Blank Votes:	11,697	13.2%
(D) ONISHI, Richard H.K.	8,228	66.7%	Over Votes:	18	0.0%	Over Votes:	19	0.0%
(R) HUGHES, Susan	3,165	25.7%	<b>HAWAII: Department of Research &amp; Development</b>			<b>HAWAII: Hawaii Fire Department</b>		
Blank Votes:	939	7.6%	YES	66,512	75.1%	YES	51,950	58.6%
Over Votes:	5	0.0%	NO	10,055	11.3%	NO	23,214	26.2%
<b>State Representative, Dist 4</b>			Blank Votes:	12,035	13.6%	Blank Votes:	13,423	15.1%
(D) ILAGAN, Greggor	7,801	65.8%	Over Votes:	6	0.0%	Over Votes:	21	0.0%
(R) CERMELJ, Hope (Alohalani)	1,943	16.4%	<b>HAWAII: Authority of Police &amp; Fire Commissions</b>			<b>HAWAII: Membership on Boards &amp; Commissions</b>		
(A) HAUMEA, Desmon Antone	1,384	11.7%	YES	65,367	73.8%	YES	42,011	47.4%
Blank Votes:	731	6.2%	NO	14,016	15.8%	NO	33,232	37.5%
Over Votes:	3	0.0%	Blank Votes:	9,189	10.4%	Blank Votes:	13,335	15.0%
<b>State Representative, Dist 5</b>			Over Votes:	36	0.0%	Over Votes:	30	0.0%
(D) KAPELA, Jeanne	8,344	68.4%	<b>HAWAII: Terms of Council Members</b>			<b>HAWAII: Capital Budget &amp; Capital Programs</b>		
(L) LAST, Michael L. (Mike)	1,636	13.4%	YES	37,360	42.2%	YES	61,198	69.1%
(A) DECKER, Citlalli Johanna	843	6.9%	NO	42,397	47.8%	NO	14,135	16.0%
Blank Votes:	1,377	11.3%	Blank Votes:	8,822	10.0%	Blank Votes:	13,260	15.0%
Over Votes:	3	0.0%	Over Votes:	29	0.0%	Over Votes:	15	0.0%
<b>Hawaii Resident Trustee</b>								
LINDSEY, Keola	39,008	44.0%						
MANGAUJL, Lanakila	27,950	31.5%						
Blank Votes:	21,627	24.4%						
Over Votes:	23	0.0%						

November 3, 2020

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SUMMARY REPORT

\*\*FINAL SUMMARY REPORT\*\*

*HAWAII: Board of Ethics*

YES	61,865	69.8%
NO	15,648	17.7%
Blank Votes:	11,079	12.5%
Over Votes:	16	0.0%

## REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT

\*\*\*\*\*  
GENERAL  
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TOTAL REGISTRATION	127,348	
TOTAL TURNOUT	88,608	69.6%
MAIL TURNOUT	83,971	65.9%
IN-PERSON TURNOUT	4,637	3.6%

## **APPENDIX 11**

<b>President and Vice President</b>			<b>State Senator, Dist 16</b>			<b>State Representative, Dist 12</b>		
(D) HARRIS, Kamala D. For PRESIDENT	313,044	59.9%	(D) ELEFANTE, Brandon	16,454	69.6%	(D) YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	7,794	59.6%
WALZ, Tim For VICE PRESIDENT			(R) BEEKMAN, Pat	5,906	25.0%	(R) JOHNSON, Dan	3,197	24.4%
(R) TRUMP, Donald J. For PRESIDENT	193,661	37.1%	Blank Votes:	1,262	5.3%	(G) RYAN, Rita M.	841	6.4%
VANCE, JD For VICE PRESIDENT			Over Votes:	17	0.1%	Blank Votes:	1,206	9.2%
(G) STEIN, Jill For PRESIDENT	4,387	0.8%	<b>State Senator, Dist 18</b>			Over Votes:	46	0.4%
WARE, Rudolph For VICE PRESIDENT			(D) KIDANI, Michelle N.	13,706	61.7%	<b>State Representative, Dist 13</b>		
(L) OLIVER, Chase For PRESIDENT	2,733	0.5%	(R) SVRCINA, Emil	6,986	31.5%	(D) POEPOE, Mahina	7,174	65.6%
TER MAAT, Mike For VICE PRESIDENT			Blank Votes:	1,510	6.8%	(R) ADAM, Scott	2,577	23.6%
(SL) DE LA CRUZ, Claudia For PRESIDENT	1,940	0.4%	Over Votes:	9	0.0%	Blank Votes:	1,170	10.7%
GARCIA, Karina For VICE PRESIDENT			<b>State Senator, Dist 22</b>			Over Votes:	16	0.1%
(S) SONSKI, Peter For PRESIDENT	936	0.2%	(R) DECORTE, Samantha	6,859	53.1%	<b>State Representative, Dist 14</b>		
ONAK, Lauren For VICE PRESIDENT			(D) GATES, Cedric Asuega	5,725	44.3%	(D) COCHRAN, Elle	4,303	51.5%
Blank Votes:	5,010	1.0%	Blank Votes:	319	2.5%	(R) ARMSTRONG, Kelly J.	3,338	39.9%
Over Votes:	525	0.1%	Over Votes:	14	0.1%	Blank Votes:	711	8.5%
<b>U.S. Senator</b>			<b>State Senator, Dist 23</b>			Over Votes:	8	0.1%
(D) HIRONO, Mazie K.	324,194	62.1%	(R) AWA, Brenton	10,594	50.3%	<b>State Representative, Dist 15</b>		
(R) MCDERMOTT, Bob	160,075	30.7%	(D) SHAFER, Ben	9,495	45.1%	(D) NAKAMURA, Nadine K.	6,656	64.7%
(W) BILLIONAIRE, Shelby Pikachu	9,224	1.8%	Blank Votes:	950	4.5%	(R) MORANZ, David A.	2,692	26.2%
(G) POHLMAN, Emma Jane Avila	8,270	1.6%	Over Votes:	21	0.1%	Blank Votes:	933	9.1%
Blank Votes:	19,772	3.8%	<b>State Representative, Dist 3</b>			Over Votes:	7	0.1%
Over Votes:	701	0.1%	(D) TODD, Christopher L.T.	5,821	61.1%	<b>State Representative, Dist 16</b>		
<b>U.S. Representative, Dist I</b>			(R) WILSON, Kanoa	2,793	29.3%	(D) EVSLIN, Luke A.	6,479	63.7%
(D) CASE, Ed	164,237	65.3%	(L) MARTIN, Austin D. (Shiloh)	276	2.9%	(R) YODER, Steve	2,848	28.0%
(R) LARGEY, Patrick C.	64,373	25.6%	Blank Votes:	629	6.6%	Blank Votes:	842	8.3%
Blank Votes:	22,669	9.0%	Over Votes:	10	0.1%	Over Votes:	6	0.1%
Over Votes:	153	0.1%	<b>State Representative, Dist 4</b>			<b>State Representative, Dist 17</b>		
<b>U.S. Representative, Dist II</b>			(D) ILAGAN, Greggor	6,573	66.3%	(D) MORIKAWA, Daynette (Dee)	6,450	63.8%
(D) TOKUDA, Jill N.	166,251	61.4%	(R) HO, Keikilani	2,825	28.5%	(R) JAUCH, Michael H.	2,638	26.1%
(R) BOND, Steve	75,471	27.9%	Blank Votes:	513	5.2%	Blank Votes:	1,010	10.0%
(L) TOMAN, Aaron	4,497	1.7%	Over Votes:	10	0.1%	Over Votes:	5	0.0%
(N) MEYER, Randall Kelly	3,937	1.5%	<b>State Representative, Dist 5</b>			<b>State Representative, Dist 20</b>		
Blank Votes:	20,266	7.5%	(D) KAPELA, Jeanne	5,737	56.0%	(D) NAKADA GRANDINETTI, Tina	7,556	63.2%
Over Votes:	382	0.1%	(R) OYAMA, Ashley	3,466	33.8%	(R) SOLOMON, Corinne S.	3,362	28.1%
<b>State Senator, Dist 3</b>			(L) FOGEL, Frederick F.	300	2.9%	Blank Votes:	1,033	8.6%
(D) KANUHA, Dru Mamo	13,112	63.1%	Blank Votes:	730	7.1%	Over Votes:	8	0.1%
(R) SULLIVAN, Kurt (Sulli)	6,273	30.2%	Over Votes:	16	0.2%	<b>State Representative, Dist 21</b>		
Blank Votes:	1,388	6.7%	<b>State Representative, Dist 6</b>			(D) SAYAMA, Jackson D.	8,129	71.5%
Over Votes:	15	0.1%	(D) KAHALOA, Kirstin	6,221	55.3%	(R) SEASHELL, Joelle	2,491	21.9%
<b>State Senator, Dist 6</b>			(R) MADISON, Sylvie M.	3,891	34.6%	Blank Votes:	747	6.6%
(D) MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	11,528	57.2%	Blank Votes:	1,123	10.0%	Over Votes:	8	0.1%
(R) WALKER, Sheila	6,904	34.3%	Over Votes:	5	0.0%	<b>State Representative, Dist 22</b>		
Blank Votes:	1,577	7.8%	<b>State Representative, Dist 7</b>			(D) GARRETT, Andrew Takuya	8,427	72.3%
Over Votes:	145	0.7%	(D) LOWEN, Nicole	4,920	52.2%	(R) IMAMURA, Jeffrey H.	2,272	19.5%
<b>State Senator, Dist 7</b>			(R) DALHOUSE, Timothy A. (Tim)	3,953	41.9%	Blank Votes:	950	8.1%
(D) DECOITE, Lynn Pualani	15,892	66.4%	Blank Votes:	548	5.8%	Over Votes:	8	0.1%
(R) MACARAEG, Gabby	5,930	24.8%	Over Votes:	6	0.1%	<b>State Representative, Dist 24</b>		
Blank Votes:	2,061	8.6%	<b>State Representative, Dist 8</b>			(D) TAM, Adrian	5,973	62.5%
Over Votes:	37	0.2%	(D) TARNAS, David A.	6,331	59.4%	(R) ANDERSON, Jillian T.	2,862	30.0%
<b>State Senator, Dist 12</b>			(R) PERREIRA, Monique CobbAdams	3,822	35.8%	Blank Votes:	711	7.4%
(D) MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	12,789	64.6%	Blank Votes:	505	4.7%	Over Votes:	9	0.1%
(R) DABBS, Shotaro	5,380	27.2%	Over Votes:	8	0.1%	<b>State Representative, Dist 27</b>		
Blank Votes:	1,598	8.1%	<b>State Representative, Dist 11</b>			(D) TAKENOUCHI, Jenna	7,928	66.3%
Over Votes:	24	0.1%	(D) AMATO, Terez (T.Amato)	6,657	57.4%	(R) LIM, Margaret U.	3,501	29.3%
			(R) ACAIN, Aileen R. (Lily)	3,521	30.4%	Blank Votes:	513	4.3%
			Blank Votes:	1,266	10.9%	Over Votes:	10	0.1%
			Over Votes:	150	1.3%			



<i>State Representative, Dist 29</i>	<i>State Representative, Dist 45</i>	<i>Councilmember, Dist 9, County of Hawai'i</i>
(D) HUSSEY, Ikaika Lardizabal4,06864.5%	(R) MURAOKA, Chris3,12348.4%	HUSTACE, James E.5,18253.4%
(R) KAAPU, Carole Kauhiwai1,94430.8%	(D) DESOTO, Desire Auguste2,91445.2%	EVANS, Cindy3,72638.4%
Blank Votes:2854.5%	Blank Votes:4066.3%	Blank Votes:7938.2%
Over Votes:60.1%	Over Votes:60.1%	Over Votes:40.0%
<i>State Representative, Dist 30</i>	<i>State Representative, Dist 46</i>	<i>Councilmember (East Maui)</i>
(D) TEMPLO, Shirley Ann Labadan3,39764.8%	(D) PERRUSO, Amy A.5,43254.5%	SINENCI, Shane40,81964.2%
(R) AZINGA, P. M.1,51528.9%	(R) GABRIEL, Daniel Michael3,94339.6%	Blank Votes:22,73635.8%
Blank Votes:3296.3%	Blank Votes:5865.9%	Over Votes:00.0%
Over Votes:20.0%	Over Votes:60.1%	
<i>State Representative, Dist 31</i>	<i>State Representative, Dist 47</i>	<i>Councilmember (West Maui)</i>
(D) ICHIIYAMA, Linda5,57965.7%	(D) QUINLAN, Sean4,61652.1%	PALTIN, Tamara Akiko Maile34,37354.1%
(R) VALDEZ, Nancy A.2,50529.5%	(R) AGUIRRE, John W. (Johnny)3,40538.4%	ACQUINTAS, Lorien (Lolo)14,70023.1%
Blank Votes:4024.7%	Blank Votes:8319.4%	Blank Votes:14,45322.7%
Over Votes:50.1%	Over Votes:40.0%	Over Votes:290.0%
<i>State Representative, Dist 32</i>	<i>State Representative, Dist 48</i>	<i>Councilmember (Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu)</i>
(R) SHIMIZU, Garner Musashi4,59647.5%	(D) KITAGAWA, Lisa C.8,57870.9%	LEE, Alice L.28,24644.4%
(D) AIU, Micah Pookela Kim4,51846.7%	(G) DAILY, Asheemo N. (Koda)1,79114.8%	FORREST, James (Nahele)22,34135.2%
Blank Votes:5495.7%	Blank Votes:1,72714.3%	Blank Votes:12,93020.3%
Over Votes:100.1%	Over Votes:60.0%	Over Votes:380.1%
<i>State Representative, Dist 34</i>	<i>State Representative, Dist 49</i>	<i>Councilmember (Kahului)</i>
(D) TAKAYAMA, Gregg6,84064.4%	(D) MATAYOSHI, Scot7,71168.6%	KAMA, Tasha27,49743.3%
(R) DUPIO, Gaius, II3,16129.8%	(R) UBANDO, Josiah (BrahKruz)2,97926.5%	KAMEKONA, Carol Lee22,13734.8%
Blank Votes:6175.8%	Blank Votes:5524.9%	Blank Votes:13,86121.8%
Over Votes:40.0%	Over Votes:30.0%	Over Votes:600.1%
<i>State Representative, Dist 37</i>	<i>State Representative, Dist 50</i>	<i>Councilmember (South Maui)</i>
(D) LA CHICA, Trish8,77063.0%	(D) LEE, Mike9,79166.6%	COOK, Tom26,42341.6%
(R) KAAUMOANA, Taylor4,06629.2%	(R) CONNELLY, Timothy D.4,20628.6%	KING, Kelly Takaya26,32641.4%
Blank Votes:1,0737.7%	Blank Votes:6824.6%	Blank Votes:10,75016.9%
Over Votes:120.1%	Over Votes:140.1%	Over Votes:560.1%
<i>State Representative, Dist 38</i>	<i>Molokai Resident Trustee</i>	<i>Councilmember (Makawao-Haiku-Paia)</i>
(R) CHEAPE MATSUMOTO, Lauren8,77668.7%	ALAPA, Luana168,78132.3%	UU-HODGINS, Nohe27,73043.6%
(D) OZAWA, Alexander Kekuanao'a3,41826.8%	NIHIPALI, R. Kunani118,43522.7%	BOONE, Nara21,76734.2%
Blank Votes:5664.4%	Blank Votes:234,46644.9%	Blank Votes:14,01022.0%
Over Votes:150.1%	Over Votes:5540.1%	Over Votes:480.1%
<i>State Representative, Dist 39</i>	<i>Kauai Resident Trustee</i>	<i>Councilmember (Upcountry)</i>
(R) PIERICK, Elijah4,71247.1%	AHUNA, Dan160,03030.6%	SUGIMURA, Yuki Lei Kashiwa31,76550.0%
(D) ROSENLEE, Corey4,70146.9%	LINDSEY, Laura A.124,54123.8%	CRUZ, Jocelyn N.18,38628.9%
Blank Votes:5875.9%	Blank Votes:237,10345.4%	Blank Votes:13,36421.0%
Over Votes:130.1%	Over Votes:5620.1%	Over Votes:400.1%
<i>State Representative, Dist 40</i>	<i>At-Large Trustee</i>	<i>Councilmember (Lanai)</i>
(R) REYES ODA, Julie4,30049.4%	AKINA, Keli'i200,55438.4%	JOHNSON, Gabe39,08661.5%
(D) MARTINEZ, Rose3,83644.0%	AHU ISA, Lei125,30424.0%	Blank Votes:24,46938.5%
(W) ULUFANUA, Christian P.2532.9%	Blank Votes:195,80737.5%	Over Votes:00.0%
Blank Votes:3103.6%	Over Votes:5710.1%	
Over Votes:110.1%		<i>Councilmember (Molokai)</i>
<i>State Representative, Dist 41</i>	<i>Mayor, County of Hawai'i</i>	RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Keani27,17242.8%
(R) ALCOS, David A., III5,47455.9%	ALAMEDA, C. Kimo44,16552.8%	PELE, John21,00633.1%
(D) CLARK, John H., III3,84039.2%	ROTH, Mitch35,56042.5%	Blank Votes:15,33524.1%
Blank Votes:4744.8%	Blank Votes:3,8974.7%	Over Votes:420.1%
Over Votes:110.1%	Over Votes:640.1%	
<i>State Representative, Dist 42</i>	<i>Councilmember, Dist 5, County of Hawai'i</i>	
(R) GARCIA, Diamond4,80254.4%	KANEALI'I-KLEINFELDER, Matt4,30950.5%	
(D) PARIS, Anthony Makana3,64641.3%	RODENHURST, Ikaika3,26538.3%	
Blank Votes:3694.2%	Blank Votes:94411.1%	
Over Votes:180.2%	Over Votes:80.1%	

Councilmember, County of Kaua'i			KAUA'I: Police Commission Investigations		
Number To Vote For: 7			YES	20,167	66.0%
CARVALHO, Bernard P., Jr.	15,435	7.2%	NO	4,924	16.1%
RAPOZO, Mel	14,403	6.7%	Blank Votes: 5,441 17.8%		
KANESHIRO, Arryl J.	13,049	6.1%	Over Votes: 34 0.1%		
BULOSAN, Addison	12,385	5.8%	KAUA'I: Cost Control Commission Reports		
COWDEN, Felicia	12,325	5.8%	YES	14,212	46.5%
KUALII, KipuKai	12,276	5.7%	NO	10,062	32.9%
HOLLAND, Fern Anuenue	12,041	5.6%	Blank Votes: 6,268 20.5%		
KAGAWA, Ross	11,933	5.6%	Over Votes: 24 0.1%		
DECOSTA, Billy D.	9,977	4.7%	KAUA'I: Public Access, Open Space & Natural Resources Preservation Fund		
APILADO, Abe, Jr. (Aba-G)	5,964	2.8%	YES	21,418	70.1%
KEAHIOHALO, W. Butch	5,202	2.4%	NO	3,677	12.0%
CUMMINGS, Sherri	4,160	1.9%	Blank Votes: 5,448 17.8%		
NELSON, Jacquelyn (Jakki)	3,386	1.6%	Over Votes: 23 0.1%		
THOMAS, Bart	3,296	1.5%	CON. AMEND.: Marriage		
Blank Votes: 77,696 36.4%			YES	268,038	51.3%
Over Votes: 62 0.0%			NO	211,142	40.4%
			Blank Votes: 40,891 7.8%		
			Over Votes: 2,165 0.4%		
CON. AMEND.: Senate Confirmation Process for Judicial Appointments			KAUA'I: Ex-officio Youth Position on County Boards and Commissions		
YES	316,468	60.6%	YES	17,329	56.7%
NO	131,729	25.2%	NO	7,285	23.8%
Blank Votes: 73,638 14.1%			Blank Votes: 5,924 19.4%		
Over Votes: 401 0.1%			Over Votes: 28 0.1%		
HAWAII: County Council Vacancy in Office			HONOLULU: Climate Resiliency Fund		
YES	56,218	67.2%	YES	177,868	51.6%
NO	16,203	19.4%	NO	130,969	38.0%
Blank Votes: 11,196 13.4%			Blank Votes: 35,215 10.2%		
Over Votes: 69 0.1%			Over Votes: 359 0.1%		
HAWAII: Mayoral Appointment of Department Heads			HONOLULU: Department of Emergency Management		
YES	58,183	69.5%	YES	232,152	67.4%
NO	15,230	18.2%	NO	72,038	20.9%
Blank Votes: 10,212 12.2%			Blank Votes: 39,953 11.6%		
Over Votes: 61 0.1%			Over Votes: 268 0.1%		
HAWAII: Term of Office for the Cost of Government Commission			HONOLULU: Ocean Safety Commission		
YES	28,951	34.6%	YES	201,000	58.4%
NO	42,467	50.7%	NO	105,626	30.7%
Blank Votes: 12,210 14.6%			Blank Votes: 37,463 10.9%		
Over Votes: 58 0.1%			Over Votes: 322 0.1%		
MAUI: Salary Commission			HONOLULU: Salaries for Councilmembers		
YES	37,152	58.5%	YES	284,531	82.6%
NO	16,044	25.2%	NO	30,469	8.8%
Blank Votes: 10,306 16.2%			Blank Votes: 29,037 8.4%		
Over Votes: 53 0.1%			Over Votes: 374 0.1%		
MAUI: Independent Staffing for Board of Ethics			REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT		
YES	36,628	57.6%	*****		
NO	16,920	26.6%	GENERAL		
Blank Votes: 9,929 15.6%			*****		
Over Votes: 78 0.1%			TOTAL REGISTRATION	860,868	
MAUI: Board and Commission Terms			TOTAL TURNOUT	522,236	60.7%
YES	25,435	40.0%	MAIL TURNOUT	483,078	56.1%
NO	27,396	43.1%	IN-PERSON TURNOUT	39,158	4.5%
Blank Votes: 10,668 16.8%					
Over Votes: 56 0.1%					

## **APPENDIX 12**

West's Hawaii Administrative Code  
Title 3. Department of Accounting and General Services  
Chapter 177. Rules of the Office of Elections  
Subchapter 10. Ballots

Haw. Admin. Rules (HAR) § 3-177-453

§ 3-177-453. Accountability and security of ballots.

Currentness

(a) The chief election officer or designated representative shall maintain a complete count of marksense ballots. All ballots shall be safeguarded to prevent mishandling or misuse.

(b) The clerk shall maintain a complete and current count of all marksense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county. The accounting of marksense ballots by the clerk shall be recorded on forms prescribed by the chief election officer.

**Credits**

Adopted July 26, 2020.

(Auth: HRS § 11-4) (Imp: HRS §§ 11-109, 11-152)

Current through register dated December 2024. Some sections may be more current. See credits for details.

Haw. Admin. Rules (HAR) § 3-177-453, HI ADC § 3-177-453

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End of Document

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

CARLOTTA AMERINO  
DIRECTOR

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-1400 FAX: (808) 586-1412  
E-MAIL: [qip@hawaii.gov](mailto:qip@hawaii.gov)  
[www.oip.hawaii.gov](http://www.oip.hawaii.gov)

September 29, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Michael Curtis  
Chair  
Elections Commission

Re: Notice of Appeal of Sunshine Law Complaint (S APPEAL 26-07)

Dear Chair Curtis:

The Office of Information Practices (OIP) received an appeal from Mr. Ralph Cushnie, a member of the Elections Commission (Commission), concerning the Commission's meeting held August 27, 2025. Specifically, Mr. Cushnie asked whether the Commission violated Part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (Sunshine Law) by not allowing him to testify on agenda item III and not allowing testimony generally on agenda item IV. A copy of Mr. Cushnie's appeal is enclosed for your information. OIP requests that the Commission provide a copy of this letter, with enclosures, to all its members.

Please respond in writing to Mr. Cushnie's appeal within ten business days of receiving this notice. The Commission's response is its opportunity to justify its actions and provide additional information for OIP's consideration in this appeal. The Commission's written statement should include the information listed in the attached summary of appeal procedures. Please remember that OIP must interpret the Sunshine Law to favor openness and to disfavor closed meetings. For this reason, when a complainant alleges that a board is conducting its business in violation of the Sunshine Law, the board bears the burden of justifying any departures from the law's general requirement of openness.

Please provide OIP with unaltered copies of the minutes and meeting recording (if a recording was made) for the August 27, 2025, meeting for OIP's use in reviewing this appeal. We would appreciate receiving the copies of these documents no later than ten business days from receipt of this notice.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> OIP understands that boards have 40 days to prepare meeting minutes under section 92-9, HRS, and if minutes for the meetings at issue are not yet available, the Commission may submit them 40 days after the date of the meeting.

The Commission and Mr. Cushnie, by copy of this notice, are informed that OIP appeals are informal proceedings. Parties are not required to provide each other with copies of their submissions to OIP unless so ordered by OIP. With the exception of records provided for OIP's *in camera* review, OIP will, upon request, provide copies of a submission by a party to other parties without notice to the submitting party. Submissions to OIP are generally considered public records subject to the exceptions to disclosure at section 92F-13, HRS. If a party's submission to OIP contains what the party believes to be nonpublic information, it should indicate on the submission what the nonpublic information is.

Please be advised that any person may file a lawsuit to require compliance with or to prevent a violation of the Sunshine Law. HRS § 92-12(c).

Please be aware that OIP is currently operating with a backlog of cases, so it will take time to resolve your appeal. Moreover, OIP's decision for your appeal will be limited to findings as to whether the Commission violated the Sunshine Law. Even if OIP determines that the Sunshine Law had been violated, OIP does not have the power to remove a board member.

This letter also serves as notice that OIP is not representing anyone in this appeal. OIP's role herein is as a neutral third party.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Z. Brooks", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Z. Brooks  
Staff Attorney

JZB:rw  
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Ralph Cushnie (without enclosure)  
Mr. Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-1400 FAX: (808) 586-1412  
E-MAIL: [oiip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oiip@hawaii.gov)  
[www.oiip.hawaii.gov](http://www.oiip.hawaii.gov)

CARLOTTA AMERINO  
DIRECTOR

**Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities of the Parties**

This is an informational summary of the applicable procedures and the parties' responsibilities in an appeal before OIP pursuant to chapter 2-73, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). The procedures described here are more fully set out in chapter 2-73, HAR, itself, which controls in the event of any inconsistency between its language and the language of this informational summary.

Parties may contact OIP to request an extension of a deadline in writing.

**1. Agency response (HAR §§ 2-73-14, -15)**

The agency's written response is due ten business days after it receives the notice of appeal from OIP. Its written response must include:

- (1) a concise statement of the factual background;
- (2) An explanation of the agency's position, including its justification for the actions complained of, with citations to the specific statutory sections and other law supporting the agency's position;
- (4) Any evidence necessary to support the agency's argument; and
- (5) Contact information for the agency officer or employee who is authorized to respond and make representations on behalf of the agency concerning the appeal.

If checked, the agency's response must include, for OIP's *in camera* review, if applicable, an unredacted copy of

	the records to which access was denied
X	the minutes and recording of the relevant meeting
X	other records:

Where the agency claims that a record is protected by the attorney-client privilege, the agency may request to submit to OIP the record in redacted form in order to preserve this privilege. OIP will

generally allow such a request where the application of the claimed privilege can be determined by review of the redacted record.

## **2. Other submissions to OIP (HAR § 2-73-15)**

In addition to the information and materials submitted as part of the appeal, OIP may ask the person who filed the appeal, or any other parties participating in the appeal, to submit a written statement or statements. If OIP does so, OIP will also let all the parties know when the statement is due, whether there are any requirements as to the form it takes or what it includes, and when any response by the agency or other parties is due.

OIP can consider information or materials submitted by any person, not just parties to the appeal. However, if someone other than the person who filed the appeal and the responding agency wants to participate in the appeal as a party or in some other way, that person must submit a written request and must explain the reason for the request, and OIP will then determine whether to allow such participation.

Because an appeal before OIP is an informal proceeding, a party's or third person's communication with OIP can be *ex parte*, i.e., outside the presence of the other party or parties. However, OIP does have the option to require the parties to copy each other on submissions.

## **3. OIP's Decision (HAR §§ 2-73-15, -17, -18, -19)**

OIP's written decision on the appeal will be sent to all parties when it is issued. There is no specific deadline set for OIP's decision on an appeal. If the parties have not received either a decision on the appeal or a notice of dismissal from OIP as discussed below, then this appeal is still pending.

A party can request that OIP reconsider its decision. The deadline to request reconsideration is ten business days after the date the decision was issued. If a party misses the deadline for reconsideration or if OIP declines to reconsider the opinion, the party still has the option of appealing the decision to court. Section 92F-43, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), sets out the standard for an agency's appeal of an OIP decision. For a record requester or Sunshine Law complainant, appeal to court is provided by section 92F-15, HRS (denial of general record request), section 92F-27, HRS (denial of a personal record request), or sections 92-11 and -12, HRS (Sunshine Law complaint).

In some instances, OIP may issue a notice to all parties dismissing all or part of an appeal, instead of issuing a written decision. The circumstances in which OIP can dismiss an appeal are listed in section 2-73-18, HAR. OIP may also ask (but will not require) the parties to mediate the appeal, or an issue within the appeal, as an alternative means to resolve the appeal.



**From:** [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**To:** [OIP](#)  
**Cc:** [Dylan Andrion](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:48:22 PM

---

Dear Director,

At the August 27, 2025 Elections Commission meeting, during Agenda Item III — Discussion and decision-making relating to the Permitted Interaction Group report on the 2024 General Election — I sought recognition to speak. The Chair refused to recognize me and muted my microphone, despite my *Point of Order*. This prevented me, as a commissioner, from participating in deliberation on a properly noticed agenda item.

Later in the meeting, when Agenda Item IV was reached, Commissioner Andrion requested that the public be permitted to offer testimony. The Chair refused and did not allow public testimony on that item.

This meeting, including the video recording, is available to the public on the Elections Commission website/video archive. <https://youtu.be/03ws-44EKBA?si=3nUquCV9lrPbePGF>

These actions violate:

- HRS §92-1, which requires that all board discussions, deliberations, and decisions be conducted *as openly as possible*;
- HRS §92-3, which mandates that all interested persons must be afforded the opportunity to present oral testimony on any agenda item; and
- *Robert's Rules of Order, 12th ed., §1:4*, which affirms that members are entitled to full participation in proceedings, including the rights to make motions, speak in debate, and vote.

By silencing a commissioner and denying the public's right to testify, the Chair has acted in direct violation of both the letter and spirit of the Sunshine Law. These are not technical oversights — they represent willful suppression of participation and a clear abuse of authority.

Because this matter directly affects the ability of the Elections Commission to function lawfully, I respectfully request that OIP conduct an expedited review of this case. In light of these serious violations, I further submit that the Chair should be removed from their position for failing to uphold the requirements of Chapter 92 and for undermining public trust in the Commission's proceedings.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Cushnie  
Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission



**From:** [OIP](#)  
**To:** ["Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)"](#)  
**Bcc:** [Kelly, Patrick K](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)  
**Date:** Friday, September 19, 2025 11:53:00 AM

---

Dear Mr. Cushnie,

Thank you for your email. For agenda item IV, it appears that Commissioner Andrion requested public testimony on the agenda item after the meeting was already adjourned. OIP can open an appeal on that issue, however it appears that the PIG report will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. If the Commission did not hear testimony at the prior meeting, it is possible that that would be mitigated at the next meeting with the report is discussed. As such, would you be willing to wait until after that meeting to determine whether you would like to pursue an appeal on that issue?

For agenda item III, OIP does not have jurisdiction over the Commission's use of Robert's Rules of Order, including your point of order and/or your failure to be recognized.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact OIP.

Patrick Kelly  
Staff Attorney  
Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawaii  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph.: (808) 586-1400  
Facsimile: (808) 586-1412  
Email: [oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)  
Website: <http://oip.hawaii.gov>

This e-mail has been sent under OIP's "Attorney of the Day" (AOD) service. The AOD service allows anyone to ask an OIP attorney any UIPA or Sunshine Law question (chapter 92F, and part I of chapter 92, HRS). AOD advice is non-binding, general, informal guidance to the public and to agency and board personnel, and does not have the precedential value of OIP's formal opinions.

---

**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC) <ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:48 PM  
**To:** OIP <oip@hawaii.gov>  
**Cc:** Dylan Andrion <dylanandrion@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of

Dear Director,

At the August 27, 2025 Elections Commission meeting, during Agenda Item III — Discussion and decision-making relating to the Permitted Interaction Group report on the 2024 General Election — I sought recognition to speak. The Chair refused to recognize me and muted my microphone, despite my *Point of Order*. This prevented me, as a commissioner, from participating in deliberation on a properly noticed agenda item.

Later in the meeting, when Agenda Item IV was reached, Commissioner Andrion requested that the public be permitted to offer testimony. The Chair refused and did not allow public testimony on that item.

This meeting, including the video recording, is available to the public on the Elections Commission website/video archive. <https://youtu.be/03ws-44EKBA?si=3nUquCV9lrPbePGF>

These actions violate:

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- HRS §92-3, which mandates that all interested persons must be afforded the opportunity to present oral testimony on any agenda item; and
- *Robert's Rules of Order, 12th ed., §1:4*, which affirms that members are entitled to full participation in proceedings, including the rights to make motions, speak in debate, and vote.

By silencing a commissioner and denying the public's right to testify, the Chair has acted in direct violation of both the letter and spirit of the Sunshine Law. These are not technical oversights — they represent willful suppression of participation and a clear abuse of authority.

Because this matter directly affects the ability of the Elections Commission to function lawfully, I respectfully request that OIP conduct an expedited review of this case. In light of these serious violations, I further submit that the Chair should be removed from their position for failing to uphold the requirements of Chapter 92 and for undermining public trust in the Commission's proceedings.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Cushnie  
Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission

**From:** [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**To:** [OIP](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)  
**Date:** Friday, September 19, 2025 1:39:35 PM

---

Mr. Kelly, Yes lets wait on number 4 and proceed #3.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

---

**From:** OIP <[ois@hawaii.gov](mailto:ois@hawaii.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2025 11:54 AM  
**To:** Ralph Cushnie (EC) <[ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com](mailto:ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com)>  
**Subject:** Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

Dear Mr. Cushnie,

Thank you for your email. For agenda item IV, it appears that Commissioner Andrion requested public testimony on the agenda item after the meeting was already adjourned. OIP can open an appeal on that issue, however it appears that the PIG report will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. If the Commission did not hear testimony at the prior meeting, it is possible that that would be mitigated at the next meeting with the report is discussed. As such, would you be willing to wait until after that meeting to determine whether you would like to pursue an appeal on that issue?

For agenda item III, OIP does not have jurisdiction over the Commission's use of Robert's Rules of Order, including your point of order and/or your failure to be recognized.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact OIP.

Patrick Kelly  
Staff Attorney  
Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawaii  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph.: (808) 586-1400  
Facsimile: (808) 586-1412  
Email: [ois@hawaii.gov](mailto:ois@hawaii.gov)  
Website: <http://ois.hawaii.gov>

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---

**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC) <[ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com](mailto:ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:48 PM

**To:** OIP <[oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)>

**Cc:** Dylan Andrion <[dylanandrion@gmail.com](mailto:dylanandrion@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

Dear Director,

At the August 27, 2025 Elections Commission meeting, during Agenda Item III — Discussion and decision-making relating to the Permitted Interaction Group report on the 2024 General Election — I sought recognition to speak. The Chair refused to recognize me and muted my microphone, despite my *Point of Order*. This prevented me, as a commissioner, from participating in deliberation on a properly noticed agenda item.

Later in the meeting, when Agenda Item IV was reached, Commissioner Andrion requested that the public be permitted to offer testimony. The Chair refused and did not allow public testimony on that item.

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These actions violate:

- HRS §92-1, which requires that all board discussions, deliberations, and decisions be conducted *as openly as possible*;
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By silencing a commissioner and denying the public's right to testify, the Chair has acted in direct violation of both the letter and spirit of the Sunshine Law. These are not technical oversights — they represent willful suppression of participation and a clear abuse of authority.

Because this matter directly affects the ability of the Elections Commission to function

lawfully, I respectfully request that OIP conduct an expedited review of this case. In light of these serious violations, I further submit that the Chair should be removed from their position for failing to uphold the requirements of Chapter 92 and for undermining public trust in the Commission's proceedings.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Cushnie  
Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission

**From:** [OIP](#)  
**To:** ["Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)"](#)  
**Bcc:** [Shimizu, Robert H](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)  
**Date:** Friday, September 19, 2025 2:43:00 PM

---

Dear Mr. Cushnie:

As Patrick informed you, the Office of Information Practices (OIP) does not have jurisdiction over Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order are not a part of the Sunshine Law, and the Elections Commission's (Commission) alleged failure to recognize your point of order or any other alleged violations of Robert's Rules of Order would not be violations of the Sunshine Law which could be appealed to OIP. As such, we are not able to open an appeal on the issue you presented regarding agenda item III.

Thank you.

Robert Shimizu  
Staff Attorney

Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawaii  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph.: (808) 586-1400  
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**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2025 1:39 PM  
**To:** OIP <[oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

Mr. Kelly, Yes lets wait on number 4 and proceed #3.



Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

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**From:** OIP <[oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2025 11:54 AM

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**Cc:** Dylan Andrion <[dylanandrion@gmail.com](mailto:dylanandrion@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

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By silencing a commissioner and denying the public's right to testify, the Chair has acted in direct violation of both the letter and spirit of the Sunshine Law. These are not technical oversights — they represent willful suppression of participation and a clear abuse of authority.

Because this matter directly affects the ability of the Elections Commission to function lawfully, I respectfully request that OIP conduct an expedited review of this case. In light of these serious violations, I further submit that the Chair should be removed from their position for failing to uphold the requirements of Chapter 92 and for undermining public trust in the Commission's proceedings.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie  
Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission

**From:** [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**To:** [OIP](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)  
**Date:** Saturday, September 20, 2025 1:16:33 PM

---

Dear Mr. Shimizu,

Thank you for your response. I understand that OIP does not adjudicate matters strictly involving Robert's Rules of Order. However, I wish to clarify that my complaint is not limited to parliamentary procedure.

At the August 27, 2025 Elections Commission meeting, I was not afforded the opportunity to present oral testimony or to participate as a commissioner on Agenda Item III. Despite raising a Point of Order, the Chair muted my microphone and prevented me from speaking on a properly noticed agenda item. This directly denied me, as a member of the Commission, the right to participate in deliberations.

Additionally, the meeting was not conducted "as openly as possible" as required under HRS §92-1. The meeting was cut short, which had the effect of preventing both commissioners and members of the public from being heard on pending business. This was not merely an issue of Robert's Rules, but a Sunshine Law violation under:

- **HRS §92-1:** requiring that agency business be conducted as openly as possible to protect the people's right to know.
- **HRS §92-3:** requiring that "all interested persons shall be afforded an opportunity to present oral testimony on any agenda item."

By ending the meeting prematurely and silencing participation on Agenda Item III, the Commission failed to uphold these statutory requirements.

Accordingly, I continue to request OIP's expedited review of these Sunshine Law violations.

Respectfully,

Ralph Cushnie

Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission

---

**From:** OIP <oip@hawaii.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2025 2:44 PM  
**To:** Ralph Cushnie (EC) <ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

Dear Mr. Cushnie:

As Patrick informed you, the Office of Information Practices (OIP) does not have jurisdiction

over Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order are not a part of the Sunshine Law, and the Elections Commission's (Commission) alleged failure to recognize your point of order or any other alleged violations of Robert's Rules of Order would not be violations of the Sunshine Law which could be appealed to OIP. As such, we are not able to open an appeal on the issue you presented regarding agenda item III.

Thank you.

Robert Shimizu  
Staff Attorney

Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawaii  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph.: (808) 586-1400  
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**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2025 1:39 PM  
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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

Mr. Kelly, Yes lets wait on number 4 and proceed #3.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:48 PM

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**Cc:** Dylan Andrion <[dylanandrion@gmail.com](mailto:dylanandrion@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

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Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

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Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission

**From:** [OIP](#)  
**To:** [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**Bcc:** [Kelly, Patrick K](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)  
**Date:** Monday, September 22, 2025 3:58:00 PM

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Dear Mr. Cushnie:

OIP will open an appeal regarding the August 27, 2025, Elections Commission meeting addressing:

1. Your allegation that you were not allowed to testify or participate on agenda item III, and
2. Whether the commission did not allow testimony on agenda item IV.

Patrick Kelly  
Staff Attorney

Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawaii  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
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**Sent:** Saturday, September 20, 2025 1:16 PM  
**To:** OIP <[oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Expedited Review — Sunshine Law Complaint: Denial of Commissioner and Public Participation (Aug 27, 2025 EC Meeting)

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Respectfully,

Ralph Cushnie

Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission

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Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Cushnie  
Commissioner, Hawai'i State Elections Commission



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

CARLOTTA AMERINO  
DIRECTOR

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-1400 FAX: (808) 586-1412  
E-MAIL: [qip@hawaii.gov](mailto:qip@hawaii.gov)  
[www.oip.hawaii.gov](http://www.oip.hawaii.gov)

October 17, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Chairperson Michael Curtis  
Elections Commission

Re: Notice of Appeal of Sunshine Law Complaint (S APPEAL 26-10)

Dear Chair Curtis:

The Office of Information Practices (OIP) received an appeal from Commissioner Ralph Cushnie asserting two issues:

1. Whether the Elections Commission (Commission) violated the “opening-meeting principals” of Part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (Sunshine Law), specifically, sections 92-1 and 92-3, HRS, by allegedly failing to distribute his email to the Commission dated August 31, 2025 (August 31 email), to the full Commission and instead “selectively” sharing it with Commissioner Jeffery Osterkamp. Mr. Cushnie asserts that these actions or inactions “materially prevented the Commission from deliberating with full and equal access to information.”
2. Whether the Commission violated sections 92-3 and 92-2.5, HRS, by allowing Chair Curtis, who is not a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) member, to work with Commissioner Osterkamp on the PIG report, thereby “engag[ing] in non-permitted discussions or coordination outside of a noticed meeting.”

Mr. Cushnie asked that OIP direct the Commission to share his August 31 email and records with all Commissioners and the public.

The appeal alleges that Mr. Cushnie's August 31 email requested that his message be placed on the next meeting agenda,<sup>1</sup> and shared with the public and all Commissioners, especially Jeffery Osterkamp and Claire McAdam. The appeal alleges that Mr. Cushnie's email was only shared with Commissioner Osterkamp, not the full Commission, and that only a portion of it appeared in the PIG report. The appeal also claims that at the October 1 meeting, Commissioner Kahiolani Papalimu stated publicly that Chair Curtis and Commissioner Osterkamp collaborated on the PIG report, even though Chair Curtis was not a PIG member.

Please review all of Mr. Cushnie's claims in his complaint to OIP, which is enclosed. OIP requests that the Commission provide a copy of this letter, with enclosures, to all its commissioners.

### Response to Appeal

Please respond in writing to Mr. Cushnie's appeal within ten business days of receiving this notice. The Commission's response is its opportunity to justify its actions and provide additional information for OIP's consideration in this appeal. Please remember that OIP must interpret the Sunshine Law to favor openness and to disfavor closed meetings. HRS § 92-1. For this reason, when a complainant alleges that a board is conducting its business in violation of the Sunshine Law, the board bears the burden of justifying any departures from the law's general requirement of openness.

The Commission's written statement should include the information listed in the attached summary of appeal procedures. Additionally, OIP requests copies of the Commission's:

1. Minutes<sup>2</sup> and recording of the October 1, 2025 meeting;
2. Board packet for the October 1, 2025 meeting; and
3. Minutes and recording of the meeting at which Commissioner Osterkamp's relevant PIG was established.

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<sup>1</sup> The Sunshine Law requires that a meeting notice "include an agenda that lists all of the items to be considered at the forthcoming meeting." HRS § 92-7. This requirement ensures the public has enough detail to understand the agenda topics and decide whether to attend the meeting and offer testimony. OIP Op. Ltr. No. 07-02 at 4. The Sunshine Law does not dictate what topics must be included or who decides them. This is typically determined by the board's own rules. See OIP, Open Meetings Guide to the Sunshine Law for the State and County Boards, (August 2025) at 25, <https://oip.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Sunshine-GUIDE-Final.pdf> ("For instance, where the chair of a board has the sole discretion to set the agenda, the board has no 'power' over that decision and, therefore, board members may request the addition of possible agenda items outside of a properly noticed meeting, so long as they do not discuss the substance of items.").

<sup>2</sup> OIP understands that boards have 40 days to prepare meeting minutes under section 92-9, HRS, and if minutes for the meetings at issue are not yet available, boards may submit them 40 days after the date of the meeting.

Mr. Cushnie's first issue alleges that the Commission's failure to distribute his August 31 email violated the "opening-meeting principals" under sections 92-3 and 92-1, HRS, which provides,

[I]t is the policy of this State that the formation and conduct of public policy – the discussions, deliberations, decisions, and action of governmental agencies – shall be conducted as openly as possible. To implement this policy the legislature declares that:

- (1) It is the intent of this part to protect the people's right to know;
- (2) The provisions requiring open meetings shall be liberally construed; and
- (3) The provisions providing for exceptions to the open meeting requirements shall be strictly construed against closed meetings.

HRS § 92-1. Please note that the Sunshine Law's provisions on meeting material distribution are found at section 92-7.5, HRS, the board packet law. "Board packet" is defined as "documents that are compiled by the board and distributed to board members before a meeting for use at that meeting." HRS § 92-7.5(b) (am L 2025, c 169, §2). It also does not require that a board packet include particular materials. OIP Op. Ltr. No. 23-01 at 29 (citing HRS § 92-7.5(b) (limiting the definition of "board packet" to documents distributed in advance of a meeting)). The Sunshine Law also does not require a board to create a board packet, but if a board does decide to create a board packet, it must make it available to the public at least three full business days before its meeting. HRS § 92-7.5(a)

With respect to the second issue, the Sunshine Law generally requires a board to discuss board business in an open meeting. OIP Op. Ltr. No. 23-01 at 6; HRS § 92-3. When not in a "meeting," board members may only discuss board business if a permitted interaction in section 92-2.5, HRS, applies. HRS § 92-2.5(i). When a board establishes an investigative PIG under section 92-2.5(b), HRS, it must define the scope of the investigation and each member's authority. HRS § 92-2.5(b)(1)(A). Once formed, PIG members cannot discuss its investigation with non-PIG board members until a meeting at least six business days after the meeting at which the PIG reports its investigation to the full board. OIP Op. Ltr. No. 23-01 at 9. "To do otherwise would put the discussion outside the parameters of section 92-2.5(b)(1), HRS, and would violate the spirit of the Sunshine Law." *Id.* (citing HRS §§ 92-1, 92-2.5(b)).

#### Notice

The Commission and Mr. Cushnie, by copy of this notice, are informed that OIP appeals are informal proceedings. Parties are not required to provide each other with copies of their submissions to OIP unless so ordered by OIP. With the exception of records provided for OIP's *in camera* review, OIP will, upon request, provide copies of a submission by a party to other parties without notice to the submitting party. Submissions to OIP are generally considered public records subject to the exceptions to disclosure at section 92F-13, HRS. If a party's submission to OIP contains what the party believes to be nonpublic information, it should indicate on the submission what the nonpublic information is.

Please be advised that any person may file a lawsuit to require compliance with or to prevent a violation of the Sunshine Law. HRS § 92-12(c).

Please be aware that OIP is currently operating with a backlog of cases, so it will take time to resolve your appeal. Moreover, OIP's decision for your appeal will be limited to findings as to whether the Commission violated the Sunshine Law. Even if OIP determines that the Sunshine Law had been violated, OIP does not have the power to enforce its decisions by voiding the Commission's final action.

Only the court may void a final action of a board that was taken in violation of the open meeting or notice requirements of the Sunshine Law. HRS § 92-11. While any person may file a lawsuit to require compliance with or to prevent a violation of the Sunshine Law, a suit to void any final action must be commenced within ninety days of the action. HRS §§ 92-11, -12. After determining whether the Sunshine Law was or will be violated, the court may also order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing party. HRS § 92-12(c).

This letter also serves as notice that OIP is not representing anyone in this appeal. OIP's role herein is as a neutral third party.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiara Maumau".

Tiara Maumau  
Staff Attorney

TSM:rw  
Enclosures

cc: Ralph Cushnie (without enclosures)  
Mr. Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer





JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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E-MAIL: [oiip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oiip@hawaii.gov)  
[www.oiip.hawaii.gov](http://www.oiip.hawaii.gov)

CARLOTTA AMERINO  
DIRECTOR

**Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities of the Parties**

This is an informational summary of the applicable procedures and the parties' responsibilities in an appeal before OIP pursuant to chapter 2-73, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). The procedures described here are more fully set out in chapter 2-73, HAR, itself, which controls in the event of any inconsistency between its language and the language of this informational summary.

Parties may contact OIP to request an extension of a deadline in writing.

**1. Agency response (HAR §§ 2-73-14, -15)**

The agency's written response is due ten business days after it receives the notice of appeal from OIP. Its written response must include:

- (1) a concise statement of the factual background;
- (2) An explanation of the agency's position, including its justification for the actions or inactions complained of, with citations to the specific statutory sections and other law supporting the agency's position;
- (3) Any evidence necessary to support the agency's argument; and
- (4) Contact information for the agency officer or employee who is authorized to respond and make representations on behalf of the agency concerning the appeal.

If checked, the agency's response must include, if applicable, a copy of

<b>x</b>	Minutes and recording of the October 1, 2025 meeting
<b>x</b>	Board packet for the October 1, 2025 meeting
<b>x</b>	Minutes and recording of the meeting at which Commissioner Jeffery Osterkamp's relevant Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) was established.

Where the agency claims that a record is protected by the attorney-client privilege, the agency may request to submit to OIP the record in redacted form in order to preserve this privilege. OIP will

generally allow such a request where the application of the claimed privilege can be determined by review of the redacted record.

## **2. Other submissions to OIP (HAR § 2-73-15)**

In addition to the information and materials submitted as part of the appeal, OIP may ask the person who filed the appeal, or any other parties participating in the appeal, to submit a written statement or statements. If OIP does so, OIP will also let all the parties know when the statement is due, whether there are any requirements as to the form it takes or what it includes, and when any response by the agency or other parties is due.

OIP can consider information or materials submitted by any person, not just parties to the appeal. However, if someone other than the person who filed the appeal and the responding agency wants to participate in the appeal as a party or in some other way, that person must submit a written request and must explain the reason for the request, and OIP will then determine whether to allow such participation.

Because an appeal before OIP is an informal proceeding, a party's or third person's communication with OIP can be *ex parte*, i.e., outside the presence of the other party or parties. However, OIP does have the option to require the parties to copy each other on submissions.

## **3. OIP's Decision (HAR §§ 2-73-15, -17, -18, -19)**

OIP's written decision on the appeal will be sent to all parties when it is issued. There is no specific deadline set for OIP's decision on an appeal. If the parties have not received either a decision on the appeal or a notice of dismissal from OIP as discussed below, then this appeal is still pending.

A party can request that OIP reconsider its decision. The deadline to request reconsideration is ten business days after the date the decision was issued. If a party misses the deadline for reconsideration or if OIP declines to reconsider the opinion, the party still has the option of appealing the decision to court. Section 92F-43, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), sets out the standard for an agency's appeal of an OIP decision. For a record requester or Sunshine Law complainant, appeal to court is provided by section 92F-15, HRS (denial of general record request), section 92F-27, HRS (denial of a personal record request), or sections 92-11 and -12, HRS (Sunshine Law complaint).

In some instances, OIP may issue a notice to all parties dismissing all or part of an appeal, instead of issuing a written decision. The circumstances in which OIP can dismiss an appeal are listed in section 2-73-18, HAR. OIP may also ask (but will not require) the parties to mediate the appeal, or an issue within the appeal, as an alternative means to resolve the appeal.

**From:** [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**To:** [OIP](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Failure to Distribute Commissioner-Submitted Materials – HAR §3-170-5 Violation  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:30:57 AM

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Dear Ms. Feldman,

Thank you for your response and for forwarding my prior correspondence for review. I wish to clarify that my main concern is not limited to the drafting of the PIG report itself, but the pattern of selective information sharing by Chair Michael Curtis, which prevents the Commission and the public from making informed decisions.

On August 31, 2025, I submitted a letter and supporting records to the Elections Commission requesting that the material be placed on the next meeting agenda and distributed to all commissioners and the public. My message stated:

“Hello Raymond or whomever is reading this e-mail. Please put this on the next meeting agenda and distribute to the rest of the commissioners especially Jeffery Osterkamp and Claire McAdam. Please let the public see this documentation.”

Chair Curtis did not distribute these materials to the full Commission as requested. Instead, he shared them privately with Commissioner Jeffery Osterkamp alone. This selective disclosure deprived other commissioners of the same information and the public of lawful access.

Commissioner Osterkamp then incorporated portions of the correspondence into his Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) Report while omitting the key County of Hawai'i drop-box collection records I provided—records showing that 27,912 envelopes were collected from drop boxes and 29,641 were received by mail (57,553 total). By excluding this data, his report gave a misleading impression and obscured the fact that the remaining 19,000 ballots reported by the State could only have originated from electronic entries.

At the October 1 Commission meeting, Commissioner Kahiolani Papalimu publicly stated that Chair Curtis and Commissioner Osterkamp had worked together to draft the report, even though the Chair was not a member of the PIG. She also asked that her name be removed from the report.

The failure to distribute my submission and the selective sharing of records with one commissioner constitute a violation of the Sunshine Law's open-meeting principles under HRS §92-1, §92-2.5, and §92-3. It has materially prevented the Commission from deliberating with full and equal access to information.

I respectfully request that OIP investigate this matter to determine whether:

1. Chair Curtis's selective distribution of commissioner-submitted materials violated the Sunshine Law;
2. Chair Curtis and Commissioner Osterkamp engaged in non-permitted discussions or coordination outside of a noticed meeting; and

3. The Commission should be directed to release my full letter and records to all members and to the public, as originally requested.

Thank you for your attention and for ensuring that the Elections Commission complies with both the letter and the spirit of Hawai'i's open-government laws.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

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**From:** OIP <oip@hawaii.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 1:58 PM

**To:** Ralph Cushnie (EC) <ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com>

**Subject:** Failure to Distribute Commissioner-Submitted Materials – HAR §3-170-5 Violation

Mr. Cushnie:

According to your email received today regarding the “Failure to Distribute Commissioner-Submitted Materials – HAR §3-170-5 Violation,” you wrote that Commissioner Osterkamp, a member of the Elections Commission’s permitted interaction group (PIG), had communicated about matters in the PIG’s report to a non-member of the PIG, Commission Chair Curtis. If this established, the communication between PIG member Commissioner Osterkamp and non-PIG member Commission Chair Curtis may be deemed a violation of the Sunshine Law, and specifically, section 92-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

As your email requests that an appeal file be opened, your request will be forwarded to OIP’s Director for review. Please be advised that if an appeal file is opened, this appeal will allege a violation of the Sunshine Law by the Elections Commission as a whole, and not a violation by an individual member.

Sincerely,  
Edith Feldman  
Staff Attorney

Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawaii  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph.: (808) 586-1400  
Facsimile: (808) 586-1412  
Email: [oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)  
Website: <http://oip.hawaii.gov>

*This e-mail has been sent under OIP’s “Attorney of the Day” (AOD) service. The AOD service allows anyone to ask an OIP attorney any UIPA or Sunshine Law question (chapter 92F, and part I of chapter 92, HRS). AOD advice is non-binding, general, informal guidance to the public and to agency and board personnel, and does not have the precedential value of OIP’s formal opinions.*

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**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC) <[ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com](mailto:ralphcushnieec@cushniecci.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 5, 2025 3:20 PM  
**To:** OIP <[oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lindsay Kamm <[lindsaykamm.ec@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaykamm.ec@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Failure to Distribute Commissioner-Submitted Materials – HAR §3-170-5 Violation

TO:

Office of Information Practices (OIP)

State of Hawai‘i

Email: [oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)

DATE:

October 4, 2025

SUBJECT:

Sunshine Law Complaint – Chair Curtis Shared Correspondence Only with  
Commissioner Osterkamp and Possibly Assisted in Drafting PIG Report

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I am filing this complaint under HRS Chapter 92 regarding Chair Michael Curtis’s improper handling of Commission correspondence and his possible collaboration with Commissioner Jeffery Osterkamp on the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) report concerning Hawai‘i County’s 2024 ballot discrepancies.

On August 31, 2025, I sent an email stating: (See E-Mail below)

“Hello Raymond or whomever is reading this e-mail. Please put this on the next meeting agenda and distribute to the rest of the commissioners especially Jeffery Osterkamp and Claire McAdam. Please let the public see this documentation.”

Chair Curtis did not distribute my letter and attached records to the full Commission as requested. Instead, he privately shared the correspondence only with Commissioner Osterkamp. This selective sharing excluded other Commissioners and the public and violates the Sunshine Law’s requirement that board business be conducted openly and equally among members. Mr. Osterkamp went on to tell the commission and the public that we had not submitted the records backing our report.

Because Osterkamp received these materials privately, he was able to selectively edit his PIG report, omitting the drop box collection records I submitted. Those records show 27,912 envelopes collected from drop boxes across the big Island during the election cycle. (see appendix 6 State of Hawaii Elections Commission Permitted Interaction Group Report on Purported Big Island Ballot Discrepancy September 29, 2025 Jeffrey M. Osterkamp, Chair/Commissioner Clare McAdam, Member/Commissioner Kahiolani Papalimu, Member/Commissioner)

At a subsequent meeting on October 1st, Commissioner Kahiolani Papalimu publicly

stated that Chair Curtis and Commissioner Osterkamp worked together to draft the PIG report. She also asked for her name to be removed from the report. Chair Curtis was not a member of that PIG. His possible private participation, combined with the selective handling of correspondence, supports the conclusion that both engaged in non-permitted discussions of Commission business outside a public meeting. See recording [https://youtu.be/6im\\_DYJuxp4?si=wGbFP3\\_6X8nmBOqe](https://youtu.be/6im_DYJuxp4?si=wGbFP3_6X8nmBOqe) around 3 pm

By withholding my full correspondence and enabling one Commissioner to privately use and edit official materials, Commissioner Osterkamp and possibly Chair Curtis produced a misleading and incomplete report and deprived the rest of the Commission and the public of equal access to information.

I respectfully request that OIP investigate these actions and direct the Elections Commission to release my full letter and records to all Commissioners and to the public, as originally requested.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

---

**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC)

**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2025 1:39 PM

**To:** OE.Elections.Commission <[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)>

**Cc:** OIP <[oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)>; Lindsay Kamm <[lindsaykamm.ec@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaykamm.ec@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** FW: Failure to Distribute Commissioner-Submitted Materials – HAR §3-170-5 Violation

Hello Raymund, can you make the following information available to screen share during our next meeting October 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to spend a few minutes to share and explain the records from Hawaii County with the commissioners and the public. I asked on August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 25 for this to be posted on the agenda then on meeting materials, but the chair has chosen to conceal these important records from the commissioners and the public. I look forward to your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

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**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC)

**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:59 PM

**To:** OE.Elections.Commission <[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)>

**Cc:** OIP <[oop@hawaii.gov](mailto:oop@hawaii.gov)>

**Subject:** Failure to Distribute Commissioner-Submitted Materials – HAR §3-170-5 Violation

---

Aloha,

On August 31, 2025, I submitted the attached documentation (“Big Island evidence of ballots being inserted electronically”) with a specific request that it be placed on the next Elections Commission agenda and distributed to all commissioners and the public. This has not occurred.

By withholding this information from commissioners, you are preventing us from making informed decisions on matters that fall squarely within our statutory duties. Selectively filtering commissioner-submitted materials undermines both transparency and the lawful operation of the Commission.

HAR §3-170-5 provides:

“(a) Any person may obtain information available for public dissemination concerning the activities of the elections commission during established business hours.  
(b) Any person may file in the office of the elections commission requests, objections, or views on any matter before the elections commission in accordance with this chapter.”

My submission is a commissioner-filed records from the County of Hawaii on a matter before the Commission, and by rule it must be accepted, published, and made available to the commission and the public.

I am formally notifying the Office of Information Practices (OIP) of this violation. Going forward, I expect my submitted documentation to be included in the Meeting Materials packet, made available to commissioners and the public.

Please confirm that this material will be circulated to all commissioners and noticed publicly in compliance with HAR §3-170-5 and HRS Chapter 92.

Respectfully,  
Ralph Cushnie  
Elections Commissioner

**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC)

**Sent:** Sunday, August 31, 2025 1:31 PM

**To:** OE.Elections.Commission <[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Big Island evidence of ballots being inserted electronically.

Hello Raymond or whomever is reading this e-mail. Please put this on the next meeting agenda and distribute to the rest of the commissioners especially Jeffery Osterkamp and Claire McAdam. Please let the public see this documentation.

The State reported counting 76,595 ballots.

The County has a record of collecting 27,912 ballot envelopes from drop boxes across the Big Island. They also provided receipts from the USPS for 29,641 ballot envelopes. For a total of 57,553 ballot envelopes received. They can not account for 19,042 ballot envelopes.

The County of Hawaii's reason for the discrepancy is that the USPS did not send receipts for 19,042 envelopes worth over \$13,000.

I recently sent a UIPA records request to get the communication from Hawaii County to the USPS to get missing invoices. There has been no communication.

The state claims that 76,595 envelopes were signature verified and counted. They have provided a one-page electronic print out with no back up documentation.

The 19,042 ballots were added electronically into the SVRS Statewide Voter Registration System with no paper records. Read Scott Nago's March 17 letter(OE-25-042) to the elections commission page 3 second Paragraph.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie



**From:** [OIP](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Appeal of Sunshine Law Complaint (S APPEAL 26-12)  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:02:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [102925 Ltr to DAGS-ELECC.pdf](#)  
[102325 Email fr Cushnie.pdf](#)  
[Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities of the Parties.pdf](#)

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Chair Curtis,

Attached is a letter dated October 29, 2025 from the Office of Information Practices regarding S APPEAL 26-12 request for assistance we received from Mr. Ralph Cushnie. Also attached are Mr. Cushnie's request to OIP, and the Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities of the Parties.

Please contact our office if you have difficulty opening the attachments.

Thank you,

Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawai'i  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph: (808) [REDACTED]  
Facsimile: (808) [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Website: <http://oip.hawaii.gov>



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

CARLOTTA AMERINO  
DIRECTOR

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
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E-MAIL: [oiip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oiip@hawaii.gov)  
[www.oiip.hawaii.gov](http://www.oiip.hawaii.gov)

October 29, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Chairperson Michael Curtis  
Elections Commission

Re: Notice of Appeal of Sunshine Law Complaint (S APPEAL 26-12)

Dear Chair Curtis:

The Office of Information Practices (OIP) received an appeal from Mr. Ralph Cushnie, concerning the accuracy of the Hawai'i State Elections Commission's (Commission) minutes for its October 1, 2025, meeting (October 1 minutes). Mr. Cushnie alleged that the Commission violated Part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (Sunshine Law), specifically subsections 92-9(a)(3) and (a)(5), HRS, by omitting details of his motions to amend the minutes from the August 27, 2025 meeting in the October 1 minutes. Please review all of Mr. Cushnie's claims in his appeal, which is enclosed. OIP requests that the Commission provide a copy of this letter, with enclosures, to all its commissioners.

Please respond in writing to Mr. Cushnie's appeal within ten business days of receiving this notice. The Commission's response is its opportunity to justify the accuracy of its October 1 minutes, and to provide additional information for OIP's consideration in this appeal. Please remember that OIP must interpret the Sunshine Law to favor openness and to disfavor closed meetings. For this reason, when a complainant alleges that a board is conducting its business in violation of the Sunshine Law, the board bears the burden of justifying any departures from the law's general requirement of openness.

The Commission's written statement should include the information listed in the attached summary of appeal procedures. Additionally, OIP requests unaltered copies of the October 1 meeting minutes and recording (if a recording was made) for use in this appeal. We would appreciate receiving the copies of these records no later than ten business days from receipt of this notice.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> OIP understands that boards have 40 days to prepare meeting minutes under section 92-9, HRS, and if minutes for the meetings at issue are not yet available, boards may submit them 40 days after the date of the meeting.

The Commission and Mr. Cushnie, by copy of this notice, are informed that OIP appeals are informal proceedings. Parties are not required to provide each other with copies of their submissions to OIP unless so ordered by OIP. With the exception of records provided for OIP's *in camera* review, OIP will, upon request, provide copies of a submission by a party to other parties without notice to the submitting party. Submissions to OIP are generally considered public records subject to the exceptions to disclosure at section 92F-13, HRS. If a party's submission to OIP contains what the party believes to be nonpublic information, it should indicate on the submission what the nonpublic information is.

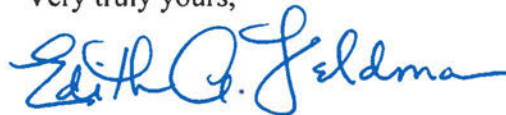
Please be advised that any person may file a lawsuit to require compliance with or to prevent a violation of the Sunshine Law. HRS § 92-12(c).

Please be aware that OIP is currently operating with a backlog of cases, so it will take time to resolve your appeal. Moreover, OIP's decision for your appeal will be limited to a finding as to whether the Commission violated the Sunshine Law. Even if OIP determines that the Sunshine Law has been violated, OIP does not have the power to enforce its decision by voiding the Commission's final action.

This letter also serves as notice that OIP is not representing anyone in this appeal. OIP's role herein is as a neutral third party.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney.

Very truly yours,



Edith A. Feldman  
Staff Attorney

EAF:nn  
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Ralph Cushnie (without enclosures)  
Mr. Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer

**From:** Ralph Cushnie (EC)  
**To:** OIP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Law Complaint – Elections Commission Failing to Keep Accurate Minutes  
**Date:** Thursday, October 23, 2025 9:37:48 AM

---

Date: October 22, 2025

Subject: Sunshine Law Complaint – Elections Commission Failing to Keep Accurate Minutes

Dear OIP,

I am filing this complaint because the Hawai'i State Elections Commission is not following the Sunshine Law requirement to keep accurate meeting minutes as required by HRS §92-9. The minutes from the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting do not show the *substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided, or Any other information that any member of the board requests be included or reflected in the minutes.*

During the October 1 meeting, I made a motion to fix the August 27, 2025 minutes to show what actually took place. I asked that the record include that Chair Curtis refused to recognize me to continue discussion on agenda item three, even though the item required decisions from the full Commission. The Chair then said I was being ejected from the meeting for "obstructing the agenda," and immediately muted my microphone. This prevented me from participating in further discussion on items three and four.

I also moved to include missing information about the counties:

- Hawai'i County: no records of ballot transfers from the county to the state were submitted.
- Kaua'i County: falsified records and observers were not allowed to verify the number of envelopes transferred.
- Maui County: missing documentation for ballot collections.
- Honolulu County: observers were not allowed to verify the number of envelopes transferred.

Commissioner Andrión seconded the motion. Four Commissioners voted yes, three voted no, and two abstained. Even though the motion failed, the fact that Commissioners requested these additions means they must still be reflected in the minutes under HRS §92-9(a)(3) and (a)(5). The law requires the minutes to show what was proposed and discussed, not just what passed.

A second motion, also properly made and seconded, asked to note that no public testimony was taken on the final agenda item. That motion also failed but is required to be recorded.

By voting to leave these details out of the minutes, the Commission has violated the Sunshine Law. The public record now hides what actually took place and gives an inaccurate picture of the discussion.

I respectfully ask OIP to find that the Elections Commission violated HRS §92-9 and direct

the Commission to correct its minutes to include a full account of the motions, the discussions, and the votes taken.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

**§92-9 Minutes.**

(a) The board shall keep written or recorded minutes of all meetings. Unless otherwise required by law, neither a full transcript nor a recording of the meeting is required, but the minutes shall give a true reflection of the matters discussed at the meeting and the views of the participants. Before the removal of a recording that was maintained on a board's website pursuant to section 92-3.7(b)(6), the board shall provide the state archives with a copy of the recording. Written minutes shall include at a minimum:

- (1) The date, time, and place of the meeting;*
- (2) The members of the board recorded as either present or absent;*
- (3) The substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided; and a record, by individual member, of any votes taken;*
- (4) If an electronic audio or video recording of the meeting is available online, a link to the electronic audio or video recording of the meeting, to be placed at the beginning of the minutes; and*
- (5) Any other information that any member of the board requests be included or reflected in the minutes.*

**WRITTEN SUMMARY FOR VIDEO RECORDING REGULAR MEETING OF THE ELECTIONS  
COMMISSION October 1, 2025 at 10:00 AM**

Commissioner Cushnie moved to amend agenda item III and IV of the August 27, 2025 minutes to include in agenda item III that Chair Curtis did not allow Commissioner Cushnie to be recognized to continue discussions and decision making on agenda item three as this agenda item had many complex issues and the Chair did not allow further discussions. Further, Chair Curtis declared that Commissioner Cushnie was ejected from the meeting for allegedly obstructing the agenda even though the agenda item was to discuss and make decisions on item three. Commissioner Cushnie wanted to be recognized to continue discussing and decision making on item three. Immediately following this declaration, Commissioner Cushnie's microphone was muted preventing further participation on agenda item three and four. Amendments to agenda item IV under County-Specific Issues for Hawaii County, include no records of ballot transfers from the county to the state were submitted. Under County-Specific Issues for Kauai

County, include falsified records and observers were not allowed to verify the number of envelopes transferred. Under County-Specific Issues for Maui County, include missing documentation for ballot collections. Under County-Specific Issues for Honolulu County, include observers were not allowed to verify the number of envelopes that were transferred. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and failed. [10:34 AM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu

NO: McAdam, Osterkamp, Curtis

ABSTAIN: Apana, Sabas

Commissioner Andrion moved to amend the August 27, 2025 minutes to read that no public testimony was taken on the last agenda item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie and failed. [10:44 AM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu

NO: Osterkamp

ABSTAIN: Apana, McAdam, Sabas, Curtis

<https://elections.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-08-27-EC-Written-Summary.pdf>

<https://elections.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-08-27-EC-Regular-Mtg-Minutes.pdf>





JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

CARLOTTA AMERINO  
DIRECTOR

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
Telephone: (808) [REDACTED] FAX: (808) [REDACTED]  
E-MAIL: [REDACTED]  
[www.oip.hawaii.gov](http://www.oip.hawaii.gov)

**Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities of the Parties**

This is an informational summary of the applicable procedures and the parties' responsibilities in an appeal before OIP pursuant to chapter 2-73, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). The procedures described here are more fully set out in chapter 2-73, HAR, itself, which controls in the event of any inconsistency between its language and the language of this informational summary.

Parties may contact OIP to request an extension of a deadline in writing.

**1. Agency response (HAR §§ 2-73-14, -15)**

The agency's written response is due ten business days after it receives the notice of appeal from OIP. Its written response must include:

- (1) a concise statement of the factual background;
- (2) an explanation of the agency's position, including its justification for the actions complained of, with citations to the specific statutory sections and other law supporting the agency's position;
- (3) any evidence necessary to support the agency's argument; and
- (4) contact information for the agency officer or employee who is authorized to respond and make representations on behalf of the agency concerning the appeal.

If checked, the agency's response must include, for OIP's review, if applicable, an unredacted copy of

<input type="checkbox"/>	the records to which access was denied
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	minutes and recording of the October 1, 2025, meeting (if a recording was made)
<input type="checkbox"/>	other records:

Where the agency claims that a record is protected by the attorney-client privilege, the agency may request to submit to OIP the record in redacted form in order to preserve this privilege. OIP will

generally allow such a request where the application of the claimed privilege can be determined by review of the redacted record.

## **2. Other submissions to OIP (HAR § 2-73-15)**

In addition to the information and materials submitted as part of the appeal, OIP may ask the person who filed the appeal, or any other parties participating in the appeal, to submit a written statement or statements. If OIP does so, OIP will also let all the parties know when the statement is due, whether there are any requirements as to the form it takes or what it includes, and when any response by the agency or other parties is due.

OIP can consider information or materials submitted by any person, not just parties to the appeal. However, if someone other than the person who filed the appeal and the responding agency wants to participate in the appeal as a party or in some other way, that person must submit a written request and must explain the reason for the request, and OIP will then determine whether to allow such participation.

Because an appeal before OIP is an informal proceeding, a party's or third person's communication with OIP can be *ex parte*, i.e., outside the presence of the other party or parties. However, OIP does have the option to require the parties to copy each other on submissions.

## **3. OIP's Decision (HAR §§ 2-73-15, -17, -18, -19)**

OIP's written decision on the appeal will be sent to all parties when it is issued. There is no specific deadline set for OIP's decision on an appeal. If the parties have not received either a decision on the appeal or a notice of dismissal from OIP as discussed below, then this appeal is still pending.

A party can request that OIP reconsider its decision. The deadline to request reconsideration is ten business days after the date the decision was issued. If a party misses the deadline for reconsideration or if OIP declines to reconsider the opinion, the party still has the option of appealing the decision to court. Section 92F-43, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), sets out the standard for an agency's appeal of an OIP decision. For a record requester or Sunshine Law complainant, appeal to court is provided by section 92F-15, HRS (denial of general record request), section 92F-27, HRS (denial of a personal record request), or sections 92-11 and -12, HRS (Sunshine Law complaint).

In some instances, OIP may issue a notice to all parties dismissing all or part of an appeal, instead of issuing a written decision. The circumstances in which OIP can dismiss an appeal are listed in section 2-73-18, HAR. OIP may also ask (but will not require) the parties to mediate the appeal, or an issue within the appeal, as an alternative means to resolve the appeal.



**From:** [Robert Duerr](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] concerns that the County is responsible for mail in ballots but there is no audit  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 11, 2025 3:31:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Aloha Elections Commission,

I was a Hawaii County election observer for nearly 20 years. I have concerns that the County is responsible for mail in ballots but there is no audit in place to verify ballot chain of custody. Are the ballot machines tested and are the audit functions of the machines being used?

The state seemingly is not concerned because this is not their jurisdiction.

I enclose some of an email correspondence that I had with Hawaii County open this matter.

Mahalo,  
Robert Duerr

Robert Duerr  
Albatross News  
Senior Active Outdoor Writers Association of America  



EMAIL ENCLOSED

Was it an issue for the State to certify the elections prior to the County obtaining the Agilis?

Was there an audit process in place when the County was processing voted ballot packet envelopes without using the Agilis?

Jon

**Jon Henricks**

County Clerk  
County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni St Room 1402  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  




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**From:** Robert Duerr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:47 AM  
**To:** Henricks, Jon <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Election Questions

John. You are not clearly understanding the issue. And my “primary concern” is not “that the voted ballot packet envelopes received by the Clerk’s Office are signature verified and sorted by machine?”

My primary concern is that the County of Hawaii is the regulatory agency overseeing some of the Hawaii elections process. Where the state hires contracted vendors for election machine services, the County has taken on being a vendor for mail ballot elections machine services.

It is my understanding that the County is using a Runbeck Election Systems Agilisduo ballot sorting system.

Who and when certifies that the Agilisduo sorting machine is running to specification? Are there independent observers of this process or results?

What audit protocols are in place for the County election process? Though I have not seen them, it is my understanding from the Runbeck website that the Agilisduo system has “full audit capabilities.”

What Audit functions did the County use for the Agilisduo system during the last Primary Election?

Though the State Elections Office says that mail ballots are the County’s kuleana, the state is the ultimate certifier of state elections. What audits of County election process and results were conducted by the State Office of Elections.

As an election observer since 1998, it took many years to I have seen the scrutiny that the State has overseen election vendors. Is the County holding itself to the same high level of scrutiny required in an election?

I understand that the election process protocol is difficult to grasp with its many moving pieces. This is why the State implemented a Election Protocol booklet to outline the process and the oversight required.

Best,  
Robert Duerr

Robert Duerr  
Senior Active Outdoor Writers of America Association

Hilo, Hawaii 96720



**From:** [OIP](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#); [OE.Elections](#)  
**Cc:** [Nago, Scott T](#); [Ching, Jordan AK](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Appeal of Sunshine Law Complaint (S APPEAL 26-13)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025 8:50:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [111225 Ltr to DAGS-ELECC.pdf](#)  
[Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities of the Parties.pdf](#)  
[101125 Email fr Cushnie.pdf](#)

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Dear Chair Curtis,

Attached is a letter dated November 12, 2025 from the Office of Information Practices regarding S APPEAL 26-13 request for assistance we received from Mr. Ralph Cushnie. Also attached are the Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities of the parties and Mr. Cushnie's request.

Please contact our office if you have difficulty opening the attachments.

Thank you,

Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawai'i  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 S. Hotel Street, #107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph: (808) [REDACTED]  
Facsimile: (808) [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Website: <http://oip.hawaii.gov>



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

CARLOTTA AMERINO  
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[www.oip.hawaii.gov](http://www.oip.hawaii.gov)

November 12, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Chairperson Michael Curtis  
Elections Commission

Re: Notice of Appeal of Sunshine Law Complaint (S APPEAL 26-13)

Dear Chair Curtis:

The Office of Information Practices (OIP) received an appeal from Commissioner Ralph Cushnie concerning the Elections Commission's (Commission) October 1, 2025 meeting (October 1 meeting).<sup>1</sup> Mr. Cushnie asked whether the Commission violated Part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (Sunshine Law), specifically sections 92-3, 92-5(b), and 92-9, HRS, by allegedly (1) refusing to recognize him during Agenda Item III, "Discussion and decision making relating to the PIG report on compliance with HAR 3-177 and ballot discrepancies[,]” declaring him “ejected,” muting his microphone, and barring his participation in further agenda items; and (2) denying public testimony during Agenda Item IV, despite objections from Commissioner Andrión.

A copy of Mr. Cushnie's appeal<sup>2</sup> is enclosed for your information. OIP requests that the Commission provide a copy of this letter, with enclosures, to all its commissioners.

Response to Appeal

Please respond in writing to Mr. Cushnie's appeal within ten business days of receiving this notice. The Commission's response is its opportunity to justify its actions and provide additional information for OIP's consideration in this appeal. Please remember that OIP must interpret the Sunshine Law to favor openness and to disfavor closed meetings. For this reason, when a

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission's response is also pending in S Appeal 26-10, involving the same October 1 meeting, but different issues. Because the appeals involve similar facts and similarly situated parties, OIP may consolidate S Appeal 26-10 and S APPEAL 26-13 pursuant to section 2-73-15(g), Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). The Commission is permitted, but not required, to submit a joint response addressing all issues raised in both appeals.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Cushnie's appeal asserted additional allegations. In a letter dated October 27, 2025, OIP informed him that these claims either required additional documentation, were duplicative of existing appeals, or outside of OIP's jurisdiction. This appeal, S APPEAL 26-13, is limited to the issues outlined above and does not address the other allegations.

complainant alleges that a board is conducting its business in violation of the Sunshine Law, the board bears the burden of justifying any departures from the law's general requirement of openness.

The Commission's written statement should include the information listed in the attached summary of appeal procedures. Additionally, OIP requests copies of the Commission's minutes<sup>3</sup> and recording of the October 1 meeting for review in this appeal. We would appreciate receiving the copies of these documents no later than ten business days from receipt of this notice.

### Notice

The Commission and Mr. Cushnie, by copy of this notice, are informed that OIP appeals are informal proceedings. Parties are not required to provide each other with copies of their submissions to OIP unless so ordered by OIP. With the exception of records provided for OIP's *in camera* review, OIP will, upon request, provide copies of a submission by a party to other parties without notice to the submitting party. Submissions to OIP are generally considered public records subject to the exceptions to disclosure at section 92F-13, HRS. If a party's submission to OIP contains what the party believes to be nonpublic information, it should indicate on the submission what the nonpublic information is.

Please be advised that any person may file a lawsuit to require compliance with or to prevent a violation of the Sunshine Law. HRS § 92-12(c).

Please be aware that OIP is currently operating with a backlog of cases, so it will take time to resolve your appeal. Moreover, OIP's decision for your appeal will be limited to findings as to whether the Commission violated the Sunshine Law. Even if OIP determines that the Sunshine Law had been violated, OIP does not have the power to enforce its decisions by voiding the Commission's final action.

Only the court may void a final action of a board that was taken in violation of the open meeting or notice requirements of the Sunshine Law. HRS § 92-11. While any person may file a lawsuit to require compliance with or to prevent a violation of the Sunshine Law, a suit to void any final action must be commenced within ninety days of the action. HRS §§ 92-11, -12. After determining whether the Sunshine Law was or will be violated, the court may also order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing party. HRS § 92-12(c).

This letter also serves as notice that OIP is not representing anyone in this appeal. OIP's role herein is as a neutral third party.

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<sup>3</sup> OIP understands that boards have 40 days to prepare meeting minutes under section 92-9, HRS, and if minutes for the meetings at issue are not yet available, boards may submit them 40 days after the date of the meeting.

Chairperson Michael Curtis  
November 12, 2025  
Page 3

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiara Maumau", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tiara Maumau  
Staff Attorney

TSM: rw  
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Ralph Cushnie (without enclosures)  
Mr. Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer  
Mr. Jordan Ching, Deputy Attorney General

**From:** [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**To:** [OIP](#)  
**Cc:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Law Complaint and Ethical Misconduct Allegation – Chair Curtis’s Concealment of Records, Redacted Communications, and Deputy Attorney General’s Professional Misconduct  
**Date:** Saturday, October 11, 2025 4:11:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [1454 NTR Mike Curtis OE Communications.pdf](#)  
[1276 NTR Mike Curtis Communications October.pdf](#)  
[1379 NTR Curtis Communication November.pdf](#)  
[1377 NTR Curtis OE Communication Jan.pdf](#)  
[2025-06-23NAME-RequestforCommunications-May2025.pdf](#)  
[2025-06-26 Cushnie 2 - Request for Communications - December 2024.pdf](#)  
[Curtis e-mail OIP slow.pdf](#)

---

Dear OIP,

This complaint is submitted pursuant to HRS Chapter 92 and HAR §2-73 concerning multiple Sunshine Law violations by Chair Mike Curtis and ethical misconduct by Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Jordan Ching.

Chair Curtis continues to conceal, redact, and control access to official email communications between himself, the Office of Elections staff, Chief Election Officer Scott Nago, and the DAGs advising the Commission. These communications concern official Commission business and are being withheld from commissioners and the public, contrary to HRS §92-1, which requires that government operations be conducted “as openly as possible.”

Further, DAG Jordan Ching has knowingly allowed and enabled this concealment, in violation of his professional duties under the Hawai‘i Rules of Professional Conduct (HRPC).

---

## Evidence and Background

### 1. January 14, 2025 Emails:

Chair Curtis wrote to DAG Christopher Leong stating his intent to “share OIP complaints with the Commission if and when the issue is aired.” This constitutes an intentional decision to withhold records from commissioners and the public until compelled by OIP. In the same email chain, Curtis instructed DAG Leong to write to OIP claiming that “our records are online” and that “by the time OIP gets around to looking at meeting minute discrepancies, the minutes will be approved.” This demonstrates a conscious effort to obstruct or delay OIP oversight.



2. Redacted Communications:

Multiple Notices to Requesters from the Office of Elections (April–June 2025) confirm that Curtis’s communications with Office of Elections staff were redacted under HRS §92F-13(3) and (4) as “attorney-client privileged.” These communications are not private legal advice but administrative exchanges between public officials performing statutory duties, which must be open to both commissioners and the public.

3. October 1, 2025 Meeting Violations:

- Chair Curtis refused to recognize Commissioner Cushnie under Agenda Item III (“Discussion and decision making relating to the PIG report on compliance with HAR 3-177 and ballot discrepancies”).
- He declared Commissioner Cushnie “ejected,” muted his microphone, and blocked participation in further agenda items.
- Public testimony was denied under Agenda Item IV, despite objections from Commissioner Andrion.

These actions violate HRS §§92-3, 92-5(b), and 92-9.

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Violations of the Hawai’i Rules of Professional Conduct by DAG Jordan Ching

This behavior violates multiple provisions of the Hawai’i Rules of Professional Conduct, including Rules 1.13, 1.11, and 8.4.

1. Organizational Client and Duty to the Entire Commission

Under Rule 1.13 (Organization as Client), a lawyer for a government agency represents the organization as a whole — not individual officials. The DAG’s client is the Elections Commission, not the Chair, not the Chief Election Officer, and not the Office of Elections.

By providing legal advice only to Chair Curtis and allowing selective withholding of that advice from other commissioners, DAG Ching breached his duty to the organizational client. His conduct allowed the Chair and the Chief Election Officer to act as if they were private clients, contrary to Rule 1.13(a).

2. Conflict of Interest and Divided Loyalty

Under Rule 1.11(d), a government lawyer shall not participate in a

matter if professional judgment is materially limited by responsibilities to another client.

The DAG has acted as legal counsel to both the Elections Commission and the Office of Elections—two entities with oversight and subordinate relationships. This dual role constitutes a direct conflict. He cannot serve as impartial counsel to the Commission while simultaneously coordinating with the agency it oversees.

3. Improper Invocation of Attorney–Client Privilege

The DAG and Chair Curtis have invoked attorney-client privilege to conceal administrative and oversight communications. Under Rule 1.6, confidentiality applies only to legal advice — not routine administrative or oversight matters.

The DAG’s cooperation in withholding these communications prevented commissioners from fulfilling their statutory duties under HRS §11-8.5 and HAR §3-170-5.

4. Misrepresentation and Deception

By advising Chair Curtis privately while publicly claiming neutrality, DAG Ching misled the Commission about the nature and extent of his representation. This conduct violates Rule 8.4(c) (misrepresentation or deceit) and Rule 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice).

5. Harm to the Public and the Commission

The DAG’s conduct has damaged the Commission’s ability to function transparently, issue accurate reports to the Legislature, and exercise oversight of the Office of Elections. It has undermined both public trust and the independence of the Elections Commission.

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## Requests for Action

1. That OIP conduct an expedited investigation into Sunshine Law violations by Chair Curtis and the unlawful concealment of Commission communications.
2. That OIP require immediate disclosure of all unredacted communications between Chair Curtis, the Office of Elections, and the Attorney General’s Office that concern Commission business.
3. That OIP order the Commission to correct the October 1, 2025 meeting minutes to reflect all discussion, dissent, and denied

testimony.

4. That the Director of the Office of Information Practices or a designated representative attend the October 29, 2025 Elections Commission meeting to provide direct guidance on Sunshine Law compliance and government transparency.
  5. That the Office of Disciplinary Counsel open an investigation into DAG Jordan Ching for violations of HRPC Rules 1.13, 1.11, 1.6, and 8.4, as his conduct has compromised the impartiality and integrity of the Attorney General's Office.
- 

#### Request for Expedited Review

Expedited review is necessary because these violations are ongoing and continue to impair the Elections Commission's ability to conduct lawful, open meetings and exercise oversight. Public trust in Hawai'i's election administration is at risk unless immediate corrective action is taken.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Cushnie



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
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CARLOTTA AMERINO  
DIRECTOR

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If checked, the agency's response must include, for OIP's *in camera* review, if applicable, an unredacted copy of

	the records to which access was denied
X	Minutes and recording of the October 1, 2025 meeting
	other records: none

Where the agency claims that a record is protected by the attorney-client privilege, the agency may request to submit to OIP the record in redacted form in order to preserve this privilege. OIP will generally allow such a request where the application of the claimed privilege can be determined by review of the redacted record.

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana*

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 431  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Michael Curtis  
Chair of the Elections Commission  
c/o Office of Elections  
802 Lehua Avenue  
Pearl City, HI 96782

**Subject: Procedure for initiating audits**

Dear Chair Curtis:

I received your letter dated October 30, 2025, regarding the Election Commission's request for an audit by the Office of the State Auditor. Under Hawai'i law, the Auditor's work is authorized by statute, concurrent resolution, or at the Auditor's own discretion. The Legislature does not initiate audits directly by letter or correspondence.

Accordingly, if an audit is to be requested, the proper procedure is for a legislator to introduce a bill or concurrent resolution during the legislative session, or for the Office of Elections to request that a bill or concurrent resolution be included with the non-administrative package. That measure may then be considered by the appropriate committees in accordance with the Legislature's rules and procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadine K. Nakamura".

NADINE K. NAKAMURA  
Speaker

cc State Auditor

STATE OF HAWAII  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
MICHAEL CURTIS, CHAIR  
c/o Office of Elections  
802 Lehua  
Avenue, Pearl City, HI 96782  
October 30, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
  
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 409  
  
415 South Beretania St.  
  
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
  
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 439  
  
415 South Beretania St.  
  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi and Speaker Nakamura:

The Elections Commission recently took extraordinary action to require an Audit of the 2024 elections, voting 7 to 2. Inconsistencies in the ballot counts, ballot envelopes, and “Chain of Custody” between County Clerks and Hawaii Office of Elections were alleged.

This is a formal request of the Hawaii Legislature to authorize an election audit by the State Auditor. Starting with the Island of Kauai. We ask for consecutive Audits of each County’s and State Election counts of ballots (mailed, returned, and counted), ballot envelopes and Chain of Custody security protocols.

Three Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs) were authorized to research information regarding these allegations. The Reports of these PIGs can be accessed at:

PIG 1 Kauai Vote and Envelope Count; July 13, 2025 Report on the Investigation into State and Kauai County Compliance with HAR 3-177 and Discrepancies in Ballot Counts and Recommendations to the State of Hawai’i Elections Commission

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kj-LDJRe\\_MofgXFso1HP-jwiReACxZub/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kj-LDJRe_MofgXFso1HP-jwiReACxZub/view)

PIG 2 Big Island Vote Count; September 29, 2025, Report on Purported Big Island Ballot Discrepancy

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15iGTQPNay6innBOKiN4qW6Nm8r29M1Dp/view>

PIG 3, dated August 27, 2025 Report on complaints relating to the chain of custody of election ballots and reported irregularities in the administration of the 2024 General Election

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CM5PyyW0vK7CZAkFDxkUgWa1UD\\_imvJh/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CM5PyyW0vK7CZAkFDxkUgWa1UD_imvJh/view)

The Audit requested may help alleviate valid concerns arising from the conversion of In-Person Same Day Voting to our current All Mail-In Voting process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Curtis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Curtis".

Michael Curtis, Chair

Hawaii Election Commission

Via: eMail & USPS to Senator President Kouchi & House Chair Nakamura

Cc: Election Commission

Kauai County Clerk

Honolulu County Clerk

Maui County Clerk

Hawaii Island County Clerk

Hawaii Office of Elections



**From:** [Martha Nakajima](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:43:48 PM

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Dear Commissioners

Please retain mail-in voting for elections in

Hawaii. At age 83, physically going to a polling place and waiting in line would be taxing and stressful for me, and I know working age people with two jobs who would not risk absenting themselves from work to vote.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Martha Nakajima

Member of Indivisible.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [LL Tanner](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY for Oct. 29, 2025 Meeting for Election Commissioners, State of Hawaii  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:43:58 PM

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of Elections  
96782

Elections Commission, c/o Office  
802 Lehua Ave, Pearl City, HI  
[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)

Aloha Members of the Hawaii Elections Commission,  
And a special greeting to Maui representatives: Dylan Andrion and James 'Kimo' Apana;

I am writing to express my deep concern that our current election procedures have come under attack—namely, by individuals who are affiliated with political organizations attempting to gain your ear, ask you manipulate our current rules, generate distrust and to eliminate Hawaii's Vote-by-Mail system. Myself and my family urge you to MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY of our electoral process with the current Vote-by-Mail process.

The Problem: As you know, Hawaii's voter turnout was 50.3% in 2024's general election, which is lower than the national average of 64.1%. We need to continue sending yellow cards, information and ballots, encouraging all citizens to vote by increasing civic education-- not by creating obstacles to Hawaii's citizenry as we exercise our right to vote in the way we choose: by mail or in person at accessible facilities.

As you also must be aware, throughout the US, including Hawaii, there HAS NOT been any statistically significant cases of fraud found in the past eight years. What the government investigators found was election workers being threatened, voting machines maligned (and consequently the federal government sued by their manufacturers), a president recorded 'asking for votes' to be illegally 'found', some states with a small amount of anomalies (most of which were clerical errors in certain states) and our government employees and political party members discussing unnecessary identity requirements (to eliminate legitimate voters and intimidate people of color), creating hours-long voting lines, and spearheading distrust in our electoral process--even mentioning taking the vote away from women! And now more than ever, states are engaged in gerrymandering districts to manipulate election outcomes. This is unacceptable.

The Solution: As our commissioners, I implore you as a governmental body, to hold fast to fair, effective and accurate election processes and procedures, including our Vote-by-Mail which has been championed to increase voter turnout, having the ability to verify the exact identity of each voter, and each signature is secure. I do TRUST the US Postal Service to deliver ballots, to and from its addressees, and our Hawaii officials to be working without fear or favor. Furthermore, I trust this commission to protect our access to voting by

mail in every instance. You know Hawaii's invalids, kapuna/seniors, working adults, rural locations, parents and others with caretaking responsibilities, travelers (including service members), and those people who take time to research and thoughtfully make their choices **DEPEND ON YOU**.

I am a proud American, a Hawaii voter, having participated in every primary and general election since 1972, the first year 18 year olds became eligible to vote (some reasoning was 'if you're old enough to die for your country, you should have a say in its leadership') following the Viet Nam war. I am also a dedicated Hawaii public school teacher, retired, having educated our keiki about the checks and balances of a functioning democracy; the three branches of government designed to protect and secure citizens' rights which are literally in danger at this time. I received a 'due to the federal government shutdown, your questions cannot be answered' online message—**NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED STATE OFFICIALS TO STAND STRONG AND CONSISTENTLY UPHOLD OUR RIGHTS**.

Mahalo for your service, doing your job and duty to hold public hearings in good faith, remaining factual while investigating complaints, and ethical in your advisements to Chief Election Officer Scott Nago on matters relating to our elections, which are the singularly, most critical hallmark of our constitutional democracy. Please let us maintain faith in the electoral process, and in Hawaii's great contribution of pono, righteousness in all our affairs.

With respect and aloha,

Laurie Tanner  
Maui 14-year resident  
Adicma@msn.com

**From:** [Rachel Coles](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:44:28 PM

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Aloha Election Commissioners,

My name is Rachel Coles. I live in Pukalani on Maui, in zip code 96768. Please consider the following testimony:

Continuing mail-in voting is critical for Hawaii residents to get a full voice in elections and for majority of Hawaii residents to be accurately represented. For the past two general elections, mail-in ballots constituted 95-6% of all votes. This is unlikely to change due to the amount of work people need to engage in to make ends meet. According to a 2020 survey, almost a quarter of residents work multiple jobs, usually the people most vulnerable to hardship from budget cuts and policy changes. This situation often functionally restricts the likelihood of voting, even with Election Day being designated sacrosanct. And 44-45,000 of Hawaii residents are active military, who have no control over deployment, for whom mail-in ballots are often critical to exercise the right to vote that they are protecting by being in the military. And 13-14,000 are reservists, whose status still may require them to be out of Hawaii during elections. In addition to this are elderly or infirm people who struggle with mobility, and who would be impacted by this.

There have been arguments about the security of mail-in ballots, but there is no data to support a security risk any higher than with in-person voting. The opposite is true. A 2020 study by the Brennan Center for Justice revealed that incidence of voter fraud by mail-in ballot was .00001%, which equals 12 votes out of 100 MILLION votes since 2000. The study found that mail-in voting was in fact more secure and less subject to interference than in-person voting. As the commission, you are familiar with the mechanical safeguards, but just to review them: The envelopes dropped into a secure box, and monitored by the USPS who has their own law enforcement, the ballots not being counted if they have been tampered with, and the envelope safeguards to ensure that any tampering is clear, the privacy of the vote protected by a security sleeve, and the signature verified and as secure as that of any credit cards. If we are not willing to trust the mail-in ballots than we should not be utilizing credit cards either. Mail-in ballots are as secure as they have ever been, and there is no credible data to support ruling out mail-in ballots on the basis of security fears.

On the other hand, cutting out the option of mail-in ballots to Hawaii residents who for multiple reasons cannot show up in person, critically deprives a significant and election changing portion of the population of Hawaii of their constitutional right to exercise their vote, and unfairly influences the outcome of any election, tilts it in favor of those with privilege who have more resources and prevents those with needs from being heard. So while no method may be foolproof, including in-person voting, not allowing mail-in ballots when so many need access to it for their right to vote is a constitutional violation, and in itself would represent a different kind of voter fraud, that of unconstitutional vote deprivation.

Mahalo for your attention to this.  
Rachel Coles

**From:** [Marguerite Koster](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i VOTE BY MAIL & Integrity of Elections Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:47:33 PM

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Aloha Elections Commission Members,

I strongly urge you to support the Hawaii VOTE BY MAIL system and to reject any attempts to undermine this system in Hawai'i. Rejecting the ability to vote by mail would seriously undermine the integrity of the Elections Commission. The ability to mail in my ballot is particularly important to me, as I am unable to stand in lines and vote in person due to a history of stroke. There are many other kapuna in my same situation who would be discouraged from voting if they had to travel to a polling location.

The hallmark of a vote-at-home elections system is the automatic delivery of ballots without voters needing to apply or submit a request. Numerous studies show that voters with ballots in hand vote at higher levels than those who have to go to a physical polling location. Ensuring they can obtain a mailed ballot without needing to worry about making a deadline or ensuring they filled out a form properly eliminates unnecessary hurdles for voters and gives them a greater opportunity to vote their ballot.

Also, providing voters postage-paid return envelopes and ballot tracking options further removes obstacles for voters and gives them confidence their mail ballot will be counted. Mail-in ballots are important because they:

- **Enfranchise voters.** Eliminating application requirements and simply sending all voters their ballots supports the enfranchisement of more voters because they don't need to worry about submitting an application in time. They can have confidence that their ballot will arrive to them several weeks before election day, giving them time to fill out their ballot at home and return it using a wide range of options.
- **Boost turnout.** Numerous studies have shown that when voters have easy access to mailed-out ballots, they vote, often at greater levels than their polling-place counterparts.
- **Increase access.** Finding time to get to the polls isn't always easy. With vote at home, democracy is delivered to your doorstep, without you ever having to make a request or visit a physical location if you don't want to. This is especially important to all adults (especially kapuna) with special needs and/or physical disabilities.

Please make the right decision and support the ability of Hawai'i citizens to VOTE BY MAIL.

Mahalo nui loa,

Marguerite Koster  
Honolulu, HI. 96814  
(626) 394-3482

**From:** [Phil Roque](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Derek Turbin](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony re Oct 29, 2025 Election Commission Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:48:51 PM  
**Attachments:** 20251027\_Letter\_Testimony\_Elections Commission STRONG SUPPORT re Mail-In Voting\_DTurbin x PROque.pdf

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Aloha,

Please see the attached testimony from the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

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Phil R. C. Roque  
Executive Director, Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
808-596-2980 | [phil@hawaiidemocrats.org](mailto:phil@hawaiidemocrats.org)  
627 South St. STE#105, Honolulu, HI 96813 (Physical)  
PO Box 2041, Honolulu, HI 96805 (Mailing)





October 27, 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,

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i submits this testimony in strong support of Hawai'i's all-mail voting system.

Voting by mail has increased civic engagement, and participation amongst all members of our communities. In fact, from 2016 to 2020 which was the first year of Vote by mail, voter participation increased from 34.8% to 51.2%. Voting by mail also provides opportunities for members of rural communities and our Kupuna to have greater access to vote.

The recent attacks on our mail-in voting system are simply based on misinformation. Hawai'i has one of the most secure and safe voting structures in our country.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i also supports the Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago and the entire team at the Office of Elections.

Sincerely,

**Derek Turbin**

*State Party Chair, Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
Western Region Vice President, Association of  
State Democratic Committees*

**Phil R. C. Roque**

*Executive Director, Democratic Party of Hawai'i*

**From:** [lynnehi@aol.com](mailto:lynnehi@aol.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] mail in voting/testimony for oct. 29 meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:48:57 PM

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I am 3,000 percent (this is not a typo) opposed to this idiotic idea. Its only purpose is to suppress voting. Mail in voting is safe, secure, accomplished in the privacy of one's home or elsewhere, allows people to vote at their convenience, even when incapacitated in a hospital, nursing home, etc.

I have never voted at my poling place. In prior years I trekked to Honolulu Hale to early vote. But, mail voting has now made it easy.

Perhaps those of you should be sued for voter suppression.

I have sent you all an email telling you how stupid you look, fighting at meetings, acting like spoiled brats. This is just another area of your incompetence.

Lynne Matusow  
Honolulu



**From:** [Amy Stephens](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voting by mail  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:51:08 PM

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Aloha Elections Commission,

I am testifying to ask you to please preserve voting by mail in Hawai'i.

Voting by mail is very secure and has a history that dates back to the civil war with absentee ballots. Democracy works best when the participating reflect our society through access to voting. I often have to work on Election Day. I remember when I was new to voting at 18 and for years after, the fear walking into a voting booth and feeling unprepared to vote. I didn't know the candidates nor the ballot measures. Voting by mail allows me to be more informed and better equipped to participate in the process by being able to review the ballot in a safe and comfortable environment.

I think voting by mail is the best way to encourage people to take part in the process. Please preserve voting by mail!

Mahalo for doing the right thing for Hawai'i,

Amy Stephens

Lahaina, Maui

[rainbowcountrymaui@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowcountrymaui@gmail.com)

**From:** [larrysmith808@gmail.com](mailto:larrysmith808@gmail.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Kupuna Caucus of the DPH supporting Mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:54:38 PM  
**Attachments:** 20251027\_Letter\_Testimony\_Elections Commission STRONG SUPPORT re Mail-In Voting.docx

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Aloha,

Attached is testimony in support of the Mail-in Voting program

Larry Smith

Chair, Kupuna Caucus

Democratic Party of Hawaii



October 27, 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,

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i submits this testimony in strong support of Hawai'i's all-mail voting system.

Voting by mail is critical for many seniors who have mobility issues and cannot get to offsite locations. Senior may be residents of care homes, skilled nursing facilities or acute hospitals. These facilities do not have the resources available to transport patients to onsite voting locations. Kupuna who live at home with limited incomes, may not have the means to get to the voting location.

Many Seniors, who cherish the right to vote, look forward to voting, when the election may be their last. For them to miss this opportunity is significant in their last days.

The recent attacks on our mail-in voting system are simply based on misinformation. Hawai'i has one of the most secure and safe voting structures in our country.

Sincerely,

Larry Smith

Chair,

Kupuna Caucus

Democratic Party of Hawaii



**From:** [Thomas Clemens](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] in support of mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:04:38 PM

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Hello,

My name is Thomas Clemens and I live in Makiki and am an employee at queens medical center. I would like to testify in support of mail in voting. My testimony relies on two different data points: firstly that mail in voting is safe/secure and that it assists many that wouldn't otherwise be able to vote.

Firstly, despite what seems to be popular to say these days, mail in voting is and has been safe and secure, with very few documented cases of fraud. To claim otherwise is either out of mistaken ignorance or malicious conspiracy.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/false-narrative-vote-mail-fraud>  
<https://votingrights.news21.com/article/about/>  
[https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA112-25.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA112-25.html)

Secondarily, I would like to testify personally that as a healthcare worker, I am unable to vote on election days. I am required to go in to work much like many other individuals, and that makes it extremely difficult to vote on election day. Early voting improves this but mail in votes makes it remarkably easier for working people who have no days off during the week to vote in every election.

In terms of accessibility, my job works with people that have mobility impairments. There are many people in Hawaii that live very far from polling places. they live in houses with multiple flights of stairs to get in/out. there are elderly people that only ever leave the house for appointments due to illness or immobility, not to mention a large number of people who are considered "bedbound" as the shorthand medical term goes, but that they are unable to even stand up to get to a wheelchair. If vote by mail is restricted or eliminated, how are these folks supposed to vote?

**are their fundamental rights to vote eliminated just because they're elderly?** I thought the ideas of caring for our elders was fundamental to the culture and lifestyle of hawaii, it astounds me that people would want to abandon the weak and elderly in this way.

I am in support of mail in voting in all of it's iterations, I reject the hypothesis that it is unsafe or fraudulent and instead promote the idea that it is most valuable to our most vulnerable residents

**Thomas Clemens, PT, DPT**  
(He/him/his)  
Physical Therapist  
[taclemens25@gmail.com](mailto:taclemens25@gmail.com)

**From:** [Rob Kuntz](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I Support Vote by Mail  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:05:27 PM

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I am writing in support of Hawai'i Vote by Mail system and to protect the Integrity of Elections Commission. As a long-time resident of Makiki, I have witnessed the importance of maintaining Hawai'i's Vote by Mail system for our kupuna and for all workers who are not given time off to vote. Standing in long lines, sometimes in adverse weather, does not reflect a modern voting system.

Our handicapped and disabled seniors need a safe, secure method to participate in our democracy. Please ensure that the Integrity of Elections Commission can act independently without interference from political pressure. Please keep the Vote by Mail system.

Sincerely,

Robert Kuntz  
Makiki, Honolulu, Hawai'i  
[longboards1@gmail.com](mailto:longboards1@gmail.com)

**From:** [Tamalita](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:07:30 PM

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## To the Members of the Hawai‘i Elections Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai‘i’s mail-in voting system and to urge the Commission to reject any efforts to eliminate or undermine it.

Mail-in voting has been a cornerstone of accessible, secure, and efficient elections in our state. It has increased voter participation, especially among kupuna, working families, and those living in rural communities who may face barriers to in-person voting. Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system has proven to be safe and reliable, with robust safeguards in place to verify voter identity and prevent fraud.

Efforts to dismantle this system—particularly those driven by partisan pressure or misinformation—threaten to disenfranchise thousands of voters and erode public trust in our democratic process. I am deeply concerned by the recent push from certain members of the public and the Commission to eliminate mail-in voting and to politicize the leadership of the Commission itself.

The Chair and the Commission have a duty to uphold fair and impartial elections, not to bend to ideological demands. I urge you to stand firm in defense of voting access and to prioritize the voices of everyday Hawai‘i residents over national political agendas.

Please continue to protect and strengthen our mail-in voting system. It reflects the values of inclusion, equity, and civic participation that make Hawai‘i unique.

Mahalo for your service and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Tammy DeBernardi  
Ka'u

**From:** [Neola Caveny](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/29  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:08:43 PM

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Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

As a former precinct chairperson in District 13 (Huelo, Maui), I can attest to the difference that mail-in voting has made in voter turnout here in East Maui. Formerly, the physical ballots from our polling place in Huelo had to be driven 20 minutes to Haiku for pickup, then relayed to another driver to be delivered to Wailuku. The ballots from polling places from Keanae to Hana had to be driven in several relays to Haiku, then Wailuku, delaying the first printout by several hours. (I believe they were sometimes flown in from Hana Airport to Kahului, weather and time permitting). I was always impressed by the dedication of the basically unpaid polling place folks (of which I was occasionally one) who did this, usually after a 12-hour day working at the polls, not to mention the voters who had to often drive miles to get to the polling places.. Is this what we are supposed to go back to?

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. I can't count how many times my neighbors asked me for advice on voting at the polls (which, of course, I couldn't give), since this was the first time many of them had seen the ballot.

There is NO evidence of ANY 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.

These 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, especially since I am now too old to be driving around the countryside after a 12-hour day on my feet.

Mahalo for your service and for safeguarding our democracy.

With respect and aloha,

**Neola Caveny**

Haiku, Maui

[neolacaveny@gmail.com](mailto:neolacaveny@gmail.com)



**From:** [Kristy Michelle McCullough](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:19:03 PM

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I was fortunate enough to come across a post on Facebook about a meeting you're having tomorrow morning about whether you will continue to allow mail in voting.

You absolutely **SHOULD** continue mail in voting! There is no proof that it's not safe and it's very convenient for people. I'm 65 years old and have lived my whole life in Hawaii but many elections have been hard to vote in because of work / life schedules. Mail in voting also allows time to research.

Do not participate in a devious plan to suppress our vote!

Mahalo,  
Kristy M. Krug  
Maui

**From:** [G H](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [G H](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Measure 9 VOTE NO  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:25:06 PM

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## **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO MAIL-IN VOTING (VOTE NO ON BALLOT MEASURE 9)**

**Submitted to:** Hawaii State Elections Committee / Office of Elections

**From:** Virginia Hall

**Date:** October 28, 2025

**Subject:** Opposition to Ballot Measure 9 — Mail-In Voting

**Chair and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Virginia Hsll, and I am a resident of Hawaii County (96740). I am writing to express **STRONG** opposition to mail-in voting in Hawaii. I believe our elections must be transparent, verifiable, and trusted by voters of every political background.

Mail-in voting has created confusion and a lack of confidence in the system. Ballot delivery issues, delayed counts, and questions about verification have caused many voters—across both major parties—to lose trust in the process. Elections should be conducted in a way that every eligible voter can see, verify, and have confidence in how their vote is handled.

I also have personal experiences that strengthened my views on fairness and accountability in public systems. During a recent emergency room visit in Kona, I suffered a broken pelvis and experienced what felt like an unfair prioritization in care despite being in extreme pain and fully insured. That moment reminded me that when systems lose transparency and accountability, people get hurt or overlooked. The same concern applies to how we run elections.

I want to see Hawaii return to a more accountable, in-person voting system where citizens can verify their ballots, confirm their voter identification, and know that the process is secure. Restoring in-person voting with clear ID verification would go a long way toward rebuilding confidence and ensuring every legitimate vote is counted once and accurately.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **vote NO on Ballot Measure 9** and to prioritize reforms that strengthen trust, accountability, and transparency in Hawaii's elections.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**VIRGINIA HALL**  
HAWAII ISLAND

[Gingerhallputek@gmail.com](mailto:Gingerhallputek@gmail.com)

808-896-8877

**From:** [Melinda Tria Kerkvliet](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] October 29 commission's meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:26:20 PM

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Dear commissioners,

I am an 83-year old resident of Kaimuki. I've been voting by email for several years now and I am not in favor of changing this policy because it works well--no fraud, no cheating. Why repair when it is not broken?

In addition, voting by mail suits my age and pre-existing health condition.

Very sincerely yours,

Melinda Tria Kerkvliet  
1355 Frank Street, Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [Christina Hughes](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save Mail In Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:28:09 PM

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I am a federal employee required to work without pay at that time, but I do wish to email in my support for mail in voting. It is convenient, and modern, and increases engagement. It is also a hallmark of state sovereignty for Hawaii to manage its own elections. The authoritarian movement wants to dismantle the 10th amendment because they know each sovereign state in the union would never agree with them. Don't let them hurt the kupuna, our brothers and sisters living remotely, the parents with small children, those traveling by bus or otherwise stuck in traffic. Getting word up to the alii by messenger is not outside the norm and shouldn't be tossed aside because the new conspiracy theory changed from voting machines to the election officials placing the ballots into the voting machines.

-Christina Hughes  
1914 Homerule St #4  
Honolulu, HI 96819

**From:** [Rep. Adrian K. Tam](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** RE: In Strong Support of Hawai'i's All-Mail Voting System  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:29:15 PM  
**Attachments:** Outlook-dt4kvav4.png  
Outlook-avgwip4c.png  
Outlook-lw4cbwfw.png  
Outlook-zn3spqxm.png  
Outlook-pcsitpth.png  
25.10.28 Mail in Vote Testimony.pdf

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Aloha Elections Commission,

Please find my testimony in strong support of mail in voting attached,

Mahalo,

Adrian

Office of Representative Adrian Tam  
District 24 – Waikīkī - Mō'ili'ili  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 406  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph: 808 586-8521



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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Hale o nā Luna Maka 'āinana*

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL**

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,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify before you in strong support of Hawai'i's all-mail voting system.

Voting by mail has increased civic engagement, and participation amongst all members of our communities. When comparing the 2020 election the first year of Vote by mail to the 2016 election, voter participation increased from 34.8% to 51.2%. Voting by mail also provides opportunities for members of Hawaii's numerous rural communities and our especially our Kupuna and other disabled community members greater access to voting.

As reported this year by AARP Hawaii kupuna make up 48.1% of District 24 Waikiki – Moiliili. Mail in voting increases accessibility for all voters, regardless of their physical abilities, affording the opportunity to participate fully and independently in the democratic process. In my district specifically this means kupuna and our hard-working family members can successfully exercise their voting rights.

The recent attacks on our mail-in voting system are simply based on misinformation. Hawai'i has one of the most secure and safe voting structures in our country.

Voting is a fundamental right, and equal access to voting methods is essential to maintaining a fair and inclusive democracy.

Respectfully,

Adrian K. Tam

**From:** [Romyn Sabatchi](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Keep Vote by Mail Accessible for Hawai'i Residents  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:31:04 PM

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Aloha!

I strongly urge you to keep **vote by mail** as an option for the people of Hawai'i. Life here is demanding — many residents juggle multiple jobs, family responsibilities, and long commutes. For many, standing in line for three to four hours on Election Day simply isn't possible.

Removing vote by mail would unintentionally **disenfranchise working families, caregivers, and kupuna** who may face transportation or mobility challenges. Vote by mail ensures that every eligible voter — regardless of schedule, ability, or circumstance — has a fair and dignified opportunity to participate.

It also encourages more **informed voting**. Having ballots at home gives voters time to research candidates and measures carefully, leading to more thoughtful participation in our democracy.

Please continue to protect and strengthen vote by mail — it's an essential part of ensuring that Hawai'i's elections remain **accessible, inclusive, and fair for everyone**.

**Mahalo for your leadership and service to our community.**

**Romyn Sabatchi**

she/her/hers

IG: [@romynsabatchi](#) | [Acting](#)

[@must.eat.food](#) | Food

B.B.A in Business Administration 2013  
*University of San Diego*

M.A. in Higher Education & Student Affairs 2017  
*University of San Francisco*

**From:** [Caroline Mackenzie](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PLEASE SUPPORT MAIL-IN VOTING.  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:37:06 PM

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Aloha.

I have voted by mail for over 30 years **BECAUSE I LIVED OVERSEAS AS AN EXPATRIATE AMERICAN.**

**The ONLY WAY I could do my civic duty and vote was by mail-in ballots.**

I have lived in Italy, France, Singapore, Belgium and Ukraine and I have voted in every election since my life overseas began in 1971.

**DO NOT TAKE AWAY OUR RIGHT TO VOTE, JUST BECAUSE WE ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY OVERSEAS.**

I live in Kaneohe now, and because I visit family on the mainland in the fall, I appreciate that Hawaii has mail in ballots.

Mahalo for letting me express my opinion.

Caroline L. Mackenzie  
44168 Nanamoana Street  
Kaneohe, HI 96744





**From:** [Nick Jurasek](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I would like to provide testimony to support Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:40:38 PM

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Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing in strong support of maintaining and expanding mail-in voting in Hawai'i. This system allows more U.S. citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote by removing barriers such as transportation, limited polling locations, and conflicting work schedules.

Mail-in voting also helps maintain business productivity by reducing the need for employers to provide paid time off or adjust staffing on Election Day. Employees can vote securely from home without interrupting critical operations — especially important for small businesses and 24/7 essential services.

Importantly, a study by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research — <https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2020/09/examining-effects-challenges-mail-in-voting> — found that vote-by-mail **does not advantage any political party**, but simply increases voter participation by making the process more accessible. In addition, Hawai'i's model gives voters time to research candidates and ballot measures thoroughly, leading to more informed decisions based on qualifications and values rather than just advertising exposure.

Mail-in voting supports civic participation, business efficiency, and election fairness. I strongly encourage its continued use and further improvement statewide.

Mahalo for your service and commitment to accessible democracy.

Respectfully,

Nick Jurasek

Kaneohe, HI

**From:** [Lois Langham](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:40:49 PM

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I support mail-in voting. It is easy and with less concerted time and effort by voters, it is more likely to get people to vote. Hawaii has a terribly low voter turnout and if people had to physically go to a polling place I can't see that doing anything but making the turnout much lower. Also, under the current president's immigration policies and the apparent lack of respect for the law AND his white supremesist agenda, non-white people may be fearful of being illegally detained if they must show up at a polling place and would not be represented. I love mail-in voting and I vote regularly.  
Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Susan Steinemann](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:04:33 PM

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Protect mail in voting for Hawai'i! It is essential to our democracy, and also essential for us essential workers who do not want to leave our critical duties (like taking care of sick patients) to go to the polls. Mail in voting is safe and secure and its integrity has stood the test of time in our state.

I live in Honolulu

[sksteinemann@gmail.com](mailto:sksteinemann@gmail.com)

**From:** [Elizabeth Keller](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Allow mail voting to continue  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:10:22 PM

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My name is elizabeth Keller, I live in Haiku. I firmly and passionately support mail- in voting. Please continue to allow the residents of Maui to vote this way. It is unspeakable that anything else is being considered when there almost NO fraud, ever with mail- in ballots and plenty of people including kapuna and service people need to be heard this way. It is a convenience to us and encourages us to vote and support democracy.

Thank you

Elizabeth Keller 1225 Hooilina Pl  
Haiku, Hi 96708

**From:** [CLAIRE NICELY](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Election Testimont  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:31:59 PM

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Aloha Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I understand there is pressure to eliminate mail-in voting in Hawaii.

For my family, mail-in voting has been helpful as we are busy and travel quite frequently, which makes this process very convenient. We do not have to rush to get to the polls, wait in line to cast our votes, or make hasty decisions because we were not prepared for the various state or county proposals on the ballot. There is also no need to request an absentee ballot as in the past.

The automatic mail-in ballots allow us to thoroughly check the candidates and issues that are being presented on the ballot in the comfort of our home, which improves making a good selection.

Please keep the present system to allow more people to vote and participate in government.

Mahalo for your consideration of my remarks.

Claire Nicely  
[nclaire829@aol.com](mailto:nclaire829@aol.com)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Yvette Kay](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Mail in Voting Integrity in Elections  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:35:12 PM

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Aloha Esteemed Election Commissioners,

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona in Hawai'i County. I would like to testify regarding Mail-In Voting integrity in elections. I was thrilled when Hawai'i adopted Mail-In Voting because Kailua-Kona is a rural area with very little public transportation, in fact it's sorely lacking. It is unreasonable to force people to find a way to get to a voting precinct without having a car. It means that unless you can afford a car or have one at your ready you have to organize around this complication. I believe that voting should be easy. I also believe that voting by mail is far more secure than by machine, which is why the Republicans in our state are trying so hard to remove it. There is NO evidence that Mail-In Voting is insecure and prone to cheating. Instead the Republicans in this state would prefer to disenfranchise voters in order to rig a vote in their favor. Do not fall for it! Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Warmly,  
Yvette Kay  
yvettekay\_99@yahoo.com  
77-356 Ainanani Street  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
415-706-9648

**From:** [Kim Markham](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:37:58 PM

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Dear Elections Commission. My name is Kim Markham and I live in Kaluaaha, Molokai.

Continuing mail-in voting is critical for Hawaii residents to get a full voice in elections and for majority of Hawaii residents to be accurately represented. For the past two general elections, mail-in ballots constituted 95-6% of all votes. This is unlikely to change due to the amount of work people need to engage in to make ends meet. According to a 2020 survey, almost a quarter of residents work multiple jobs, usually the people most vulnerable to hardship from budget cuts and policy changes. This situation often functionally restricts the likelihood of voting, even with Election Day being designated sacrosanct. And 44-45,000 of Hawaii residents are active military, who have no control over deployment, for whom mail-in ballots are often critical to exercise the right to vote that they are protecting by being in the military. And 13-14,000 are reservists, whose status still may require them to be out of Hawaii during elections. In addition to this are elderly or infirm people who struggle with mobility, and who would be impacted by this.

There have been arguments about the security of mail-in ballots, but there is no data to support a security risk any higher than with in-person voting. The opposite is true. A 2020 study by the Brennan Center for Justice revealed that incidence of voter fraud by mail-in ballot was .00001%, which equals 12 votes out of 100 MILLION votes since 2000. The study found that mail-in voting was in fact more secure and less subject to interference than in-person voting. As the commission, you are familiar with the mechanical safeguards, but just to review them: The envelopes dropped into a secure box, and monitored by the USPS who has their own law enforcement, the ballots not being counted if they have been tampered with, and the envelope safeguards to ensure that any tampering is clear, the privacy of the vote protected by a security sleeve, and the signature verified and as secure as that of any credit cards. If we are not willing to trust the mail-in ballots than we should not be utilizing credit cards either. Mail-in ballots are as secure as they have ever been, and there is no credible data to support ruling out mail-in ballots on the basis of security fears.

On the other hand, cutting out the option of mail-in ballots to Hawaii residents who for multiple reasons cannot show up in person, critically deprives a significant and election-changing portion of the population of Hawaii of their constitutional right to exercise their vote, and unfairly influences the outcome of any election, tilts it in favor of those with privilege who have more resources and prevents those with needs from being heard. So while no method may be foolproof, including in-person voting, not allowing mail-in ballots when so many need access to it for their right to vote is a constitutional violation, and in itself would represent a different kind of voter fraud, that of unconstitutional vote deprivation.

Mahalo for your attention

**From:** [Keith Webster](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] mail-in voting - please support  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:51:33 PM

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Hello Commissioners,

I'm Keith Webster of Kaneohe. I'm writing to support the continuance of our mail-in voting. This has been very successful over the years in helping Hawaii's often overworked population conveniently participate in democracy.

Please continue to support our mail in voting systems.

thank you,

Keith Webster  
Kaneohe, HI



**From:** [Lewis Glenn](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Vote by Mail  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:57:52 PM

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**Lewis Glenn**

[lewis@lewisglenn.org](mailto:lewis@lewisglenn.org)

**Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i**

**October 28, 2025**

**Dear Hawai'i Elections Commission:**

**I write to submit testimony in support of continued vote by mail in the State of Hawai'i.**

- **Vote by mail has been shown to be secure and the process has evidenced high integrity.**
- **Vote by mail affords the opportunity to vote for those who cannot get to polling places, due to disability, being out of the state, or because of lack of transportation options to visit a polling place.**
- **Thus, vote by mail supports a greater voter turnout, in support of a broader based democracy.**

**I travel frequently and have voted by mail a number of times.**

**Restricting or eliminating this option to vote will limit the number of people that vote, and discriminate against those without transportation, some people with physical disabilities, and those who may be out of state on election days.**

**Seemingly the only reason to eliminate vote by mail is to limit the number of people that are able to vote. This is inherently undemocratic.**

**Sincerely,**

**Lewis Glenn**

**From:** [Moana](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Mail In Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:58:31 PM

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Aloha,

My name is Moana Leong and I live in Mililani, Hawai'i. My email is [moana.leong@icloud.com](mailto:moana.leong@icloud.com). I love mail in ballots ever since that option was first offered because I didn't have to rush after work to get to the polls in time to vote. Now that I'm retired, I still prefer mail in voting because I don't have to drive anywhere and stand in line to vote. This will be even more important as I age. I also have time to research the charter amendments and other issues that are included in my ballot and I feel I do a better job of voting correctly according to my beliefs.

Mahalo,  
Moana G. G. F. Leong

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [John Webster](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PLEASE PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO MAIL-IN VOTING  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:10:16 PM

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Dear Chair and Commission Members:

Hawai‘i has long been a model for voter access and integrity. Quite simply - the people of Hawaii like it!

Having the ballot at home allows voters more time to study candidates and ballot measures carefully and to make thoughtful, informed choices.

We cannot let MAGA extremists make it harder to voter. Restricting access to mail-in ballots does not protect elections—it undermines them.

Please defend VOTE BY MAIL and help protect our democracy.

Thank you for your important work.

John Webster, PhD

**From:** [Dorien McClellan](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Dorien McClellan](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] VOTE BY MAIL  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:25:31 PM

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VOTE BY MAIL MUST CONTINUE IN HAWAII. We are in danger of forgetting who we are: we are a series of islands spread across the Pacific Ocean. We are a wide variety of people with a wide variety of heritages, family responsibilities and work schedules. VOTE BY MAIL enables every eligible voter to participate.

VOTE BY MAIL expands the voting window and enables more eligible voters to submit their ballots. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to sit at my kitchen table, look through the ballot, and consider the issues and candidates before casting my all-important vote. I live on Ma'ili Point in Waianae and had serious surgery this year, which made me housebound. VOTE BY MAIL would have enabled me to vote!

We do not have a problem with fraud! VOTE BY MAIL has proven safe over several cycles.

Eliminating VOTE BY MAIL would make it more difficult for many of us to participate in our civic responsibility. We need to make sure everyone has a chance to vote.

In modern times, VOTE BY MAIL is essential to universal suffrage!

Dorien McClellan  
Doriencell@outlook.com  
Waianae, HI 96792

**From:** [Tyler G](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please protect mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:28:17 PM

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Hi, I am a registered voter living in Makiki. Mail-in voting is the best way to do elections, period. Anything short of it is unacceptable. Please protect mail-in voting. Thank you.

**From:** [Roree Oehlman](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting.  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:29:33 PM

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I am unable to attend the meeting in person or remotely, but I wish to have my request to keep mail in voting considered.

I love the idea that our state which has come so far over the decades since statehood established mail in voting. I oppose those who would take that benefit from us after having voted for many years by mail, including Hawaii. It is something that the Republicans used to do in droves, now they drive to the capital to encourage our law makers to develop more restrictive voting regulations. My only objection to mail in voting is the use of requiring every ballot handler to be a handwriting expert. Not a factual or scientific way of determination. Too many voices have been inoculated by a thought process that creates an environment of distrust, and lack of faith in our voting practices. This push by citizens who follow a cult like leader, rather than adhering to the making it easier to vote ideal are also pushing conspiracy theories and forcing people to vote in person, often at the expense of a paycheck and time away from work. The nay sayers then stack the doors with armed observers and regulations that don't even allow for a drink of water from a stranger. Then they choke down the number of locations within a district with voting booths in an effort to discourage political aspirations from the community. Voting by mail is easy, convenient, fast, gas saving and without someone looking over your shoulder to take your voting booth or force you to make poor choices.

Roree M. Oehlman  
Honokaa, Hawaii

**From:** [Shalane Sambor](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:30:29 PM

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To the Elections Commission:

I am horrified to hear that some people are trying to eliminate mail-in voting in Hawaii! I saw from the last election statistics that since Hawaii is doing all mail-in voting, that our voter participation has increased dramatically, whereas Hawaii used to be one of the states with the lowest participation.

Personally, I live on Oahu in Honolulu and am a senior citizen with limited mobility. I've done mail-in voting for years, and it's been a blessing! Just physically getting to the voting place used to be difficult. Now I and all my friends (who are also senior citizens who don't drive) just fill out the ballot and mail it in! It's so easy and encourages those who would otherwise think twice about voting at all to participate in this most important process.

Mail in voting also encourages people to become informed on the political issues that are affecting our state. So not only does mail-in voting encourage more participation, but it also encourages people to become more informed on important issues. This benefits everyone regardless of political party!

Please keep Hawaii strong with mail-in voting!  
Mahalo,  
Shalane Sambor

**From:** [willow](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please help keep peaceful, effective mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:01:33 PM

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Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

Mahalo for the work you do to keep our voting system accessible to all Hawai'i voters. Please continue to do all you can to maintain mail-in voting. Mail-in voting is peaceful and effective. I am a Puna district, Big Island voter. I work for the state of Hawai'i. I chose the mail-in option even before it became a requirement. Receiving my ballot in the mail allows me to research candidates and measures, discuss them with friends and family, and make more informed decisions.

Thank you for continuing to make sure the voices of the people of Hawai'i can be heard.

Mahalo nui loa

Willow Swenson, Moku o Keawe  
808-785-8357  
HC 3 Box 4732, Keaau, HI 96749



**From:** [Caitlin Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for continued mail-in voting in Hawai'i  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:09:38 PM

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Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I am writing in **strong support of maintaining mail-in voting** in Hawai'i. This system allows more Hawai'i residents to exercise their constitutional right to vote by removing significant barriers such as transportation, limited polling locations, and conflicting work schedules.

The data clearly demonstrates the positive impact of this system on civic participation in the islands. After moving to the all-mail system, Hawai'i's voter turnout in the 2020 General Election saw a notable increase to **58% of eligible voters**, up from 42% in the 2016 General Election. This shows that greater access leads directly to greater participation.

<https://publicintegrity.org/politics/elections/who-counts/hawaiis-all-mail-voting-system-a-barrier-for-unhoused-non-english-speakers/#:~:text=Mail%2Din%20voting%20seems%20to,the%2042%25%20turnout%20in%202016.>)

**Mail-in voting is a proven success**, strengthening **civic participation** and ensuring **election fairness**. We must continue to use and actively promote this system statewide.

Mahalo for your service and commitment to accessible democracy.

Respectfully,

Caitlin Ramirez

Kaneohe, O'ahu

**From:** [John Story](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Email testimony for Mail in ballots  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:13:43 PM

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"Aloha Election Commissioners,

My name is Johnathan Story. I Kihei on Maui, in zip code 96753. Please consider the following testimony:

Continuing mail-in voting is critical for Hawaii residents to get a full voice in elections and for majority of Hawaii residents to be accurately represented. For the past two general elections, mail-in ballots constituted 95-6% of all votes. This is unlikely to change due to the amount of work people need to engage in to make ends meet. According to a 2020 survey, almost a quarter of residents work multiple jobs, usually the people most vulnerable to hardship from budget cuts and policy changes. This situation often functionally restricts the likelihood of voting, even with Election Day being designated sacrosanct. And 44-45,000 of Hawaii residents are active military, who have no control over deployment, for whom mail-in ballots are often critical to exercise the right to vote that they are protecting by being in the military. And 13-14,000 are reservists, whose status still may require them to be out of Hawaii during elections. In addition to this are elderly or infirm people who struggle with mobility, and who would be impacted by this.

There have been arguments about the security of mail-in ballots, but there is no data to support a security risk any higher than with in-person voting. The opposite is true. A 2020 study by the Brennan Center for Justice revealed that incidence of voter fraud by mail-in ballot was .00001%, which equals 12 votes out of 100 MILLION votes since 2000. The study found that mail-in voting was in fact more secure and less subject to interference than in-person voting. As the commission, you are familiar with the mechanical safeguards, but just to review them: The envelopes dropped into a secure box, and monitored by the USPS who has their own law enforcement, the ballots not being counted if they have been tampered with, and the envelope safeguards to ensure that any tampering is clear, the privacy of the vote protected by a security sleeve, and the signature verified and as secure as that of any credit cards. If we are not willing to trust the mail-in ballots than we should not be utilizing credit cards either. Mail-in ballots are as secure as they have ever been, and there is no credible data to support ruling out mail-in ballots on the basis of security fears.

On the other hand, cutting out the option of mail-in ballots to Hawaii residents who for multiple reasons cannot show up in person, critically deprives a significant and election-changing portion of the population of Hawaii of their constitutional right to exercise their vote, and unfairly influences the outcome of any election, tilts it in favor of those with privilege who have more resources and prevents those with needs from being heard. So while no method may be foolproof, including in-person voting, not allowing mail-in ballots when so many need access to it for their right to vote is a constitutional violation, and in itself would represent a different kind of voter fraud, that of unconstitutional vote deprivation.

Mahalo for your attention to this.

Johnathan Story

**From:** [Brodie Lockard](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Efforts to weaken Vote-By-Mail in Hawaii  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:14:27 PM

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To: Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission  
From: Brodie Lockard  
Re: Efforts to weaken Vote-By-Mail in Hawaii

Hawaii's successful Vote-By-Mail system is under attack by the MAGA community. They claim, with no evidence, that Vote-By-Mail is unsafe. This is part of their nationwide effort to reduce voter turnout, which includes requiring expensive and excessive personal identification like passports, and rolling back the Voting Rights Act in southern states.

Nothing about Vote-By-Mail is unsafe. 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, and fraud is all but non-existent. The MAGA community sees that it allows more people to vote, during a wider window, and without having to drive anywhere. As much as they can, they want to restrict voting to only people who will vote for their candidates, because the general electorate detests their candidates.

Hawaii voters have enough hurdles without losing this tool that was so effective during COVID and has continued to let many thousands vote more conveniently. I don't know why anyone would want to drive for miles and stand in line for hours when they can vote securely from their living room at their convenience, with plenty of time to make good choices.

As a wheelchair-bound voter, I have voted by mail for 25 years, and have never missed an election because I was stuck in bed, or my adapted van wouldn't work, or it was raining hard. How dare they threaten my right to vote!

Mahalo for safeguarding our democracy.

Brodie Lockard  
Kailua  
[blockard@iname.com](mailto:blockard@iname.com)

--

*No matter that patriotism is too often the refuge of scoundrels. Dissent, rebellion, and all-around hell-raising remain the true duty of patriots.*

—Barbara Ehrenreich

**From:** [cookshi@aol.com](mailto:cookshi@aol.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](mailto:OE.Elections.Commission)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Hawai'i Elections Commission - Meeting Oct. 29, 2025  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:19:45 PM

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***Aloha from Waimea, Hawai'i Island - May I please ask staff to confirm receipt of this testimony. MAHALO, Patti Cook***

***TO: THE HAWAI'I ELECTIONS COMMISSION - Meeting Wed., October 29, 2025***

***As a lifetime resident of Hawai'i and voter since turning 21, I am grateful for the privilege of voting and proud to say that I have never missed an election since first registering more than 50 years ago.***

***Having all this experience with voting, and also having actively participated in the elections process, I am a firm believer that VOTE BY MAIL in Hawai'i is absolutely the way to go for a number of reasons.***

***Mail-In voting removes significant barriers and I believe also gives voters a better opportunity to carefully weigh ballot decisions. Then, once actual voting on your ballot is complete, the choices for mailing in your ballot or dropping it into an official secure drop box or walking it into one of the walk-in vote locations is secure. I appreciate the help available too from County and State elections staff when I have had questions and also the convenience of on online voter registration.***

***I'm appalled that election commissioners would possibly be advocating to rescind Hawai'i's VOTE BY MAIL law and do intend to convey my support for this process to my own State Legislators.***

***There are ways to improve on VOTE BY MAIL such as adding more secure drop boxes and also adding more walk-in locations (perhaps allowing more rural/remote sites to be provided for shorter windows of time).***

***Mahalo for this opportunity to convey support for VOTE BY MAIL.***

***Patricia (Patti) Cook  
cookshi@aol.com  
Box 6960, Kamuela, HI 96743  
(808) 937-2833***

**From:** [Melissa Smith](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save Vote by Mail!  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:31:38 PM

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Aloha! My name is Melissa Smith, a retired nurse who lives in Mt View on Hawai'i Island (96771).

Many of us seniors have been grateful and have utilized Hawai'i Vote by Mail system successfully.

It is such a convenient and easy way for us to vote and not have to worry about getting transportation to the polling places and having to stand in lines.

There has been no evidence of fraud and no real reason has been put forth regarding the removal of this popular voting platform. Why change something that is already in place and that works! Auwe!

Respectfully yours,  
Melissa Smith  
Mt View, HI  
96771

**From:** [Lynn Otaguro](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] supporting vote by mail and the integrity of our elections  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:35:15 PM

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Aloha,

I am a resident of Honolulu and am writing in support of the ability to vote by mail in our Hawaii elections.

Voting by mail has made it so much easier for my family and me to vote. I appreciate the ease in submitting my vote, without waiting in a long line with others, as I help care for my grandchildren, and on the other end of the spectrum, help out with my elderly father. I have appreciated the texts that I receive from the elections administrator confirming receipt of my vote and the ability to check online also.

The process is fair, nonpartisan, and secure. It makes it easier for more people to vote, which should be the point in the administration of fair and free elections. Please support it.

Thank you,  
Lynn Otaguro  
[lmotaguro@yahoo.com](mailto:lmotaguro@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Kate Sterling](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:41:07 PM

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Hi,

I am a resident of Kamuela, Hawai'i County.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT MAIL IN VOTING!

I also strongly oppose all efforts, particularly those of any committee members, to end mail in voting in Hawai'i.

As I understand it, this issue is being brought forth on the grounds of opinion, not on the basis of research/data/facts that prove mail in voting is injurious to the eligible voters or elections in Hawai'i.

In our most recent election, nearly a year ago now, I was quite sick and would not have been able to endure the physical requirements of voting in person at a voting site. Standing in line for any length of time was simply not possible.

But, being able to drive a short distance to a public mail box was possible.  
What a blessing!

I take my responsibility to vote as a primary right and responsibility for each and every USA citizen. I oppose anything that hinders that and support all that make it more reachable to each citizen.

Thanks for 'listening',  
Cathy Sterling  
POBox 1786  
Kamuela HI 96743

PS: I've recently learned that USPS, under the Trump administration, is seriously considering activating a proposal to reduce mail pickup in rural areas from places 50 miles or more from a major USPS facility responsible for moving mail onto its destination. That will certainly negatively impact how long it will take for mail in votes in Hawai'i to get to their destination.

Enough is enough!



**From:** [HacsKayloc Nitwoodmgsbtsoy](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:49:14 PM

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Dear Commission Members,

I am writing you in support of mail in voting in Hawaii which I understand is being challenged. I have voted all my life, since I first became eligible.

As a Roosevelt grad of 1967, I remember our teachers during the Vietnam War stressing the value of our rights as citizens to vote and its profound importance to the direction of our country.

I am 77 now and getting to my polling place in person has become more difficult. I am thankful for the ability to vote by mail in ballot in Honolulu. I urge you all to protect our rights as citizens of the state of Hawaii to continue to do so.

Thank you,

Christine HacsKaylo  
Makiki Resident

**From:** [Vivian](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail-in ballots  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:57:11 PM

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Aloha,

I am a resident of Kihei, Maui (96753). Please continue offering mail-in ballots for voting in our state. It is difficult for many residents to have to go to a polling station with restricted hours. I understand there is much less fraud with mail-in ballots in comparison to in person voting.

As I age some days my body has limited mobility. If voting was required to be in person there may come a day where I wouldn't be able to access a polling station. Yet my vote should count like all others.

My daughter and son-in-law have very demanding jobs. Mail-in ballots allow them to exercise their right to vote. Taking time off work would come at a cost.

I frankly don't know anyone who wants to vote in person. Please continue this process.

Mahalo,  
Vivian Cohen

**From:** [Sue White](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SAVE MAIL - IN VOTING IN HAWAII  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:01:48 PM

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note: if there are any errors in formatting of this email please contact me and I will send it as an attachment.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MAIL - IN VOTING IN HAWAII /OPPOSITION TO ENDING MAIL - IN VOTING IN HAWAII

By : Sharon Sue White  
1118 Maunawili Road  
Kailua, HI 96734  
PH: (415) 894-2531 cell. (808) 262-0284

### TO THE COMMISSION MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION

#### IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING MAIL - IN VOTING IN HAWAII

I am a senior citizen and am very grateful that Hawaii has mail - in voting.

Mail - in voting is necessary, practical and safe for Hawaii's senior citizens and others who cannot for medical or other reasons get to the polls. In addition to the difficulty for some of physically getting to the polls, many seniors have compromised immune systems and should not have to be forced to go to the polls to vote where they risk being among voters who may have respiratory, communicable diseases. I personally am in this category, as is my husband and have been grateful that Hawaii has mail - in voting.

Not only do senior citizens benefit from being able to mail in our ballots but so do all registered voters in Hawaii.

**Numerous studies and investigations have corroborated that mail - in voting is safe and secure.**

In addition mail- voting reflects a **bi-partisan effort** to ensure safe, secure and accessible voting.

Please see the following for one analysis of the safety of mail - in voting:

#### SOURCE:

[INSTITUTE FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT: \(website link at end\)](#)

#### The Facts

#### Mail voting is meticulously designed to ensure overlapping safeguards at every stage of the voting process.

- **Registration checks.** Only verified registered voters receive mail ballots. During the registration process, applicant information is verified against a variety of state and federal databases, and an array of federal and state requirements ensure that election officials routinely follow up with voters to ensure their information is current.
- **Strict mail security protocols.** Ballots are sent by non-forwardable mail in clearly marked envelopes, often with specialized security protocols like opaque envelopes, tamper-evident seals, and privacy sleeves. Any ballots that are returned as undeliverable are immediately canceled.
- **Ballot tracking.** In most jurisdictions, ballots are tracked so that both election officials and voters can follow their ballot through the mailstream and ensure it's been delivered and counted as expected.
- **Signature verification.** Once received by election officials, ballots are not unsealed or removed from envelopes until and unless the information on the ballot envelope is filled out, the signature matches the voter's signature on file, and the envelope is free from signs of tampering. A failure of any one of these points will be resolved by bipartisan teams, who do not count the ballot unless they can get in touch with the voter who can confirm the authenticity of the ballot or submit a new one.

- **Physical and digital security.** Ballots don't just sit around warehouses in unsecured stacks. Like ballots cast in person, mail ballots are subject to sophisticated and redundant chain-of-custody protocols, physical seals and barriers, exceedingly controlled access, bipartisan teams, and surveillance.

#### Bottom Line

Voting by mail is safe and secure. It's a popular choice for states across the political spectrum and is used by voters of all ideological stripes. The history of absentee voting reflects a bipartisan — and often Republican-led — commitment to providing voters with cost-effective, efficient, and user-friendly government solutions. We shouldn't let fiery, fact-free rhetoric lead us backward.

For additional resources or to talk to an expert, please contact Dan Rafter at [dan@responsivegov.org](mailto:dan@responsivegov.org).

#### AI Overview

Numerous reports and research studies from the past several years conclude that mail-in voting is a safe and secure method, despite politically-driven disinformation to the contrary

. While isolated cases of fraud have occurred, they are rare and are swiftly addressed by election officials and law enforcement.

Key findings from recent research on mail-in voting security:

**Layered security measures:** Election systems use multiple, overlapping safeguards to ensure mail ballot integrity. These include signature verification, unique ballot tracking barcodes, and strict chain-of-custody protocols.

**Widespread fraud is extremely unlikely:** Studies consistently find that mail-in voter fraud is exceptionally rare. A 2020 study from the National Vote at Home Institute found that over 20 years, only 143 criminal convictions for mail-in voter fraud occurred out of 250 million mail ballots cast. Research from the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project confirmed in 2020 that fraud is negligible.

**Low risk of tampering:** Experts consider large-scale tampering with mail ballots almost impossible due to the security features of the ballots and envelopes. Counterfeiting ballots is extremely difficult, and ballots are secured throughout the handling process.

**Ballot tracking:** Most states now offer ballot tracking tools that allow voters to monitor their ballot's status from mailing to counting. This increases transparency and allows officials to cancel and replace lost or stolen ballots.

**Impact on turnout:** Research from the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research found that vote-by-mail modestly increases overall voter turnout without benefiting a single political party.

Recent security discussions and updates

**USPS updates:** In 2024, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) continued its robust program for securely handling election mail, which includes a dedicated law enforcement agency, specialized handling, and working closely with election officials. However, recent USPS system changes have raised concerns about the timing of postmarks, which could affect the timeliness of last-minute ballots in some states.

**Drop box security:** Research from the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) shows that official ballot drop boxes, where available, are a secure and reliable option for returning mail-in ballots. They are provided by government officials and are often monitored by video surveillance.

**Ongoing legal challenges:** Mail-in voting continues to face legal challenges, such as a 2025 lawsuit in North Carolina targeting military mail-in ballots, which was ultimately rejected by a federal court.

Additional context on mail-in voting

**Long history:** Absentee voting has been used in the U.S. since the Civil War and is not a new or untested process.

**Partisan attacks:** According to a 2025 report from the [Voting Rights Lab](#), unfounded political attacks on mail voting have led to restrictive legislation in several states.

**Voter errors:** While fraud is minimal, a more significant issue identified by researchers is voter error. Ballots may be uncounted due to issues like mismatched signatures or being received after the deadline. Many states have "notice and cure" processes to inform voters of such issues so they can be fixed.

## Bottom Line

Voting by mail is safe and secure. It's a popular choice for states across the political spectrum and is used by voters of all ideological stripes. The history of absentee voting reflects a bipartisan — [and often Republican-led](#) — commitment to providing voters with cost-effective, efficient, and user-friendly government solutions. We shouldn't let fiery, fact-free rhetoric lead us backward.

For additional resources or to talk to an expert, please contact Dan Rafter at [dan@responsivegov.org](mailto:dan@responsivegov.org).

source link : source: <https://responsivegov.org/research/why-mail-ballots-are-secure-layered-safeguards/#:~:text=In%20most%20jurisdictions%2C%20ballots%20are,voters%20of%20all%20ideological%20stripes.>

Please save mail - in voting.

Regards,  
Sharon Sue White  
Kailua, Hawaii

PS: I can provide links to many more research studies, etc that I find on the Internet. If I can be helpful to the Commission in this regard in a volunteer capacity, please do not hesitate to call on me.

**From:** [danhieux18@icloud.com](mailto:danhieux18@icloud.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Preserve mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:05:13 PM

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Aloha Election Commission members,

As an informed voter who takes every election seriously, I spend several days gathering the information I need to vote responsibly. I use my home computer to review candidate statements and analyze the pros and cons of each measure. Even with careful preparation, questions sometimes come up while I'm filling out my ballot. Having access to my computer allows me to research these issues quickly and thoroughly. For me, the ballot box is not the place to do that kind of work.

As a disabled veteran, there are times when I simply can't leave my home. Taking away mail-in voting effectively suppresses the votes of people with disabilities.

When I served overseas, mail-in voting was my only way to participate in our democracy.

Let's not kid ourselves — efforts to restrict mail-in voting are blatant voter suppression. We're better than that. We don't live in Russia.

A response would be appreciated as well as a pointer to where in the record my opposition is documented.

Aloha,

Bob Douglas  
[danhieux18@icloud.com](mailto:danhieux18@icloud.com)  
[Instagram.com/danhieux](https://www.instagram.com/danhieux)  
808 333-0402

**From:** [Leslie M](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments Supporting Ending Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:13:06 PM

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October 28, 2025

Dear Elections Commission,

We are writing to give comments on why we no longer support mail-in voting.

For all of our voting lives we voted in person, on election day, in our district, where we would show our ID, be verified and sign the voter roll book, and cast our vote in person.

At some point mail-in voting became available, and we have utilized it in most cases.

We never thought there could be any problems with it until the 2020 election, where it seemed there were many problems verifying that the election results were correct around the entire country. We heard stories of people receiving multiple ballots, voter rolls containing deceased people, people that had moved and were not eligible to vote in that district, ballots appearing from under tables to be counted over and over, ballots being transported across state lines, poll watchers being denied viewing access, and on and on. We never got any real verification that the results were true and correct for the elections. We never saw any proof of the results, but rather every effort possible to block proving the results were correct from denials, to obfuscation, to lawsuits, to vicious character attacks and eventually persecutions of anyone who was deemed an "election denier." This left us mistrustful of the entire election process, and certainly did not give us any faith in "democracy."

Although the mail-in ballots are convenient, and allow time to research all the candidates, we now believe that they are potentially rampant for fraud, and the results can no longer be trusted.

We do not believe that voting in person, on election day, with an ID to verify that the person is a legitimate, LEGAL, registered voter, is a "threat to democracy." Rather, it is more of an assurance for everyone that election results are true and correct. Shouldn't that be more of a certification of "democracy?" Shouldn't we be able to know that election results are true,

correct, and verifiable?

While there needs to be a mail-in process for elderly, disabled, military and or persons who are not in the country or able to vote on election day at their polling places, this can be done with absentee ballots and they should be thoroughly vetted as well.

Mail-in ballots should no longer be the norm, since they have reached the point where they can be abused and fraudulent votes can potentially be cast.

Therefore, we no longer support mail-in voting.

We support returning to in-person voting, at our polling places, WITH ID, for LEGAL citizens who have PRE-REGISTERED on election day only. We also support results to be announced that night, and not drag on for days or weeks, while additional votes keep “coming in” to be counted. There should be a deadline for ballots to be received, and if they are not, they should not be counted.

Thank you.

James & Leslie Miles



**From:** [Team Edwards](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:14:31 PM

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Aloha

My support of the mail-in voting process is based on the fact that the primary turnout on Kauai is very low. In 2024, the primary turnout was 26%.

This count is not representative of eligible voters able to cast ballots for candidates of their choice. There are other situations preventing voter participation in person, especially those with disabilities.

Advocates for in-person only voting attempt to restrict eligible ones from participating. This is generally discriminatory and should be overruled.

If people aren't able to vote by mail, the turnout would be lower. Dismal voter turnout is not reflective of a viable system.

Sincerely,

Steven Nishimura

Kauai Resident  
Past Chair Kaua'i Democratic Party

**From:** [Kt Hancock](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:39:45 PM

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Aloha,

I live in Kaneohe and am writing in support of mail in voting. There have been many elections that I would not have been able to take the time off of work to go to a polling station and I have still been able to make my vote count by use of the mail in ballots. Additionally, we have a busy household with young children that makes standing in long lines for voting a logistical nightmare. This is also alleviated with mail in voting. My partner is often off-island for work and when work travel falls on Election Day, they have also been able to use the mail in vote prior to travel.

I have personally really enjoyed the ability to look at the ballot options for any new legislation or any unknown individuals running for office, do my research on the matter and consider the implications of both sides prior to submitting my ballot. This is not as easy of a feat with in person voting.

The drop boxes for mail in votes in my area are easy to access and are always secured appropriately.

Please continue to offer the mail in ballot service so that all of our community has a chance to share their voice.

Eliminating this option will reduce voter numbers, which becomes an unfair representation of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katie Hancock

**From:** [mona eisa](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:46:30 PM

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Aloha and good evening,

I am writing you this evening to urge you to keep mail in voting in the state of Hawai'i. Mail in ballots have long been a part of our democracy, dating back to the civil war. There is no proof of any sort, that voting by mail results in fraudulent results. None. By getting rid of mail in voting, more voters will be disenfranchised. Older individuals and people with disabilities, who are much less physically capable of getting around, depend on it as a way to make sure their voice is heard in elections. Do not bend the knee to a lawless president, behaving as a tyrant. Keep mail in voting in, in Hawai'i. Mahalo.

Mona Eisa  
[miszeisa@gmail.com](mailto:miszeisa@gmail.com)

**From:** [dheyak@aol.com](mailto:dheyak@aol.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Advocacy for the Continuation of Mail-In Ballots in Hawaii  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:48:42 PM

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Dear Esteemed Commissioners,

My name is Dheya Smith, and I was born and raised in Maui, Hawaii. I am writing to you today as a concerned resident of Hawaii to strongly urge the Commission to uphold and permanently maintain our current system of universal mail-in voting.

The implementation of mail-in ballots has been a resounding success across our islands, reinforcing the bedrock of our democracy by making the act of voting more accessible, secure, and representative. This system is uniquely suited to the geographical and demographic realities of our state. For residents across diverse islands, military families deployed overseas, the elderly, and working-class citizens juggling multiple responsibilities, mail-in voting eliminates barriers that traditional polling places often create. It ensures that participation is convenient, regardless of proximity to a precinct or ability to take time off work.

Furthermore, the data clearly demonstrates that this system has significantly boosted voter turnout, ensuring that a broader cross-section of Hawaii's population has their voice heard in our governance. Higher turnout leads to a more legitimate and representative democracy.

I want to acknowledge and address any concerns regarding election security. Hawaii's mail-in process is robust and secure, employing critical safeguards such as signature verification, detailed ballot tracking, and clear chain-of-custody procedures.

These measures ensure the integrity of every vote cast, maintaining public trust in the electoral process. The system is tried, tested, and proven safe.

Maintaining mail-in voting is not just about convenience; it is about protecting and expanding the franchise for all eligible voters in Hawaii. I respectfully ask that the Commission continue to champion this essential electoral method.

Thank you for your time and dedicated service to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,  
Dheya Smith  
Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

**From:** [brandonsugiura@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonsugiura@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:48:45 PM

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name: Brandon Sugiura

Getting rid of mail-in voting will help streamline the process and make it more effective.

Since it proposed in 2017, numbers had nearly doubled and people seemed to find it more easy than going to their nearest polling place in the island. Yes problems had existed, by the department was ready with resulting that would maintain the fairness of the elections. As a former temp worker of the department, I have seen the process in full and the problems. But with every registered voter now with ballots in their hands, they have helped risen the numbers of votes and voters than ever before. They maintained their closing call procedures and cut off when the department collects them. I'm tired of seeing Hawaii ranked, I want to see Hawaii make an impact knowing that we have a voice and the ballot reflects our vote.

I want to perpetuate mail in voting for the years to come and hopefully integrate it with in person voting.

I, Brandon Sugiura, motion to perpetuate the transition from in person to mail in voting come next voting cycle proposed in 2028.

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

**From:** [Sara Collins](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Mail-in Elections and Comment on Agenda Items VII (a) and (c)  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:51:37 PM

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Aloha Members of the Hawaii Elections Commission,

As a longtime resident of Honolulu, I write to express my strong support for continuing Mail-In Elections. Mail-in voting is a safe, reliable, and convenient way for me to exercise my constitutional right to vote. I have used mail-in voting for years since it became available to voters here. Besides relieving me of the need to drive to a polling place, I can take my time to review the candidates and any issues on a ballot before voting as opposed to the very few minutes in a booth allowed in on-site voting. From my years of experience, I have never had cause to worry about the safety and confidentiality of my mail-in ballot or the accuracy of the election results. I have not seen or read of any credible evidence of fraudulent voting in Hawai'i or malfeasance by election officials. Voting by mail doesn't favor one political party over others. The online ballot tracking system works very well and I have used it in every election to be sure that my ballot was received and counted.

I also see that the agenda for the October 29, 2025 Elections Commission Meeting contains several "complaints" from Commissioner Cushnie. In particular, agenda items VII (a) and (c) appear to repeat prior claims Commissioner Cushnie has made about Hawaii County elections. These claims were thoroughly debunked in the September 2025 [report](#) made by the Permitted Interaction Group of the Hawaii Elections Commission:

In short, we find a **complete lack of credible evidence** to support the claim of a significant ballot discrepancy... We also reject any contention that the County is obligated to produce its confidential voter files in order to rebut an erroneous analysis. We have witnessed an unfortunate presumption in some quarters that any allegations of electoral wrongdoing are accurate unless disproven. As **these allegations lack an apparent basis**, we do not believe that the County is required to take additional steps. [Emphasis added]

Why is the Hawaii Elections Commission wasting more of its time (and public resources) on what have been shown to be baseless allegations?

I urge the Commissioners to set aside these recycled and groundless complaints and to work instead to protect and strengthen the mail-in voting process in Hawai'i. We should NOT be looking for ways to restrict or eliminate mail-in voting. We should be doing all we can to enable eligible citizens to vote in every election. Mail-in voting is an essential part of that effort.

Mahalo for considering my views.

Best,  
Sara Collins

**From:** [Desiree Kihano](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:52:57 PM

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Aloha Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Mail in Voting.

I am strongly in support of this continuing as it provides the option of voting at my convenience vs having to physically go to a specific polling location. I also appreciate that the Election Chair, Scott Nagao has continued to address concerns such as the additional drop box locations that were added in past elections, as I prefer to use that vs postal mail. Voting in person is no longer a viable option as arthritis makes standing in a long line painful.

I have to say though, during the last primary election, I waited till the last day to fill out my ballot and Dang! I made a mistake before I even chose the candidates

My only options were to not vote or brave the "crowds" and go in person.

I went in person to City Hall, called 1st to see how long the line was, there was none

Took my 6 yr old grandson & my dog (in her stroller) and was able to cast my ballot successfully. There were more election workers than voters. (Mid -day)

So yes, I strongly support the current system

btw; the stupid mistake I made on my ballot, I filled in Republican party instead of Democrat

My name is Desiree Kihano and I live in Palolo Valley. Email: [maile3@yahoo.com](mailto:maile3@yahoo.com)

Mahalo

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

**From:** [Kenneth Morrison](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/29/2025 Election Commission Meeting re: Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:58:35 PM

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Name: Kenneth Morrison  
Email: [kmorrison79@gmail.com](mailto:kmorrison79@gmail.com)  
City: Ewa Beach

Election Commission;

Mail-in voting has been critical for ensuring that everyone's voice is heard in our elections. The requirement of voting in person puts a significant burden on people who don't have the flexibility in their work or busy lives to take hours of their day to vote in-person, effectively disenfranchising our most vulnerable citizens. As we all know, there is no evidence of meaningful voter fraud due to mail-in voting, including in Hawaii, and so no reason currently exists to support any behavior that puts a burden on voters and causes economic costs to our state. Should there be concerns, the costs we would inherently incur by requiring in-person voting can instead be spent on auditing and security to ensure no burden is placed on the population that would limit the percentage of voter turnout.

For these reasons, I must demand the election commission reject any efforts to curtail or end mail-in voting in Hawaii.

Thank you!  
Kenneth Morrison



**From:** [maryellen tuttell](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony On Mail In Voting System  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:13:22 PM

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Aloha Commissioners:

Please do not change the state's mail in voting system. Our representation needs to reflect the wishes of all eligible voters. We should be encouraging voters to participate in elections and making it easy to do so. There is no evidence of any irregularities adversely affecting our elections. The fear mongering by the right wing about election security is a cover for their concerns that if all eligible voters vote, they will lose. The right wing attacks on free and fair elections across the nation are baseless and appalling. Please do not allow them and their conspiracy theories and baseless attacks on our elections to reduce voter access in Hawaii.

--

Mahalo!  
Maryellen Tuttell  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

**From:** [Bonnie Kakinami](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:18:06 PM

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Please continue mail in voting.

1. It is convenient.
2. Accessibility for many more people.
3. More time to make thoughtful decisions.
4. Having the ballot at home and seeing it reminds people to VOTE
5. Seeing parents vote sets a good example for kids.
6. Many more people send in ballots than go to the polls

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Bonnie Kakinami

**From:** [Gerald Montano](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protecting Vote by Mail & Integrity of the Elections Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:33:16 PM

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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.

Additionally, as a healthcare provider, finding time to vote during our busy schedules can be challenging. Mail-in voting allows us to participate in democracy and give back to the community through our services. Restricting mail in voters will make it difficult for our health care workers—who are already overwhelmed with high demands—to participate in the voting process.

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,

**Gerald T. Montano**

Kahului

[ronsonreeves@icloud.com](mailto:ronsonreeves@icloud.com)

**From:** [Samuel Mitchell](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Writing in strong support of maintaining and expanding access to mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:09:26 PM

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Election Commission, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify:

My name is Samuel Moriwaki Mitchell. I am Kama'āina and a resident of Hawai'i. I've also been a long-time elected member of the City & County of Honolulu Makiki Neighborhood Board #10 and was twice a Presidential elector for Hawaii. 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,

Samuel Moriwaki Mitchell & Mae Mitchell

1111 Wilder Ave Apt-16A Honolulu. Hi 96822

808-521-8587 Home

[808Unionist@gmail.com](mailto:808Unionist@gmail.com)

**From:** [Barbara Natale](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony IN SUPPORT of Mail-In-Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:11:59 PM

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Aloha,

I am IN SUPPORT of mail-in-voting. Since mail-in-voting has occurred in Hawaii, I have had the opportunity to really research those on the ballot and make an informed decision before casting my vote. I was able to take as much time as I needed in my own home and also discuss with family members.

I did not need to take time off of work to vote; I was able to simply drive down to the District Park and put it in the voting box. VERY CONVENIENT.

Besides my own personal support, here are other reasons why keeping mail-in-voting makes sense:

**Greater voter participation:** Since transitioning to vote-by-mail, Hawaii has experienced higher voter turnout. For example, a 2023 study found that Hawaii saw a 14% increase in turnout of registered voters between the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/20531680221089197>

**Enough ballots:** In 2012, 51 polling places in Hawaii ran out of paper ballots. The Hawaii Elections Commission was told that the elections office had used the wrong formula to determine how many ballots would be needed. Additionally, some voters were given the wrong ballots.

**Non-Partisan Favor:** There is no evidence to suggest that voting by mail favors one party over another. The Stanford study found that the increase in voting changed the amount of voting but not the composition of eligible voters. It didn't favor any racial, age, or economic groups. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f0cxGEvuqJ-aYl0nRQyq62Glo6bWquXC/view>

**Ballot tracking:** Hawaii voters can sign up for notifications to track their ballot, receiving alerts when it has been mailed, received, and accepted for counting. This increases transparency and provides peace of mind.

**Multiple return options:** Voted ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at designated "places of deposit" located across the islands, providing flexible options for voters.

**Reduces the cost of recruiting and training poll workers:** This allows local election officials and county election officials to focus on other problems.

**Fraud is extremely rare:** Hawaii's election officials maintain that robust security protocols are in place to ensure the integrity of the vote. These protocols include a "cure process" that allows voters to fix signature mismatches, which further secures the validation process.

**Paper trail for security:** All mail-in voting uses hand-marked paper ballots, which are considered the "gold standard" for election security. This provides a paper trail for potential recounts or audits, including risk-limiting audits.

**Workload management:** The all-mail system allows election officials to process and scrutinize ballots over a longer period, reducing the administrative burden on Election Day and enabling them to catch potential issues early.

**Faster results (in some cases):** While not guaranteed, the ability to pre-process ballots ahead of Election Day can expedite the release of results. This helps combat

misinformation that can arise from slow ballot counting.

Mahalo,  
Barbara Natale  
Kalihi Valley



**From:** [Esme Gwyn Damon](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In support of mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:19:00 PM

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Dear Elections Commission,

Thank you for accepting my testimony today. My name is Esme Damon and I was born and raised in Hawai'i and currently reside in Kaimukī. I am asking you to please maintain and expand access to mail-in voting as it is a very secure and convenient way for citizens who may not otherwise be able to vote, to have the opportunity to exercise this very important right. As a single mom with two young children I know firsthand how much more feasible of an option mail-in ballot casting is compared to traditional voting. As a social worker I can attest that without this service it would make it difficult for many in our community to get their vote counted due to many issues related to mobility and access. Please continue to support and improve the mail-in voting system rather than eliminate it in order to ensure continued access to all. Voting is a fundamental right afforded to all citizens that should be protected and encouraged by being made as seamless and secure as possible.

Mahalo kindly,  
Esme Damon  
Kaimukī, HI

**From:** [JoAnn Yukimura](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:17:38 PM

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Chair Curtis and Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission--

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the very important issue of Mail-In Voting.

I urge you to support and strengthen Mail-In Voting for Hawai'i as an important component of a democracy.

When my parents were young adults on Kaua'i in the 1950's, voting turnout was in the 80-90 percentile. We need to get back to those percentages to ensure that the people we elect and the issues we pass are truly supported by a majority of those who are eligible to vote.

By making voting easy, comfortable, and convenient, Mail-In Voting makes it more likely that people will vote.

It has been shown over and over again that Mail-In Voting can be done securely if properly administered. Not only has Mail-In voting been used for State and County elections on Kaua'i. We also use it to elect our Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) Board, and there have been no problems.

If there are problems with the administration of voting that have been well documented, then correct that, but don't throw out the good with the bad.

Please support and continue Mail-In Voting for County and State elections.

Mahalo nui loa!

*Me ke aloha,*  
*JoAnn A. Yukimura*



**From:** [Cindy Hartman](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] mail-in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:52:12 PM

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It just came to my attention today that the poorly-informed Republican members of the HI Elections Commission are pushing to eliminate mail-in voting. It's well-established that mail-in voting is no less secure than voting in-person. Everyone in the US should have this option.

I'm 75 & live in a very remote area of the Big Island. Mail-in voting allows me to cast my vote without seeking some kind of dispensation, should I choose to travel last minute or become ill & unable to get to the polls on election day. Please continue to allow all Hawai'i residents to continue mail-in voting.

I have lived in Hawai'i for 30 years, currently living on Hawai'i Island. My email address is: [ktchndancer@gmail.com](mailto:ktchndancer@gmail.com)

Cindy Hartman, RDN/LDN

Certified LEAP Therapist (Hawai'i + tele-conference)      Culinary Specialist

[ktchndancer@gmail.com](mailto:ktchndancer@gmail.com)      (512) 663-8393 (HST)

Lifestyle Eating And Performance (LEAP): a dietary protocol based on Mediator Release Testing (MRT) that enhances sports performance and provides relief from irritable bowel syndrome, migraines, fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, ADD/ADHD, and other chronic conditions related to inflammation.

**From:** [Buck Joiner](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In support of voting by mail  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:55:30 PM

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I am 83, deaf and seldom leave home. Voting by mail is quantum levels easier AND BETTER than going to the polls. The primary reason is that it gives me an opportunity to review all of the candidates and all of the issues IN DEPTH prior to voting.

Buck Joiner  
Kihei, Maui

**From:** [Joan Levy](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Election by mail testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 1:13:34 AM

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meeting 10am , Oct 29,

Please maintain and in fact expand mail in voting. It makes no sense not to do so. In whatever ways that we can expedite the people's vote it is very important to do so. Especially now. There is no down side. Only beneficial. For the voters. For the timely receipt and counting of votes. For expanded access. Your message to the voters is to make voting as accessible as possible.

Thank you for voting for mail in voting!

Sincerely,  
Joan Levy,  
310 Kihapai St  
Kapaa, HI. 96746

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [NADINE FERRARO](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:37:47 AM

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To: Election Commission  
From: Nadine Ferraro  
Email: nadineferraro@mac.com

RE: Why I Want Mail-In Voting

I have been using mail-in voting for years with complete confidence in this system because:

- Elderly people and others who may have mobility issues, or physical limitations can easily and safely cast votes from home.
- Working people can vote without missing work.
- Parents with young children don't need to find childcare in order to vote.
- Inclement weather such as heavy rain, and wind; or, extra high-temperatures won't deter, or delay voting.
- It's been found that there's little to no fraud

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my view that mail-in voting is working well!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [LAUREL PETTERSON](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:00:00 AM

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Elections Commission,

There are many of us who have limited ability to physically go to a voting location. This may be bad health , lack of transportation or even a complicated work schedule. We want to vote. A mail in ballot is the only opportunity we have; please keep this available for us.

Many thanks, Laurel Petterson McGraw  
Kauai, 96746



**From:** [Miso One](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote by Mail and Election Integrity  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:24:46 AM

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My name is Jim and I live partway up Wilhelmina Rise. My neighbors are a variety of older multigenerational families, young working families and a few younger college students. I believe everyone in my neighborhood deserves an opportunity to vote.

And isn't that the goal of a healthy democracy, to ensure everyone can vote? To ensure that every eligible citizen has a genuine, practical and accessible way to cast their ballot. Democracy should not create hurdles and test a voter's endurance, flexibility, and free time.

Providing a secure, reliable, and universal option for mail-in balloting is not just a convenience, it's a necessity for a truly representative democracy.

Think about the single mother working two jobs, who can't afford to take time off. Think about the nurse or the factory worker on a 12-hour shift that starts before the polls open and ends after they close. For them, voting in person on a specific Tuesday isn't a simple civic duty; it's a logistical nightmare. They are forced to choose between a day's pay and their right to vote. That is not a fair choice.

What about our older citizens? What about a grandfather who is perfectly sharp but has difficulty with mobility? Or a neighbor with a disability or a chronic illness? Should they be forced to navigate transportation, stand in long lines, and risk their health just to participate? Voting should not be an obstacle course. Providing a mail-in option says to these citizens: "Your voice matters, and we will not make you overcome a physical barrier to be heard."

Mail-in balloting offers a benefit to *all* of us. It respects the voter.

And let's be clear: this accessibility does not come at the cost of security. Mail-in ballot systems are built with strong safeguards. The most critical is signature verification, where election officials meticulously match the signature on the ballot envelope to the verified signature they have on file for that voter. This is a proven, reliable way to ensure the integrity of every vote.

Making our democracy more accessible does not make it weaker. It makes it stronger. It invites more people into the process. Mail-in balloting works, it's a system that ensures every voice—whether they are working late, at home with an illness, or simply being a diligent citizen—has the opportunity to be counted.

Thank you.

Jim Meixner  
[corkeydog@hotmail.com](mailto:corkeydog@hotmail.com)  
1752 Mikahala Way  
Honolulu, HI 96816



**From:** [Diana Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I support mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:14:47 AM

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To the Hawaii Elections Commission:

Mail-in voting gives me a chance to vote in a less-hurried and organized way.

I appreciate the opportunity to use mail-in voting and urge the Hawaii Elections Commission to retain this option in order to practice democratic citizenship.

Thank you!

Diana Sanchez  
177 Manulele Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

**From:** [Diane Ware](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:38:39 AM

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Dear Chair and Commissioners,

I support mail in voting with the possibility of greater walk in/drop off for those who choose that option. I am 77 and have voted by mail for years. I occasionally had problems with the electronic machines when voting in person.

I do support an audit to determine the degree of accuracy of the elections and upgrading accountability of the election process.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware  
808-967-8642  
P. O. Box 698  
99-7815 Kapoha  
Volcano HI 96785

**From:** [Stacie Burke](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:39:05 AM

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Aloha Commissioners

I ask that you do all in your power to preserve mail in voting. I could give you volumes of data in support of mail in voting, but in these polarizing times I feel it would be best to share a personal experience.

My civic minded father was hospitalized during the last Presidential election. It brought him great joy to be able to participate one last time.

Please ensure that the citizens of Hawai'i are not robbed of a fair election. Do not restrict mail in voting.

Mahalo

Stacie Maile Burke  
99-407 'Aiea Hts Dr  
'Aiea Hawai'i 96701

**From:** [Patty Wright](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:42:32 AM

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I am Patricia D Wright of Kallua O'ahu. I am testifying to urge the commission to continue mail-in ballots. I have cast my vote in every election by mail-in for many years. I know that the system is secure and it is a great convenience to this 91 year old!

The Republicans want fewer people to vote and I fear they want to go to the polling place so they can have military presence to intimidate and challenge voters. This must not happen. Please retain our election system as it is - it is working great.

Sincerely, Patricia D Wright, 529 Paokano Loop, Kailua.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Carolyn Rose-Smith](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Dr. Carolyn Rose-Smith Testimony in Support of Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:48:37 AM

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Good Morning Election Commission,

My name is Dr. Carolyn Rose-Smith, and I am an Air Force Veteran. I live in Mililani. I fully support mail-in voting. When I was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, I was able to use the secure mail-in voting method to vote in my state of residence. Mail-in voting allows citizens to increase their participation in elections, regardless of their political affiliation. Everyone can use mail-in voting, and reputable research has shown that mail-in voting does not favor one political party over another.

Since moving to Oahu, Hawaii, with my family, my husband, Dr. Scott Rose-Smith, and I, appreciate that we were able to use mail-in voting. Mail-in voting is secure; therefore, its benefits outweigh any arguments to eliminate it. Especially now, when everyone's health should be a priority, mail-in voting reduces everyone's exposure to illness, both voters and poll workers. Many people have weakened immune systems and should be protected, including the elderly and those with underlying conditions. Mail-in voting increases everyone's accessibility to voting, including people with disabilities. There are many people with disabilities, including military veterans. Therefore, mail-in voting is beneficial to people who are vulnerable.

The bottom line is that mail-in voting should be a right that is always protected for everyone. We should all strive to look out for each other, protect each other, and make each other's lives better. This includes making it easier for everyone to participate in our political system, so that their voices can be heard. My email address is [carolyn.rosesmith@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn.rosesmith@yahoo.com). Thank you for your time. Have a great day!

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Rose-Smith, PhD  
**Dr. Rose Dissertation University LLC**  
C: 571.264.8095 HST  
E: [carolyn.rosesmith@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn.rosesmith@yahoo.com)  
Website: <https://dr-rose-dissertation-university.com/>  
***Knowledge and Experience Matter!***

**From:** [Pamela Davis-Lee](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A PLEA TO KEEP mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:53:27 AM

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Mahalo Members of the Hawai'i Elections Commission for listening to my plea to keep mail-in voting.

When I mail my ballot in the secured envelope, I feel that the process validates my freedom to elect candidates of my choice. I feel lucky we live in Hawaii and lucky democracy ensures my freedom of choice.

When I mail my ballot in the secured envelope, I feel that my vote counts because the process of counting and recording the votes of all is protected and secured.

When I mail my ballot in the secured envelope, I feel that the Hawai'i Elections Commission will protect the rights of Hawai'i people to vote by mail or in person.

They and volunteers will act with integrity to ensure the procedures to receive, count and record the votes are securely and justly handled.

Pamela Lee  
Hawai'i Kai









**From:** [HENRIETTA JONES](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] testimony to support mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:55:52 AM

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I support the continued practice of mail in voting in Hawaii. First, It is an easy process-the ballot is mailed to your place of residence and you mail it back. Second, you avoid standing in long lines to cast your ballot. Third, the mail in voting process allows those that are home bound the opportunity to vote. My sister age 88 is not able to leave her house and the mail in ballot allowed her to cast her vote. She stated "I am an American and it is my duty and responsibility to vote in an election, I am proud to be given the opportunity to fulfill my obligation." if mail in voting is not longer an option she will not be able to vote.

Mahalo,  
HENRIETTA JONES  
Resident of Kaimuki

**From:** [Kathryn Shawhan](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect our Mail in Vote!  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:05:44 AM

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Please retain and protect our mail -in vote in Hawaii! Many of us are not able to attend this election commission meeting to stand up for this election access right due to our own economical (job), physical (disability), or geographic limitations. Regardless of in-person or mail-in access, there will always be a level of scrutiny required to assure accuracy. In-person voting will not prevent that. Yet, it will definitely present barriers to thousands of residents such as ourselves. Don't make it more difficult for our residents to participate in this democratic process. We greatly appreciate your support in this process.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shawhan

And

Alpheus Mathis

Of Kaneohe, O'ahu, Hawaii

Honolulukats@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Mary Lee Knapstad](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support vote-by-mail  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:12:53 AM

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Voting by mail strikes me as a way to promote voting accessibility. All those who are eligible to vote should be able to vote. I believe voting by mail is fair and secure. To get rid of it smacks of voter suppression, along with so many other measures that one party has promoted in an apparent attempt to lead the U.S. into fascism. For god's sake, keep it! Do not cave to these bullies.

Mary Lee Knapstad  
maryleeknap@gmail.com  
Volcano, HI  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Larry woody](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:30:07 AM

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Why mail in voting? My wife and I get our ballots, sit down and go over candidates and questions together. Get in our car and head out to drop off box. We take a picture of us dropping ballots in box. Text picture of us to our sons, "we voted it is your turn". This is done within 48 hours of receiving ballots. We follow up on line to see where ballots are. Mail in is fast, organized, and safe. If mail in is taken away by Republicans, it will be chaotic, and frustrating at voting stations. Less people will vote. Must not be taken away. Thank you, Larry

**From:** [Danae 96761](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i VOTE BY MAIL & Integrity of Elections Commission  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:43:18 AM

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Aloha members of the Elections Commission,

I am a female resident of Hawaii who's ancestors resided here 7 generations. I writing to submit testimony in support of continuing to offer the much needed ability to vote by mail.

Where I reside on Maui and where I just purchased a new home on Hawai'i island are both rural areas. I experienced having to drive over 30 minutes just to vote and then being forced to stand in line for hours waiting to get into a voting booth. Last election I was forced to give up over 5 hours of my day that literally cost me hundreds of dollars of my work/career time as I stood in line to exercise my right to vote. I do this because every vote is important and it wasn't long ago a single, indigenous female like me was able to vote.

I witnessed some of our most vulnerable community members--elderly and mothers caring for small children at their feet who were forced to stand in line for hours. These lines on Maui were out in the hot sun and no water was provided. It is 2025, there is no reason for voters to have to suffer like this. Well, it does make me think that some powers in office want it to be so difficult and discouraging in order to prevent the people from voting. This is simply unacceptable.

I urge you to keep mail in voting in place so that more of our most vulnerable community members are able to vote without facing dire and unnecessary conditions waiting in line.

Please don't forget that your role includes correct representation of the people here. Please continue to make voting more accessible to all who deserve to participate in electing our future representatives.

Sincerely,

Danae Marin

[danae96761@gmail.com](mailto:danae96761@gmail.com)

(808) 344-5481



**From:** [Lani Twomey](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Hawai'i Elections Commission - Meeting Oct. 29, 2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:48:07 AM

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I support continued use of Vote-by-Mail in Hawaii.

I was born and raised in Hawaii and have lived here for all of my adult life. I have also voted in every election here since I was able to register in 1969.

Having all this experience with voting, and also having actively participated in the elections process, I am a firm believer that VOTE BY MAIL in Hawai'i is absolutely the way to go for a number of reasons. Mail-In voting provides these benefits to us voters and to the State of Hawaii

- Removes significant barriers to voting in the polling stations such as having to work during the voting hours or not being able to drive to the polling stations.
- Gives voters the opportunity to make more informed decisions on ballot issues. It permits me time to research both issues and candidates prior to filling in my ballot.
- Permits voters to safely vote in the privacy of their own home. Recently there have been reports on the mainland of ICE agents stationing themselves outside of polling stations. This is intimidating for some voters to the point that they turn around and don't vote. Though I don't think we've seen that yet, ICE has been active in picking up people in our islands. Who knows what they would do at our polling stations if everyone had to do walk-in voting. I believe the majority of us here are hapa so I guess we're all suspicious in the eyes of ICE personnel.
- Permits family members to help their kupuna with the voting process. For example, reminding them to sign their completed ballot at the appropriate spot.
- Gives voters convenient, secure choices for turning in their completed ballots - mail back, drop in an official secure drop box or walk into one of the walk-in vote locations.

I'm appalled that election commissioners would possibly be advocating to rescind Hawai'i's VOTE BY MAIL law and intend to convey my support for this process to my own State Legislators.

There are ways to improve on VOTE BY MAIL such as adding more secure drop boxes and also adding more walk-in locations (perhaps allowing more rural/remote sites to be provided for shorter windows of time).

Mahalo for this opportunity to convey support for VOTE BY MAIL.

Please confirm receipt of this testimony.

Mahalo,  
Lani Twomey

Arlene (Lani) Twomey  
[lanitwomey@gmail.com](mailto:lanitwomey@gmail.com)  
354A Kaelepulu Dr, Kailua, HI 96734

(808) 256-0925

**From:** [Danielle Goren](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Election Commission Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:52:37 AM

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Aloha Members of the Election Commission,

My name is Danielle Goren, and I live in Lahaina on Maui, my zip code is 96761. My e-mail address is [daniellenicole31@gmail.com](mailto:daniellenicole31@gmail.com). As a proud Hawai'i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our great state's vote-by-mail system, I feel compelled to provide my testimony via e-mail in support of mail-in voting:

Vote-by-mail is proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular in Hawai'i. As a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity to democracy, Hawai'i must ensure that mail-in voting remains an option.

I personally find it of utmost importance to have my ballot at home to study candidates and ballot measures in order to make informed, thoughtful decisions in support of our democracy. Living on the West side of Maui, we experience road closures and traffic delays that can impede our ability to vote in person. Having the option to mail-in vote ensures that us on the West side have our fair opportunity to vote.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our mail-in voting system. I reject this coordinated attempt by extremists to disenfranchise and limit the ability of our citizens to vote. I respectfully beseech you to reject these attempts to erode our fragile democracy as well.

I leave you with these words from Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States, in his special message to the Congress, "The American Promise," wherein he speaks for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy, outlining the principles of the bill he was about to send to the Congress, designed to eliminate the illegal barriers to the right to vote, what is now the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

*"There is no constitutional issue here. The command of the Constitution is plain.*

*There is no moral issue. It is wrong - deadly wrong - to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country.*

*There is no issue of States rights or national rights. There is only the struggle for human rights.*

...

*We cannot, we must not, refuse to protect the right of every American to vote in every election that he may desire to participate in. ...*

*For from the window where i sit with the problems of our country, I recognize that outside this chamber is the outraged conscience of a nation, the grave concern of many nations, and the harsh judgment of history on our acts.*

...

*These are the enemies: poverty, ignorance, disease. They are the enemies and not our fellow man, not our neighbor. And these enemies too, poverty, disease, and ignorance, we shall overcome.*

*But let each of us look within our own hearts and our own communities, and let each of us put our shoulder to the wheel to root out injustice wherever it exists.*

*It is We The People who must make good the promise of America.*

*For at the real heart of battle for equality is a deep-seated belief in the democratic process. Equality depends not on the force of arms or tear gas, but upon the force of moral right; not on recourse to violence, but on respect for law and order.*

*In Selma, as everywhere, we seek and pray for peace. We seek order. We seek unity. But we will not accept the peace of stifled rights, or the order imposed by fear, or the unity that stifles protest. For peace cannot be purchased at the cost of liberty."*

I ask you, Members of the Election Commission, to utilize this opportunity for you to look within your own hearts, within our own community, and put your shoulders to the wheel to root out injustice as it presents itself here: in the unconstitutional attempt to limit access to the democratic institution via mail-in voting. Our mission, as We The People, is to right wrong, to do justice, and to serve our fellow man. Please honor these tenets as guardians of "liberty and justice for all."

Mahalo to you all.

With respect and aloha,

Danielle Goren  
Lahaina, Maui

P.S.

I urge you all to read the full text of President Johnson's special message to the congress. You can access it at <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/242211>

**From:** [Craig Udy](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:00:53 AM

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Please preserve mail in voting. As a disabled person, I rely on mail in voting.

Craig Udy  
1031 Nuuanu Ave Apt 905

**From:** [Jason Lewis](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Election Commission Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:03:15 AM

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Aloha Members of the Election Commission,

My name is Jason Lewis, and I live in Lahaina on Maui, my zip code is 96761. My e-mail address is [dvrjason77@aim.com](mailto:dvrjason77@aim.com). As a proud Hawai'i voter deeply concerned about current efforts to eliminate our great state's vote-by-mail system, I feel compelled to provide my testimony via e-mail in support of mail-in voting:

Vote-by-mail is proven to be secure, efficient, and overwhelmingly popular in Hawai'i. As a model for voter access, inclusion, and integrity to democracy, Hawai'i must ensure that mail-in voting remains an option.

I personally find it of utmost importance to have my ballot at home to study candidates and ballot measures in order to make informed, thoughtful decisions in support of our democracy. Living on the West side of Maui, we experience road closures and traffic delays that can impede our ability to vote in person. Having the option to mail-in vote ensures that us on the West side have our fair opportunity to vote.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our mail-in voting system. I reject this coordinated attempt by extremists to disenfranchise and limit the ability of our citizens to vote. I respectfully beseech you to reject these attempts to erode our fragile democracy as well.

I leave you with these words from Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States, in his special message to the Congress, "The American Promise," wherein he speaks for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy, outlining the principles of the bill he was about to send to the Congress, designed to eliminate the illegal barriers to the right to vote, what is now the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

*"There is no constitutional issue here. The command of the Constitution is plain.*

*There is no moral issue. It is wrong - deadly wrong - to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country.*

*There is no issue of States rights or national rights. There is only the struggle for human rights.*

...

*We cannot, we must not, refuse to protect the right of every American to vote in every election that he may desire to participate in. ...*

*For from the window where i sit with the problems of our country, I recognize that outside this chamber is the outraged conscience of a nation, the grave concern of many nations, and the harsh judgment of history on our acts.*

...

*These are the enemies: poverty, ignorance, disease. They are the enemies and not our fellow man, not our neighbor. And these enemies too, poverty, disease, and ignorance, we shall overcome.*

*But let each of us look within our own hearts and our own communities, and let each of us put our shoulder to the wheel to root out injustice wherever it exists.*

*It is We The People who must make good the promise of America.*

*For at the real heart of battle for equality is a deep-seated belief in the democratic process. Equality depends not on the force of arms or tear gas, but upon the force of moral right; not on recourse to violence, but on respect for law and order.*

*In Selma, as everywhere, we seek and pray for peace. We seek order. We seek unity. But we will not accept the peace of stifled rights, or the order imposed by fear, or the unity that stifles protest. For peace cannot be purchased at the cost of liberty."*

I ask you, Members of the Election Commission, to utilize this opportunity for you to look within your own hearts, within our own community, and put your shoulders to the wheel to root out injustice as it presents itself here: in the unconstitutional attempt to limit access to the democratic institution via mail-in voting. Our mission, as We The People, is to right wrong, to do justice, and to serve our fellow man. Please honor these tenets as guardians of "liberty and justice for all."

Mahalo to you all.

With respect and aloha,

Jason Lewis  
Lahaina, Maui

**From:** [Lisa Gibson](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT FOR VOTE BY MAIL  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:07:16 AM

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***Aloha - I would like to request confirmation of receipt of this testimony.  
Mahalo, Lisa Gibson***

**TO: THE HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION - Meeting Wed., October 29, 2025**

**SUPPORT FOR VOTE BY MAIL**

***I have never missed an election in my life. And, I have never missed an election in the more than 50 years I have lived in Hawaii.***

***Mail-In voting removes significant barriers and I believe also gives voters a better opportunity to carefully weigh ballot decisions.***

***I'm appalled that election commissioners would possibly be advocating to rescind Hawaii's VOTE BY MAIL law and do intend to convey my support for this process to my own State Legislators.***

***While there are ways to improve on VOTE BY MAIL, this program is critical for Hawaii to increase voter participation.***

***Mahalo for this opportunity to convey support for VOTE BY MAIL.***

***Lisa H. Gibson  
lisahgibson@gmail.com  
2435 Burbank St.,  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 753-5475***



**From:** [Mike Golojuch](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Strong Support for Hawaii's All-Mail Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:11:00 AM

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Chair and Election Commissioners,  
I'm in strong support of our current All-Mail Voting. Even before All-Mail Voting started, I regularly would do a mail-in ballot when it was available.

The current system does allow people to vote in person if they desire. All-Mail allows those with any disability or seniors to vote without leaving their residence.

Thank you for letting me provide my viewpoint.

Sincerely,  
Mike Golojuch  
Makakilo

**From:** [Robert M. Armstrong](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep voting by mail  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:20:24 AM

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I realize my testimony is last minute but please do NOT eliminate a great, affordable, easy way to participate in democracy because a few people can't cope with CHANGE.

Change is inevitable and necessary and the ridiculous specter of LOUD folks lining up for hours on election day or attending this Wednesday's meeting because they can't cope with positive change must not sway us from what is right!

Yes, an informational/public relations system needs to be in place (and perhaps a few more in-person voting sites at libraries) but the current voting procedures works, is verifiable, and FAIR.

We all also know that eliminating mail-in voting is a conservative talking point and action plan.

To give in to this terrorism, would make you complicit in aiding the destruction of our threatened democracy here in Hawaii.  
Keep mail-in voting as it is!

Robert Armstrong  
HD 28, Downtown  
1511 Nu'uanu Avenue #236, Honolulu 96817  
808-859-4755  
[singabob@gmail.com](mailto:singabob@gmail.com)

**From:** [Betty Burdick](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:25:05 AM

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Please don't take away our mail ballots!

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.

Elizabeth Burdick

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

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**From:** [Jennifer Schember-Lang](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:38:23 AM  
**Attachments:** Testimony\_Elections Commission\_10.29.2025.docx

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Please see attached personal testimony. Thank you.

Jennifer Schember-Lang, Voter  
935 Kamahele Place  
Kailua, HI 96734  
[jschember-lang@hotmail.com](mailto:jschember-lang@hotmail.com)

TO: Hawaii Elections Commission

FROM: Jennifer Schember-Lang  
Voter and Resident of Kailua, Hawaii

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of Mail-in Voting

DATE: October 29, 2025

I submit this testimony to support the continued practice of mail-in voting in Hawaii elections. I have been a resident of Kailua, Hawaii for 37 years and I am proud to have exercised by right and civic responsibility to vote in all elections since that time.

I recall the switch to mail-in voting and believe it is a superior method with significant security procedures in place. Rather than stand in line, my ballot is delivered directly to me. I have time to review it, research any issues, think through the candidate's positions (as needed), and make my decisions in a timely manner. I must sign the ballot envelope and I know my individualized signature will be reviewed to assure I am eligible to vote.

Security of ballots is assured as they are picked up from the post office and transported in secure containers. And ballots are processed by teams of trained election staff to ensure the integrity of the counting process.

Mail-in voting has been in existence for a significant length of time. It is fair, it does not favor any candidate or party, it is secure, and it should continue.

Thank you.

**From:** [Scott Larson](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep mail in ballots, mahalo  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:45:31 AM

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Aloha Hawaii leaders

I live in Honaunau on the Big Island. I have voted every election using the mail in ballots provided by Hawaii election laws and wish the rest of the country would make this an option and, ideally, a requirement.

Please please please keep mail in ballots for all Hawaii elections.

It's so much easier for me to make informed choices after the ballot arrives in the mail using the Internet without causing delays for others in line, safer for me to cast my vote from home, and easier on the environment.

This option is a blessing I have used in the past in every state that offered this.

Mahalo, Scott Larson

**From:** [KEVIN J H WONG](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:45:53 AM

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My name is Kevin Wong

I am in support of Mail In Voting and the Election Commission.

In recent times, there appears to be a group of people who are trying to limit our rights to vote. They employ various tactics to subvert and undermine the election process. The majority of their accusations and claims are without any evidence or proof. In the end all they're doing is wasting our time and resources.

Thank you all for the hard work and dedication to protecting our basic rights to vote and voice our opinions.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [gpalmer002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gpalmer002@hawaii.rr.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] continue mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:12:56 AM

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Dear folks,

I would like to continue to have the option of mail in voting. There have been times in the past where I have needed this due to family obligations and once for travel. I very much want to participate in choosing those who will be in the government and this has allowed me to do so. Please maintain this option. Thank you very much,

James Palmer 2118-A Kanealii Ave Honolulu, HI 96813

[gpalmer002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gpalmer002@hawaii.rr.com)



**From:** [Angelina Keighley](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:24:38 AM

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Aloha,

Mail in ballots are essential to keep voting accessible for all registered voters.

I have voted in every election since I requested ballots. More than 20 years.

I am a better informed voter. With time to read everything and do research, I am able to participate fully.

Disabled friends would not be able to vote if they had to walk and stand in line. A 100 year old neighbor votes in every election from home in Kailua. She insists we all vote.

We need to encourage everyone to vote.

Mahalo

Patricia Keighley

Honolulu

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Osler Andres](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] protect mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:28:25 AM

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**To the Esteemed Members of the Election Commission,**

I am 92 years old. I have lived and voted in Hawaii for most of my life, a privilege I hold sacred.

Today, however, I must rely on a written statement because I am physically unable to appear before you. I am battling end-stage renal disease, which confines me to my home and requires continuous, critical medical care. The simple act of traveling to my precinct polling place is difficult.

I am a citizen, I have opinions, and I have the right to choose my representatives. My inability to leave my house due to disability and advanced age should not result in the denial of my fundamental constitutional right to vote. A mail-in ballot is not a convenience for me; it is the **only way** for me to exercise the franchise I cherish and fought to preserve throughout my life.

I implore you to support legislation that makes mail-in voting the standard, accessible method for all residents. Do not allow illness or age to disenfranchise those who have dedicated their lives to this community. Please ensure that every elderly and disabled resident of Hawaii can cast their ballot with dignity and safety, right from their own homes.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

OB Andres

**From:** [Charlene Avallone](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Keep the option to vote by mail  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:30:46 AM

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To the Hawai'i Elections Commission:

Both principle and facts weigh against eliminating the mail-in vote.

A democracy should promote ways to involve citizens in exercising their right to vote not restrict that right. The option of the mail-in vote makes it not only easier for some to vote, but possible for those who cannot vote in person. This is true for voters of all political parties.

The greatest objection to the mail-in vote comes from those who perpetuate the myth that it promotes voter fraud. But there simply is not evidence to support this claim. The nonpartisan Brennan Center for Social Justice, for example, reports that numerous investigations into fraudulent voting by mail, including investigation sponsored by the Trump administration, have been unable to discover evidence of significant fraud.

The current system works well. I urge that we protect it here in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Charlene Avallone  
Kailua

**From:** [Dana St.Claire](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:36:12 AM

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I write to you today to say it is imperative to keep mail-in voting alive and well in the State of Hawaii. Please don't allow our "blue" state to be misguided by a few noisy MAGA reactionaries.

You have to admit, mail-in voting suits the diverse Hawaii electorate. We want to encourage voting, not hog-tie it. Many people... seniors, working folk, shut-ins... would be challenged to make it to a voting station. That's why mail-in voting is ideal for our State.

Those trying to end mail-in voting are simply apeing Trump's disrespect for diversity and fear the out-of-step Republican party will lose elections.

I live in rural Honaunau on Hawaii Island.

I believe I speak for the vast majority of my fellow citizens when I say Keep Mail-in Voting for Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and for serving the people of Hawaii.

Best Regards ~ Rev. Dana St.Claire

May The Best of Life Always Find You

Rev. Dana St.Claire  
[Revdanastclaire@gmail.com](mailto:Revdanastclaire@gmail.com)  
PO Box 9016  
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750-9016

**From:** [Trifona Andres](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] protect mail-in ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:37:50 AM

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To the Members of the Election Commission,

My name is Trifona Andres, and I am 89 years old. My husband, Osler, is 92 and has end-stage renal disease. While I am not under the same critical medical constraints as he is, my age and growing frailty make the process of voting at a precinct a significant hardship and a source of great anxiety.

In my later years, every outing requires careful planning, and often, assistance. To travel, even a short distance, stand in line, and manage potential physical exhaustion is a major risk to my health. Furthermore, I cannot leave my husband alone for the length of time it takes to travel and vote, as he requires someone to be with him.

Voting is a lifelong habit and a deeply held belief for me. I refuse to surrender my voice simply because I can no longer easily walk into a polling booth. Mail-in voting allows me to vote thoughtfully, securely, and most importantly, without compromising my health or my ability to care for my husband.

Passing legislation that supports and maintains mail-in ballots is a declaration that the voices of Hawaii's seniors and caregivers matter. Please vote in favor of a process that respects the realities of advanced age and home care.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Trifona Andres

**From:** [ML](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] protect mail-in ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:41:09 AM

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My name is Marilou Andres. I am here to provide testimony from the perspective of a full-time employee, a parent to an 11-year-old son, and the primary, dedicated caregiver for my elderly parents, ages 92 and 89.

My life is a constant, exhausting juggling act. A typical day involves managing my work schedule, ensuring my son gets to school, coordinating my father's complex medical treatments, and assisting my mother with household and personal needs. Time is not a luxury for me; it is a resource that is completely depleted by the demands of my family.

When it comes to Election Day, the thought of adding a mandatory trip to the precinct is overwhelming. It means taking time off work, scrambling to find childcare for my son, and most critically, arranging short-term relief care for my fragile parents. The stress is immense, and in the past, it has felt like a choice between upholding my caregiving responsibilities and exercising my right to vote.

Universal mail-in voting is not merely a convenience for people like me—it is a vital measure of support. It allows me to participate in our democracy late in the evening, after the day's work and caregiving duties are done. It removes a major source of stress and ensures that the voices of working caregivers and those they support are not silenced by the sheer impossibility of their schedule.

Please support mail-in voting for the sake of working families and those who dedicate their lives to the service of their loved ones. Thank you.

Marilou Andres

**From:** [Carrie Harrington](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Carrie L. Harrington](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:45:37 AM

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Dear Hawai'i Election Commission,

I strongly support mail in voting. I have voted using mail in voting for years and have complete confidence that it is regulated and monitored closely to avoid fraudulent voting. I am gravely concerned by the GOP's efforts to restrict voting rights and lawless redistricting across the nation. Mail in voting also benefits disabled people and people with limited mobility for myriad reasons. Please preserve our right to mail in voting and ensure the GOP does not interfere with election integrity in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,  
Carrie Harrington  
Kailua, HI

--

Carrie L. Harrington  
(808) 222-6683  
[CarrieLynn.Harrington@gmail.com](mailto:CarrieLynn.Harrington@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kit Muhs, Your Hawaii Agent](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:47:40 AM

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I am writing to vehemently support keeping mail-in voting in Hawaii. It was absolutely no reason to go back to in person voting only.

-Kit Muhs  
Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Kit Muhs](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep mail-in voting!  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:50:14 AM

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Please keep mail-in voting in Hawaii.

Thank you,  
-Ray Doblick  
Keaau, HI

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jalene-Ann Mastin](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I support mail in ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:52:17 AM

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Aloha

My name is Jalene-Ann Mastin and I am a lifetime resident of Pearl City Hawaii. I am in support of continuing the usage of mail in ballots for the following reasons:

- This email is being submitted because I have fractured ankle and am not able to attend today's scheduled meeting at 10:00. Specifically, people like myself with injuries and/or disabilities have a difficult time going to polling places to submit their ballots. Physical challenges, transportation and support (physical and/or mental) are barriers for too many.
- If a citizen is adamant about submitting a ballot in person, Hawaii has established protocols to achieve this.
- With the high cost of living and other daily issues, people living in Hawaii are more likely to submit a mail in ballot than go to an appointed polling station.
- To the best of my knowledge, with the exception of one incident on Kauai, Mail in ballots have been a reliable and effective way for voters to exercise their Constitutional right. I am also aware that the State has back up systems to verify information about the results.
- Allegations made by a specific political party about extensive "fraud" thru mail in ballot usage has not been substantiated nor evidence provided.

Therefore, I kindly ask that my opinions be considered during decision making as to this very important issue.

Mahalo, Jalene-Ann Mastin. 808-383-4606

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Valerie Barber](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Election Commission 10/29/25 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:05:13 AM

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Dear Commission Chair,

My name is Valerie Barber, and I live in Kapoho, Lower Puna District. I wish to provide testimony that mail-in voting is absolutely essential for my vote to be cast. I am single, elder, manage a disability, and, furthermore, my vehicle was subjected to rear-ending by a hit-and-run uninsured driver, damaging it beyond repair. Thus I have no transportation.

My home is located in a remote area, un-served by public transportation as the region is still recovering from the 2018 Kilauea eruption.

If Hawaii, and the United States at large, is to continue to be a democracy in which the peoples' votes has any meaning, I urge the commission to resist efforts to undermine the right to vote by mail or any other legal means.

Thank you for your consideration.

Valerie Barber

Hwy 132, Kapoho, Pahoa, Hawaii.

[valerieannebarber@gmail.com](mailto:valerieannebarber@gmail.com)

**From:** [Debra Tanaka](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:05:40 AM

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My name is Debra Tanaka, I live in Ewa Beach, and I am writing to you to **plead** that you keep mail-in voting! I have been participating in mail-in voting since it started, and I feel that it enables me to make better decisions. I can look up every candidate and bill being presented and make more informed decisions in my voting. I don't have to deal with going to a polling place and standing in line, I can vote in the comfort of my own home. I have returned my ballot by mailing it in, but most of the time I will go to the drop off box at our satellite city hall so that I know it is absolutely guaranteed that it is safely there! Mail-in voting is a much more user- friendly way to vote, and it makes me furious that Republicans are trying to put a stop to it and make it harder for hard working American citizens to vote! For the record I have voted for both Republican and Democratic candidates; but after this administration I know for this upcoming election I will definitely not support any candidate that supports this administration.

**From:** [Swasti Bhattacharyya](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please keep mail-in-voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:06:26 AM

---

Aloha Elections Commission Members,  
My name is Swasti Bhattacharyya ([swastibhattacharyya@gmail.com](mailto:swastibhattacharyya@gmail.com)) and I live in Nu'uuanu. I am writing to plead with you to keep mail-in voting as an option for us in Hawai'i. My life, like many others, has me running in multiple directions. My schedule often does not coincide with the times that offices are open. Equally important is having the quiet and time to carefully review a ballot, look up information necessary to address questions I have, and mindfully fill out the ballot. When a ballot is mailed to me, I am better able to be an informed voter; when I'm able to mail in my ballot, I'm able to make sure I get it submitted.

PLEASE maintain main-in-voting.

Mahalo,

Swasti

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Swasti Bhattacharyya, PhD, RN (she/her/hers)  
Professor Emerita of Philosophy & Religion

**From:** [Terry McDonald](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 4 Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:10:10 AM

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Thank you for holding this public hearing to explore mail-in voting.

I am writing in support of mail-in voting. It is a proven, secure method to tabulate votes and increase voter turnout. It is also particularly well-suited for Hawaii's aging population. I believe it will ensure larger turnout than in-person voting alone.

Mail-in voting has demonstrated security over decades of use, with zero evidence of widespread voter fraud and only minimal undercounting, which can be addressed and cured. Despite some challenges during the 2024 election cycle—its first full-scale implementation—this approach makes particular sense for Hawaii's islands given our rural geography outside of a few major population centers.

I am confident that the Election Commission will base its decision on the merits and the substantial evidence showing the absence of voter fraud, rather than on unfounded hysteria or conspiracy theories.

Mail-in voting is only a threat if one fears greater voter participation—which I do not.

Making it easier to vote was once a shared value across the political spectrum. We have the methods and tools necessary to run successful mail-in elections, and the process will continue to improve with experience.

Mahalo,

Terry McDonald  
1667 Kilauea Ave, Hilo, HI 96720

Best,

Terry McDonald  
704-390-6221

**From:** [Anne Anderson](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:10:42 AM

---

I vote by mail and I love it. I love getting the ballot and being able to sit down and research the various issues so that I can make informed choices when I do cast my vote. Sure I could go to the polling location and wait in line. I'm healthy enough to do that, but what about those who are not able to do that and why make it more difficult to cast your ballot?.

Vote by mail makes voting accessible to everyone, and it should be honored and kept.

**From:** [Vernelle Oku](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Removal of Office of Election Commissioners  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:17:12 AM

---

Dear Officer of Elections Commission,

Please advise how we can remove commissioners that are not following the law. Please also advise how they can be prosecuted for treason against our country for subverting the integrity of our elections.  
Thank you for your help.

Kind Regards,  
Vernelle Oku

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Jennifer Stolze](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep mail in ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:20:26 AM

---

Aloha,

I'd like to submit testimony in support of mail in ballots. Firstly, this enables more people to vote. Elderly, like my homebound 92 year old mother, would not get to participate and vote if she had to appear in person. People with disabilities and families with children are also less able to appear in person to vote. People who work in the hospitality industry may not be able to get time off to vote. Weather is also an issue. Many people cannot stand in the sun for hours waiting to get into a building to vote. These are only a few of the examples of how in person voting would suppress people from casting their vote.

Our signatures are individually checked to verify that the person who registered is the person who completed the ballot. Absentee ballots are not new and have been an important tool in providing all voters with the opportunity to vote.

Mahalo. Jennifer Stolze, Hawaii Kai.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Makali'i Brown](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:29:13 AM

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Aloha, my name is Makali'i Brown and I live in Liliha, Oahu.

I am submitting my testimony here via email regarding the meeting by the Election Commission, with proposal to end mail-in ballot voting and return to in-person-only ballots.

I strongly urge the commission to continue allowing for mail-in voting. To not do so would significantly limit the ability of many people to vote, particularly voters who are physically or financially unable to attend in-person voting stations, and would also de-incentivise many people from voting by adding additional inconveniences and stressors to the voting process.

Please continue to allow for Mail-in ballots.

Sincerely, Makalii

**From:** [Michael Collat](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in favor mail-in balloting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:38:37 AM

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Aloha Hawai'i Elections Commission -

I live in the Mānoa-Makiki and understand the Commission is considering advancing initiatives to the state legislature to restrict mail-in balloting by requiring mail receipts. Let me register my strong opposition and briefly share why mail-in balloting is important to the integrity of Hawai'i elections and should not only be maintained but strengthened.

My support for mail-in balloting is rooted in both practical considerations and in principle:

**Practical:** as a busy working professional, I had to find time to participate in the democratic process by finding a polling station, driving there, and waiting in line to cast my vote. While the commission did a reasonably good job of establishing a polling place near me and staffing it to reduce the wait time, this still created a barrier to voting that mail-in balloting completely eliminated. I was fortunate to have the flexibility in my work schedule to vote; I was fortunate to have transportation to the polling station. Others are not as fortunate, and we should not create unnecessary restrictions to having citizens' voice heard. Additionally, equipping and staffing all those polling locations requires resources that mail-in balloting helps lessen. An initiative that makes it easier for citizens to cast their votes and reduces resource requirements would seem to be a no-brainer.

**Principle:** In a country founded on the principle of government of the people, by the people, and for the people, any effort to restrict citizens' electoral participation is undemocratic and un-American. It would seem to be the Election Commission's purpose to make participation in the democratic process as easy as possible while maintaining the integrity of that process. It makes one wonder why anyone would seek to make it harder for citizens to vote. Lacking any evidence impugning the integrity of mail-in balloting, we must assume that such efforts represent an attempt at voter suppression.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the commission this morning and offer these words as documentation of what I tried convey verbally.

Bottom line: the Commission should do nothing that restricts citizens' ability to participate in the democratic process via mail-in balloting. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further input.

Aloha,  
Michael Collat  
808-341-4695

**From:** [K Osh](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Mail-in Voting!  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:52:44 AM

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You MUST keep mail-in voting for Hawaii! I support 100% Mail-In voting.

Access to voting stations is a major reason to keep Mail-In voting. Many of us, including myself, live in rural areas (ie: Waiahole Valley, as my example) and it is not easy for us to access voting stations. Many of my neighbors do not drive, or cannot afford to own a vehicle and drive, thus restricting their access to voting stations. I live over one mile away from the closest bus stop; many of my neighbors live over 2 miles away from the nearest bus stop. At age 77, I try my best to provide local transportation to some of my neighbors, but I have an old truck that they find difficult to get into. Personally, it is difficult for me to get to the voting station and stand in line and operate the machines. This is why I use mail-in voting!

Another consideration is those who work: so, so many of our Hawaii citizens work for establishments who do not give their employees time off to vote. Also, so many work two jobs so they cannot vote during the given times at the voting stations. This is why you MUST keep mail-in voting in Hawaii!

A Handy-Van trip is \$2.25, one way; that's \$4.50 per round-trip. This may sound "affordable" but the simple fact is: if you don't have \$4.50 you have no transportation, period.

I am VERY shocked, and upset, that so many are trying to take away my right to vote! How dare you! Shame!

Keep Mail-In Voting in Hawaii!

Wiih aloha,

Kathleen Oshiro  
48-262 Waiahole Valley Rd  
Kaneohe, HI 95744

**From:** [Lynn Ryan](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] testimony regarding mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:13:54 AM

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Dear Commission,

My name is Lynn Ryan resident of Kailua Kona. I am a retired Registered Nurse.

I testify in favor of mail in voting, mail in ballots.

The integrity of mail in voting has been proven for over 40 years. It was called absentee voting.

We must do nothing to restrict mail in voting. Leave the current system alone.

Fraud is essentially non existent at 0.00001% as stated by league of voters representative.

Do not depart from the present system. If you are considering a change away from mail in voting, we need noticed public meetings to allow people to be heard, to testify on this issue.

We must do nothing to restrict mail in voting.

I am 75 years, not always able to travel to a polling place.

Sincerely,

Lynn Ryan

73-1261 Melomelo St

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

707-845-2825

**From:** [Carrie Harrington](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Carrie L. Harrington](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:15:58 AM

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Dear Election Committee,

I would also like to add that if you find any actual verifiable errors in our voting process, fix them by means that do not interfere with our right to vote by mail. We should have, and deserve as citizens, a truly bipartisan election committee that makes every effort to give every citizen an easy way to vote and that holds all parties/entities accountable to maintain voting integrity regardless of the outcome, regardless if it yields a result they do not like. It appears our local GOP has fallen prey to the brainwashing and corruption in the national GOP. This is highly disturbing.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Harrington  
Kailua, HI

On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, Carrie Harrington <[carrielynn.harrington@gmail.com](mailto:carrielynn.harrington@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Hawai'i Election Commission,

I strongly support mail in voting. I have voted using mail in voting for years and have complete confidence that it is regulated and monitored closely to avoid fraudulent voting. I am gravely concerned by the GOP's efforts to restrict voting rights and lawless redistricting across the nation. Mail in voting also benefits disabled people and people with limited mobility for myriad reasons. Please preserve our right to mail in voting and ensure the GOP does not interfere with election integrity in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,  
Carrie Harrington  
Kailua, HI

--

Carrie L. Harrington  
(808) 222-6683  
[CarrieLynn.Harrington@gmail.com](mailto:CarrieLynn.Harrington@gmail.com)

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Carrie L. Harrington  
(808) 222-6683  
[CarrieLynn.Harrington@gmail.com](mailto:CarrieLynn.Harrington@gmail.com)

**From:** [Pat Murakami](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Support of Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:20:56 AM

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Aside from the incredible convenience of mail-in voting, especially for senior citizens, I believe it results in more people voting than if they have to take the time to go to polls.

PLUS - think of the environmental benefit of not having thousands and thousands of people driving their cars to their polling place.

Mail-in voting has been a secure way of voting for many years in many states. The only person who questions the security is a person who has hypocritically used it himself and has been convicted of 34 felonies. Don't let one demon destroy the convenience and effectiveness of mail-in voting for the rest of us.

Sincerely,  
Pat Murakami  
Orchidland Estates, Hawaii, Hawaii

**From:** [kathyleoroxy@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyleoroxy@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No mail- in - ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:23:52 AM

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Aloha Election board,

I am totally against mail-in -ballots. This is asking for trouble & leaves the gate open for fraud. Just have walk- in like the good old days. We need honesty in our system.

Kathleen M. Frontino

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



**From:** [Reza Morin-Dayani](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please don't take away absentee voting.  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:41:37 AM

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Aloha mai kakou,

Many working people with kids and kupuna cannot take time off of work and life to stand in line to vote. Absentee voting allows them to have a voice. Please don't take away our right to vote safely, (no covid exposure) and efficiently.

Mahalo nui,

--

Reza Morin-Dayani

**From:** [Akuakea](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on4B for October 29, 2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:02:55 PM

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Its almost noon and it looks like I will not be able to testify in favor of the return to in-person, paper ballots.

There was a testifier who stated that it is more likely to be struck by lightening than to experience voter fraud in America. While I wish that were the case - very simple research about methods that are used to manipulate mail in balloting and electronic voting world-wide creates a very long list of possible forms of manipulation. THE GOLD STANDARD and most difficult (though not impossible) to manipulate is IN PERSON - PAPER ELECTIONS.

Voting is the most sacred duty of a Citizen. However you vote, it is sacred and inconvenience is not the highest priority - integrity is, accuracy, accountability, transparency and truthfulness.

Elections world-wide have been manipulated. Elections in Hawaii have been manipulated. I know of many lawsuits filed in the last couple of election cycles that were simply not heard by the judiciary. Its not that there aren't valid issues - whatever your political position - not a partisan issue; its that they are not being heard by our judiciary.

I am in strong support of integrity in our elections by returning to the GOLD Standard of in-person, paper elections with accommodations for those who for medical or other reasons need help in filing their ballot. Personally I think its is of such importance that even MAIL-INS should be limited in favor of each person choosing and recording ahead of time who will HAND DELIVER their ballot to the precinct and can be verified that that pre-approval has been assigned,

Thank you

Kevin Hill  
Big Island

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

**From:** [Peter Matlock](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I support mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:08:43 PM

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Aloha Hawai'i Elections Commission,

I strongly support mail-in voting.

I have used mail-in voting for years and have never had any concerns about voter fraud. I have trusted the reliable and competent work of elections officials to maintain proper voting rolls and mail-in voting procedures.

I strongly oppose efforts by those who cast doubts on mail-in voting, because an objective, third-party observer can clearly see that these doubts are based not on real problems but on attempts to limit voting (i.e.--voter suppression).

Please do not be swayed by frivolous and non-factual arguments that claim mail-in voting is not secure. It is.

Please do maintain the ability to enable as many citizens as possible to participate in our democracy.

Mahalo!

Peter

--

Peter Matlock  
Kailua Kona, HI

**From:** [MARY M FIEDLER](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voting by Mail  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:24:21 PM

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Dear Elections Committee:

My name is Mary Midkiff Fiedler, and I live in Waialae Nui.

I support and endorse mail-in voting. It has always enabled me to look and carefully consider my ballot. I am so pleased that you have ballot tracking - ever since you enabled it, I use it, and trust it.

I have voted by mail in every single election since anyone could use it (previously, you had to fill in a form each election and say why you wanted to mail your ballot).

It is so convenient. It is safe. I trust it.

And I have voted in every election since I attained voting age in Hawaii. I was born here. And now, in my seventies, I appreciate mail-in voting more than ever. I don't have to drive to a precinct, stand in line - I don't enjoy that. I want to consider my choices carefully, in my home.

I want to cast my vote in private.

Please keep mail-in voting in Hawaii.

Aloha, Mary Fiedler  
2291 Halehaka St.  
Honolulu, HI. 96821

**From:** [Catherine Jordan](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 1:07:39 PM

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## VOTE BY MAIL

VOTE BY MAIL is an essential guarantee for the ability to vote. I am 64 and have been temporarily and now permanently disabled throughout my adult years as a victim of a car accident at the age of 26.

I appreciate that I can vote and have missed the opportunity when in hospital and at other times still unable to reach a designated voting place. There's limited handicap parking, standing in line, and each day is different as to what my physical limitations are.

I live in Senior housing in Honolulu, and many of my neighbors don't speak up about the disconnect and lack of support to exercise our right to vote. It is akin to being a prisoner when our minds are sharp and our abilities are curtailed.

Please protect our rights to have a voice in government by allowing us to vote by mail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Catherine M Jordan  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**From:** [Storm Stoker](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect vote by Mail!  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 1:42:38 PM

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Please make voting as easy as possible and give folks every possible option! Defend democracy!

**From:** [Sylvia Spalding](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposal to require in person voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:06:43 PM

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Dear Elections Commissioners:

I urge you to continue to allow us to vote by mail. I am 70 years old and caring for my 95- and 96-year-old parents. My father is a korean and vietnam war vet with 100% service connected disabilities. My mother has pulmonary fibrosis and is on oxygen. Both are essentially homebound. It would be hard if not impossible for us to vote if we had to go to the voting booth. A large part of Hawaii's population is over 60 years old.

Thank you

Sylvia Spalding

Phone 808 383-1069

94-527 Lumiauau Street

Waipahu, HI 96797

**From:** [Doris Boushey](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I was on the zoom  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:53:12 PM

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Hi,

I wasn't allowed to testify while on zoom. Not sure why. I waited for a long time then had to go off and came back on.

Anyway, my name is Deelani Boushey, a resident of Ewa beach, Hawaii.

I'm in favor of mail in voting as our state elected to do many years ago with other states doing it as well. I was a former election chairperson for various precincts in my area. The system works! We would have meetings after various elections about any problems encountered. There was no fraud and there would be observers from both parties. We need more people voting not less and mail in has been working for our state. Unfortunately, the percentage of ppl voting barely changed. The only reason why there's questions is because of the MAGAs and conspiracy theories. I listened to many of the testimony on both sides and we need to get a grip on this now. It's spread because of the current president.

There has been many court cases that have proven that across the country there was 0.002 % of voter fraud. It's ridiculous!

I'm in favor of mail in voting for many of the same reasons mentioned on zoom and maybe more precincts available for in person for day Of...for the election deniers! The lines were ridiculous last time with ppl waiting in the rain.

Ppl need to plan it out. Also there were Trump supporters waving flags within the limits of the Kapolei Hale.

Mahalo,

Aloha,

Deelani Boushey

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Dennis Barger](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Election Integrity Mail-in ballots  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:13:07 PM

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Elections Commission, c/o Office of Elections

802 Lehua Ave, Pearl City, HI 96782

[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)

*Aloha* Members of the Hawaii Elections Commission,

Special greetings to Maui representatives: Dylan Andrion and James 'Kimo' Apana;

I am writing to express my deep concern that our current election procedures have come under attack by people affiliated with political interests attempting to persuade you to change our current rules, to generate distrust and ultimately eliminate Hawaii's Vote-by-Mail system.

**I and my family urge you to maintain the integrity of our electoral process with the current Vote-by-Mail procedures.**

The real problem: As you know, Hawaii's voter turnout was 50.3% in 2024's general election, and below the national average of 64.1%.

The solution: We need to continue making it easier to vote by encouraging all citizens to vote through increasing civic education (sending yellow cards, information and ballots), --- not by creating obstacles to Hawaii's citizenry exercising our right to vote in the way we choose, by mail or in person at accessible facilities.

As you also must be aware, throughout the US, including Hawaii, there HAS NOT been any statistically significant cases of fraud found. What the government investigators did find was election workers being threatened, voting machines maligned (and consequently the federal government sued by their manufacturers), a president recorded 'asking for votes' to be illegally 'found', some states with a small amount of anomalies (most of which were clerical errors) and our government employees and

political party members discussing unnecessary identity requirements (to eliminate legitimate voters and intimidate people of color), creating hours-long voting lines, and creating distrust in our electoral process--even suggesting taking the vote away from women! And now more than ever, states are engaged in gerrymandering districts to manipulate election outcomes. This is unacceptable.

You are part of the solution. As our commissioners, I implore you as a governmental body, to hold fast to fair, effective and accurate election processes and procedures, including our Vote-by-Mail. It has been shown to increase voter turnout, having the ability to verify the exact identity of each voter, and each signature is secure. I TRUST the US Postal Service to deliver ballots, to and from its addressees, and our Hawaii officials to be working without fear or favor. Furthermore, I trust this commission to protect our access to voting by mail in every instance. You know Hawaii's invalids, kapuna/seniors, working adults, rural locations, parents and others with caretaking responsibilities, travelers (including service members), and those people who take time to research and thoughtfully make their choices DEPEND ON YOU.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED STATE OFFICIALS TO STAND STRONG AND CONSISTENTLY UPHOLD OUR RIGHTS.

I am a proud American, a Hawai'i voter, having participated in every primary and general election since 1967, the first year I was eligible to vote. I am a dedicated retired Pastor having served churches in California, Michigan, Oregon and Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your service, doing your job and duty to hold public hearings in good faith, remaining factual while investigating complaints, and ethical in your advisements to Chief Election Officer Scott Nago on matters relating to our elections, which are the singularly, most critical hallmark of our constitutional democracy. Please let us maintain faith in the electoral process, and in Hawai'i's great contribution of pono (righteousness) in all our affairs.

With respect and aloha,

Rev. Dennis F. Barger

283 Palanehe St, Kihei, 96753

Rev. Dennis Barger, M.Div., MPH

Retired Minister PC(USA)  
Cell: (808) 214-8880



**From:** [Gay Barfield](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting -yes!!!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:21:42 PM

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Aloha. I'd like to give my strong support to continuing mail in voting. I'm nearly 90 years old and it would be very challenging for me to get to vote in person at this point. I've never missed a vote in my long life and I intend to vote again by mail. Please protect our rights to choose how and when we vote during an election.

Gay Barfield, PhD  
808-968-6139  
P.O. Box 737  
Mountain View, HI 96771

**From:** [Aloha Conservatives](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Cc:** [Nolan Chang](#); [Newsletter Jennifer Contact](#); [teri4westside@gmail.com](mailto:teri4westside@gmail.com); [Sherwood Kaya](#); [Brett Kulbis](#); [gene\\_lamkin@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:gene_lamkin@hawaiiintel.net)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Law  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:07:02 PM

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Aloha Chair Curtis,

I am writing to formally express concern regarding your recent action to remove **Commissioner Ralph Cushnie** from an official meeting of the Office of Elections Commission. Your stated justification, that this action was permitted under the **Hawai'i Sunshine Law**, is factually and legally incorrect.

The **Sunshine Law**, codified as **HRS Chapter 92**, governs *public access to meetings, notice, minutes, and transparency*. It does **not** contain any provision authorizing a commissioner or chair to remove another member from a public meeting. Specifically, **HRS 92-2**, which defines terms such as “board,” “meeting,” and “deliberation,” provides no disciplinary or removal authority whatsoever. The Sunshine Law exists to ensure that public meetings are conducted openly ... not to provide a mechanism for silencing or excluding members.

By invoking Chapter 92 as justification, your action misrepresented the law and violated the very principles of transparency it was intended to protect.

Furthermore, the Commission conducts its meetings in accordance with **Robert's Rules of Order**, which strictly outline how order is to be maintained. Under those rules:

- Only the **presiding officer** may call a member to order for disorderly conduct, and
- No member may be removed or silenced without due process — which includes a clear finding of disorderly behavior and, if necessary, a motion, a second, and a majority vote of the body.

Your unilateral action to remove Commissioner Cushnie, absent such procedure, constitutes a **violation of Robert's Rules of Order** and a denial of due process within the meeting.

This action undermines both the integrity of the Commission and the public's trust in its fairness. Commissioner Cushnie was duly appointed under **HRS 11-7**, to represent the citizens of Hawaii. No provision of the Sunshine Law or Robert's Rules confers that power upon the Chair or any other member during a meeting.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Commission:

1. **Acknowledge on the record** that the Sunshine Law does not provide authority for a commissioner's removal from a meeting;
2. **Correct the meeting minutes** to accurately reflect that the Chair's action was procedurally improper and contested; and
3. **Ensure compliance** with both HRS Chapter 92 and Robert's Rules of Order in all future meetings, protecting the lawful participation of all commissioners and the public.

Transparency, fairness, and adherence to the law are the foundation of public confidence in this Commission. I urge you to correct this matter promptly and reaffirm the Commission's commitment to lawful and respectful conduct in all proceedings. If you want trust, build trust. Be part of the solution, not perpetuate a problem.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tamara McKay  
Citizen, Voter, and Advocate for Transparent Governance

President and Founder, Aloha Conservative Alliance

**From:** [Robin Copper](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voting by Mail  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:41:13 PM

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Please vote to keep the ability to vote by mail for ALL registered voters. It is an important option to keep people engaged in our Democracy

Thank you  
Robin Cooper  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Wes.](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:00:19 PM

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Aloha, my name is Wesley Lum, and I'm a resident of Honolulu, Hawai'i (Liliha NB 14). I'm writing in support of mail in voting. I have parents that have difficulty getting around, and being able to vote by mail is so important for them. It is also important for me and my wife. We have 3 kids and work full time. It's difficult to 1) take time off of work, 2) and once off of work, stand in line with kids. Being able to vote by mail just makes sense. All Americans should be encouraged and have easy, convenient access to participate in elections.

Thank you,  
Wes



**From:** [Sarah Casken](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: support for mail-in ballots  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 5:01:03 AM

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I am a Hawaii voter residing in Kailua. I strongly support the use of mail-in ballots. There is no evidence of fraud and there is ample evidence that mail-in ballots increase access to participation in the democratic process. I appreciate being able to sit down in my home at my convenience to review the ballot, do further research on the issues or candidates, mark my ballot, and drop off in one of the drop-off boxes. Let's not make it harder to vote.

Thank you for considering my view.

Sarah Casken  
650 Kanaha St, Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [Dennis Les](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] When Will Testimonies from Yesterday's Teleconference Be Posted?  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:56:00 AM

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Aloha Elections Commission,

I wanted to ask when the testimonies and related materials from yesterday's teleconference meeting will be posted to the Elections Commission website. Many of us who attended or viewed online are having difficulty locating the video or written testimony.

Mahalo for your time and assistance,  
Dennis L.

Concerned Kaka'ako Resident, Retired Air Force, Clinical Mental Health Graduate Student  
8086756277

**From:** [Cynthia Scheinert](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Please don't eliminate mail-in voting  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 7:43:29 AM

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To: Election Commission Members:

Eliminating the option to vote by mail will affect many Hawai'i residents. Voting in person will be especially difficult, perhaps impossible, for our seniors, many of whom are non-ambulatory and/or in poor health. Should they lose their right to vote just because they are old or infirm?

Having to vote in person will also make it very hard for those who work multiple jobs to get to the polls. I know many folks who begin their first job early in the morning, switch to a second job in early afternoon, and some even pick up a third job at night! Workers who barely have time to eat a meal between their various shifts will have extreme difficulty getting to the polls to vote in person. Should these hard-working people lose their right to vote?

Removing the mail-in ballot option will also be a burden for those who don't own cars and must use public transportation or a ride service. We have many folks in this category on our islands. Owning a car should not be a requirement for being able to cast one's vote!

It is clear that getting rid of mail-in voting will further lower Hawai'i's voter turnout, which is already frighteningly low.

Since there have been no credible stats showing that Hawai'i's mail-in voting system is problematic in any way, why change something that is working for the people?

The only answer I can see is that some people wish to disenfranchise Hawai'i residents and rob them of their constitutional right to vote.

As the men and women charged with preserving our constitutional right to vote, you must not allow this attack on mail-in voting to prevail.

Thank you for time.

Cynthia D. Scheinert  
Hawai'i resident since 1980

**From:** [Nancy Neubauer](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 4A  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 8:33:39 AM

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I strongly OPPOSE agenda item 4A to return to polling place voting.  
I 100% SUPPORT mail in voting

Nancy Neubauer  
[nln.shasta@gmail.com](mailto:nln.shasta@gmail.com)  
916-501-8866  
P.o. box 1624  
Keaau Hi 96749

**From:** [R. Welsch](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Measure 4A  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 8:50:53 AM

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I strongly OPPOSE agenda item 4A to return to polling place voting.  
I 100% SUPPORT mail in voting

I use mail in voting as I live rurally in Lower Puna on Hawaii Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Welsch

12-4401 Ho'onone Road

Pahoa, HI 96778

“Measure your impact on humanity not in likes, but in the lives you touch. Not in popularity, but in the people you serve.” - Tim Cook

**From:** [pete shimazaki doktor](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] public testimony: mail in ballots  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:21:36 AM

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Aloha Elections Commission,

Apologies for the late submission of this testimony, as i did not know about it until the day after hearing, i will keep this brief:

As a disabled veteran, I depend on mail-in ballots to fulfill my citizenry kuleana to vote for our representative leaders. I have a genetic condition in which I am slowly going blind, and had to give up driving. As I will be living alone soon, I have real fear and anxiety that my right and freedom that i voluntarily enlisted to help defend, is being effectively disenfranchised by the ongoing effort to subvert our democracy for an authoritarian form of government in practice. Moreover, I have enjoyed the ability to vote securely for years, going back to when I was active duty, and demand Elections Commission stand their ground and maintain its voting integrity, just as generations of my family have stepped up in the collective defense of our democratic system that enables ALL citizens their right and duty to vote, not just the privileged, as oligarchy is the end result of any system taken over by greed for power as our has.

Please continue mail-in ballots so that I may have the dignity as a veteran to vote in elections I helped defend and depend on for the well-being of our `ohana. Do not cower or concede to conspiracy theorists in the absence of any hard evidence!

E Mālama Pono,

Pete Doktor

2168A Maha Pl. Honolulu 96819 Moanalua

**From:** [Piia Aarma](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:26:43 PM

---

To the Elections Commission:

I have been a grateful and proud resident of Hawaii since 1987 and care deeply about the future of democracy, this state, its residents and our cherished culture.

There are several reasons I support voting my mail:

It provides an easy avenue for everyone to vote. Requiring individuals to vote only at a physical location is unfair to the elderly who may have mobility difficulties, to those with limited access to transportation, to those with work requirements that make standing in line or getting to voting locations during open hours difficult, if not impossible. It allows military members and other Hawaii residents who are stationed elsewhere to vote. We do not want to disenfranchise these voters.

Receiving the ballots in the mail allows people to take more time to pursue knowledge of the candidates at the time they are casting or thinking about casting their vote.

There is no history of voter fraud.

I do not think there is a credible reason to eliminate mail-in voting.

--

Piia M. Aarma, president, Pineapple Tweed PR & Marketing  
808.221.2102

[www.hawaiicontemporary.org](http://www.hawaiicontemporary.org)

[www.pineappletweed.com](http://www.pineappletweed.com)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/pineappletweedpr>

<https://www.facebook.com/pineappletweedpr>

**From:** [Teri Skillman](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voting by mail  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:56:38 PM

---

Aloha Elections Commission,

I am a 40 year Hawaiian resident. I have worked at voting stations in my neighborhood and I am registered to vote by mail in ballot.

I am writing in support of mail in ballots. It is convenient, and makes it easy for me to do my research on the candidates at home and then vote for the person that I consider will do the best for me and my community.

Many of my neighbors are retirees so the mail in ballots make it easy for them to participate in our right to vote.

Please do NOT change Hawaii's voting system. I stand in strong support of the mail in ballot.

Mahalo nui,

Teri

---

Teri Skillman  
Email: [teriskillman77@gmail.com](mailto:teriskillman77@gmail.com)  
Cell: (808) 389-4462

Don't you know yet? It is your light that lights the world.  
Rumi



**From:** [sharon.o](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] mail-in voting  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 8:47:01 AM

---

Aloha Election Commissioners:

My name is Sharon O'Shaughnessy. I have lived in Kihei, Maui for 48 years.

Mail-in voting is important in Hawaii. So many people work more than one job, and cannot vote in person. Or they have babies or disabled family members to care for, or they are disabled themselves. Don't take away this access to voting. Thank you. Sharon O'Shaughnessy, 146 Pauloa Place, Kihei, HI 96753

**From:** [jun look](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 8:52:31 AM

---

Mail in voting has been wonderful for me! I travel a lot and being able to do my civic duty via mail in voting has allowed me to do just that.

Let's keep it in Hawaii.

Mahalo

Jun Look  
voter- McCully

**From:** [mching@hawaiian.net](mailto:mching@hawaiian.net)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] voting by mail  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 10:23:25 AM

---

Dear Election Commission:

I have been voting since 1972 and have never missed voting in an election. While attending an out of state college, I had to request an absentee ballot. When the laws changed to allow voting by mail, it made it very convenient. As time went on, employers are less sympathetic in giving an employee time off for voting. In the past, General Election day was a quasi holiday for many; not any more.

I support allowing Hawaii Residents to vote by mail.

Thank you.

Michael G. Ching  
PO Box 298  
Hanalei, HI 96714

**From:** [Karen Hester](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OPPOSE agenda item 4A to return to polling place voting  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 11:22:53 AM

---

I strongly OPPOSE agenda item 4A to return to polling place voting.  
I 100% SUPPORT mail in voting

Karen Hester  
Immigration Activist  
[karen@hesternet.net](mailto:karen@hesternet.net)  
510-654-6346  
WhatsApp +15106546346

**From:** [Rachele McFarland](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on behalf of Mail-in Ballots . . .  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 11:56:27 AM

---

Please do not vote to eliminate Mail-in Voting in Hawaii. Thousands of elderly and disabled Hawaii citizens use this when they do not have any other access to voting. We should have the same right to vote in our state as others, as well as having safe election sites at a time when important American rights are being taken away from us. Trump is attempting to extend his political power by threatening to send "fake election supervisors" and militarized thugs to polling sites to frighten voters. Mail-in voting is the BEST alternative to this.

Warmest Aloha,

Terry & Rachele McFarland  
44-119B Kahinani Way  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
808-235-7669  
[rachelemcf@gmail.com](mailto:rachelemcf@gmail.com)

**From:** [troyarnold@gmail.com](mailto:troyarnold@gmail.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In support of mail-in voting  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 12:52:49 PM

---

I completely OPPOSE agenda item 4A to return to polling place voting.

I 100% SUPPORT mail in voting.

Troy Arnold

415 724 0347 voice/mobile

There is no greater illusion than fear, no greater wrong than preparing to defend yourself, no greater misfortune than having an enemy.

- Tao Te Ching

**From:** [Barbara Segal](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 4A  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 5:10:17 PM

---

I strongly OPPOSE agenda item 4A to return to polling place voting.  
I 100% SUPPORT mail in voting

Barbara Segal  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [M.S.F.](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Saturday, November 1, 2025 4:18:44 AM

---

Commissioners;

I have lately heard that the MAGA crowd is attempting to get rid of mail-in voting in Hawaii.

Many people in Hawaii work two jobs. Of those people, many are still required to work one or both of those jobs on election day, which makes it inconvenient for them to show up in person. Although I personally work only one job, I work a night shift, which makes it problematic to vote in a very similar way.

Furthermore, as ballots are only sent to those who have registered to vote in a given district, that registration already requires ID and proof of residency, which renders the argument that 'ID should be presented' as unnecessarily prohibitive.

Please do not be swayed by this blatant and obvious attempt to disenfranchise working-class citizens who live in Hawaii.

Regards,

Catherine S. Fairow  
Commercial Truck Driver  
Concerned Citizen



**From:** [Progressive HI](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i vote by mail  
**Date:** Saturday, November 1, 2025 6:55:46 AM

---

Aloha Elections Commission,

I am a Hawai'i voter and do not wish to see any rollback in voter's ability to vote by mail. I will support this view by voting, contributing and working for candidates and causes who support expanding the voice of the people by expanding the opportunity to participate. The concern about voter and identity fraud should be met with allocating more financial resources to improving our accountability and monitoring systems.

Mahalo,  
Lawrence Basha  
Kailua

**From:** [Kevin Kalley](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voting  
**Date:** Saturday, November 1, 2025 8:59:03 AM

---

We strongly OPPOSE agenda item 4A to return to polling place voting.  
We 100% SUPPORT mail in voting

Kevin Kalley and David Currier

**From:** [kris kilz](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voting by Mail  
**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 8:22:07 AM

---

I was very disappointed to read the article in Civil Beat saying the Elections Board is considering changing our current voting system.

I am opposed to dropping mail in ballots. I see no good reason to make this change. Standing in lines does not appeal to me. I trust mail in ballots. I moved from a state with mail in ballots and their validity was never questioned. I have lived on Hawaii for eight years and see no reason to question their validity here either. I have always voted (age 73) so I have voted in person standing in line, used absentee ballots as well as mail in ballots.

It is apparent that the Trump cry of fraud (false) is the only reason this is being questioned.

I do hope that common sense prevails and mail in ballots use continues. Educate the public.

Kris Kilz  
Captain Cook, HI

**From:** [kathydrabek17@gmail.com](mailto:kathydrabek17@gmail.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail In voting  
**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 11:34:59 AM

---

Hello Commissioners:

I am a new resident here on Kauai and am trying to learn the ways and history of this beautiful island. It is my understanding that many conservative forces are attempting to chock off the multiple options we enjoy now! Please consider the possibility of voting rights being taken away from the elderly, infirm and remotely located people that live here and vote here! There is scant evidence that supports the need for denying mail in voting and volumes of evidence to allow it to continue. My request is to continue this opportunity for any and all citizens of this state. Thank you for considering my support of Mail in voting for this one and all.

Most sincerely,

Kathleen Drabek  
807-654-4905

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Barbara Penn](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in Voting  
**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 12:27:03 PM

---

Aloha,

I am a resident of Wailua Homesteads on the Island of Kauai. We prefer mail-in voting!!  
So much easier for us seniors!! Please vote to continue mail-in votes.

Mahalo,

Barbara Penn

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [mkelley323@gmail.com](mailto:mkelley323@gmail.com)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](mailto:OE.Elections.Commission)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony RE: Agenda Items 4A & 4B:  
**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 12:45:23 PM

---

Aloha Elections Commission members.

RE: Agenda Items: 4A & 4B:

I am writing to you today, and after having listened to the lengthy on-line commission meetings most of 2025.

**I am against doing an audit.** The voting issues in question have had 2 times in court and failed both at local and state levels.

I am strongly requesting that Hawaii **keep voting by mail** and **rescind/deny the request to open polling centers**.

I am a 40-year resident of Kauai, a non-disabled 74-year-old, a lifelong voter, I am in total support of **continuing, mail-in voting!!**

I appreciate this opportunity to testify in accord with our constitutional rights.

Do the right thing.

Thank you,  
Mary Lu

**From:** [Robin Reith](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] mail in ballot = accessibility  
**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 12:46:46 PM

---

aloha,

I wanted to let you know how great the mail in ballot is. It is secure, and it makes voting available. I am elderly with many diseases and my husband is blind. in person voting is unattainable.

please continue to have mail in voting.

Robin Reith

**From:** [G Uyehara](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY for 5 Nov 2025 Meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 1:46:50 PM  
**Attachments:** 20251102 TESTIMONY for Office of Elections.pdf

---

Please see attached. Mahalo.



Kimberly J. Uyehara  
Anahola, Hawaii 96703

November 2, 2025

Chairman Curtis and Commission Members  
Hawaii Elections Commission

**Re: TESTIMONY in Opposition of Motions to Audit Hawaii's 2024 Election Results**

Dear Chairman Curtis and Commission Members:

I am strongly opposed to the Motions to Audit our 2024 Election Results (October 29, 2025 Agenda Item IV a) and acquire U.S. Postal Service business reply mail receipts to be used to account for 2024 mail-in ballots (Agenda Item IV b).

In any large system there will be insignificant discrepancies. I support resolving the small portion of credible discrepancies. However, the data do not support an audit of Hawaii's 2024 election results. In particular, an audit with the underlying intent of returning back to in-person voting.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Uyehara', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kimberly J. Uyehara

**From:** [Phyllis A Stanwood](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#); [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail-in Voting  
**Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 10:52:01 PM

---

Dear Elections Commission,

I would like to wholeheartedly express my support for mail-in voting. My husband and I live on Kauai and are 72 and 68 years of age. Mail-in voting makes fulfilling our obligation and our right to vote so easy and convenient; it saves us time, effort and gas money. Fortunately we are still healthy, mobile and able to drive, so we could vote in person if we needed to, but there are so many others who are not as fortunate. Consider these statistics:

\*Hawaii has a higher than average number of 65+ year olds.

\*19.1% are persons over 65 with mobility difficulties...and that is increasing significantly.

I can use my parents as an example. My father was 80 and my mother 78 years old when they had to move into an assisted living facility, and both of them were no longer able to drive. Of course, I could have driven them to the polls on voting day. But, as they got older and their health issues increased and their mobility decreased, they became more 'home bound'. Along with their lost mobility, there were many days that they simply did not have the energy to get in the car and go anywhere, much less stand in a line and go thru the process of physically voting. So being able to receive their ballots by mail ensured that they could continue to exercise their right to vote. Without mail-in voting they literally would have lost their right to vote! There are many, many other residents in assisted living facilities and care homes throughout the state who are in the same situation.

If we are to have the best representation of our island population, we need to have mail in voting for older residents. This is especially true since the average age of our residents keeps going higher every year. And, as the population ages, they become more infirm making voting in person more difficult.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Stanwood  
3906 Hunakai St.  
Lihue, HI

Sent from HPOP's iPad

**From:** [Noelle Lindenmann](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Agenda Item 4A  
**Date:** Monday, November 3, 2025 10:06:31 AM

---

Aloha Elections Commission & Chief Elections Officer -

I submitted testimony prior to last week's meeting, and wanted to submit again, with the correct subject line.

I write in opposition to Agenda Item 4A. We should be increasing voter turnout, versus decreasing, and continuing to allow voting by mail is an imperative part of this.

Thank you,  
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona  
Noelle Lindenmann (she/her/hers)  
e. [noelle.royer@gmail.com](mailto:noelle.royer@gmail.com) // [tallgirl@uw.edu](mailto:tallgirl@uw.edu)  
p: 310.729.6627

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

From: **Noelle Lindenmann** <[noelle.royer@gmail.com](mailto:noelle.royer@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 2:41 PM  
Subject: testimony regarding returning to polling places  
To: <[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)>

Aloha Commission & Chief Elections Officer -

I write in opposition to the proposal to return to in person polling places. This is something that disenfranchises many people and will have a dampening effect on how many people are able to vote.

We already have a very minimal percentage of turnout, and if you require in person voting, it will be even worse, as folks have to go to a polling place and potentially lose income, or pay extra for childcare, etc.

Thank you,

Noelle Lindenmann (she/her/hers)  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
e. [noelle.royer@gmail.com](mailto:noelle.royer@gmail.com) // [tallgirl@uw.edu](mailto:tallgirl@uw.edu)  
p: 310.729.6627

**From:** [Betsy Scolnik](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No polling stations  
**Date:** Monday, November 3, 2025 10:35:48 AM

---

I am a voting Hawaii resident. Keep voting by mail. We cant be restricted to polls!! Stop this craziness  
Mahalo

Betsy Scolnik  
3648 Moloa'a Rd.  
Anahola, Hi 96703  
[Betsyscolnik.org](#)

**From:** [connie.clune](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Support for Voting by Mail - meeting Nov. 5, 2025  
**Date:** Monday, November 3, 2025 11:01:19 AM

---

November 3, 2025

Hawaii State Elections Commission  
Office of Elections, 802 Lehua Avenue  
Pearl City, HI 96782

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

Aloha Chairman Curtis and Members of the Commission:

I strongly support vote by mail, especially as an older retired person. I do understand that some people prefer voting in person and our system provides this opportunity. Mail-in voting has made civic participation more accessible, and secure for working people, those with disabilities, multiple jobs, or caregiving responsibilities. Many voters feel they are substantially more confident of their vote since they have time to study the issues and candidates in the comfort of home. 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.

Hawaii is one of the eight states - Oregon, Washington, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Vermont, California and the District of Columbia that voters automatically receive a ballot mailed to them at home. In each of these states Republicans have introduced legislation and or lawsuits to dismantle or change the popular vote by mail system. In each proposed legislation or law suit attacking this voting right the phrases "to secure a trustworthy election" and "eliminate fraud, the integrity of the electoral process" are used. Sound familiar? In each state extensive review, audits and studies have been conducted finding the mail-in system is safe and encourages voter turnout.

In the Elections Commission's own September 29, 2025 *Permitted Interaction Group on Purported Big Island Ballot Discrepancy* report stated in part "we find a complete lack of credible evidence to support the claim of a significant ballot discrepancy."

I agree with Commissioner Osterkamp and other members who advocate a stance of assuring voters in Hawaii our voting system is safe, their vote does count and we value their right to vote without fear of voter suppression. We the people understand the many attempts to suppress our voices that are currently being pursued. One core value of our democracy is the right to participate in elections, to cast our vote. Please do not allow a false narrative to continue to churn the citizenry.

Sincerely,  
Constance Clune  
PO Box 860  
Lawai, HI

**From:** [peter eacott](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Peter Eacott wants to vote by mail!  
**Date:** Monday, November 3, 2025 2:25:20 PM

---

Peter Eacott of 3531 Moloaa Rd.  
Po box 534,  
Anahola, hi 96703 wants to vote by mail!

Friends... they cherish one another's hopes. They are kind to one another's dreams. hdt

**From:** [Shanda Brack](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 6:43:23 AM

---

Dear Members of the Elections Commission,

I am writing to urge you NOT to eliminate mail-in ballots and to maintain — or strengthen — access to voting by mail.

Mail-in voting has become a critical part of how many voters safely and reliably participate in our democracy, including kūpuna/older adults, people with disabilities or chronic illness, caregivers, working people with inflexible schedules, and residents in rural or remote areas. For many of these voters, in-person voting is not just inconvenient — it is effectively a barrier to participation.

In addition, multiple reviews and audits across the country have shown that mail-in voting is secure and that fraud rates are extremely low, especially when standard safeguards are in place (signature verification, barcodes, ballot tracking, and strict chain-of-custody procedures). Removing or restricting vote-by-mail would solve no real problem, while creating very real harms: lower turnout, longer lines at polling places, and the disproportionate disenfranchisement of already-marginalized communities.

Please protect and preserve mail-in voting as an essential tool for free, fair, and accessible elections. I respectfully request that the Commission reject any proposal that would eliminate or significantly roll back access to mail-in ballots.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to ensuring that every eligible voter can make their voice heard.

Sincerely,

Shanda Brack



**From:** [Elizabeth Borchelt](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voting by mail  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 11:57:58 AM

---

I have just recently discovered that the commission is considering a change to our voting process by switching to in person on election day only, except for limited circumstances. Reading the commissions mission which I have listed below, this does not meet your mission statement.

To provide secure, accessible, and convenient election services to all citizens statewide.

Many states have been voting by mail for years and experts say it is safe and it is what we the majority of citizens want. When you vote by mail you have the ability to never miss an election. Life happens and if you only have a limited time and have to travel to vote in person you could miss your responsibility. Traffic happens, storms happen, work schedule changes happen, health concerns happen. Do not change our current process.

Elizabeth Borchelt  
Hawaii resident and registered voter

**From:** [Michael Becker](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please keep vote by mail  
**Date:** Monday, November 3, 2025 7:12:07 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern:

Please keep vote by mail. It enfranchises all at the expense only of those who wish to limit voting access.

Warmest Regards,

Michael Becker  
3584 B Moloa'a Road  
Anahola, Hawaii 96703

**From:** [Alyce Dodge](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] yes to voting by mail  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:01:29 PM

---

Aloha Hawaii Elections Commission,

Please don't take away mail-in voting. Once I was visiting family on the continent and my stay was extended due to unforeseen circumstances. I am grateful I was able to request my Hawaii ballot, vote and mail it in.

Please keep the vote by mail option. It has proven to be safe, fair, secure and a good method to provide access for voters to exercise their right to vote.

Thank you,  
Alyce Dodge

**From:** [Terri Scarborough](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 6:51:32 PM

---

Aloha!

I'm a senior citizen, resident of Hawaii, and a registered voter.

I really want us to be able to keep mail-in voting as an option for Hawaii residents.

Why would you want to make it harder for people to vote in an election?

It would limit availability for the elderly, disabled and those who may not be able to take off work to get to a polling station.

Please think about all these reasons when considering the mail-in voting question.

Mahalo!

Terri Scarborough

Lihue, Hawaii

**From:** [Kurt Johnson](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:37:33 PM

---

Aloha-

I am disappointed in your recent decision to ask the legislature to ban mail-in and early voting and return to traditional in-person voting on Election Day.

My work schedule makes in-person voting a challenge. Additionally, my wife's health often prohibits her from getting out of the house. If she is having a 'bad health day' on election day, she would be unable to stand in the voting lines.

I would ask you to reconsider your recommendation and continue with mail in voting. It has been very advantageous for my wife and I.

Mahalo-  
Kurt Johnson  
Laie, Hawaii

**From:** [Richard Stange](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect Mail-In Voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 4:53:30 AM

---

Aloha,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Richard Stange. My email is [richardstng83@gmail.com](mailto:richardstng83@gmail.com). I am a resident of Kapolei.

Please do not allow the Republican members of the Hawaii State Elections Commission to sabotage or undermine the voting process. Mail-in voting has been a success in Hawaii for years. One must be registered to vote in order to receive a ballot in the mail. Therefore, whatever Fox News influenced paranoia they are attempting to conjure up is a pure political stunt in order to make it more difficult for people to vote.

Please protect mail-in voting. Protect democracy. All eligible citizens have a right to vote. Please do not let the Republican members of the Elections Commission to silence voters by making the voting process less obtainable for the elderly, disabled, or anyone who may face medical dangers by standing in line out in the heat for a long period of time.

Let's be honest. We all know what this is. Please do not allow it.

Thank you.

--

Sincerely,  
Richard Stange

**From:** [Teresa P](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:58:48 AM

---

Commissioners,

I am concerned with the news of your recommendation to return to in-person voting. As a healthcare provider, my schedule is extremely difficult to predict and mail-in voting is the answer to this problem. This is an especially important for Presidential year elections when lines at polling places can be long.

Do NOT recommend changing the current status of mail-in voting.

Teresa Parsons  
Kaneohe HI

**From:** [Sarah Burns](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/29 Elections Commission  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:14:41 AM

---

I am writing to express my **extreme disappointment** in the commission's recommendation to end mail-in voting. Mail-in voting increases voting access (for every party) and makes exercising our constitutionally protected right to help chart the course of politics easier. There is no evidence that mail-in voting increases fraud. In fact, the great state of Maine last night voted against restriction on voting and their state boasts one of the highest voter participation rates in the country. A matter with such grave consequences to voter turnout should go before the people as a ballot measure. I'm confident it would be supported by the majority of citizens.

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/05/hawaii-elections-commission-calls-end-mail-in-voting/>

<https://www.democracydocket.com/news-alerts/maine-rejects-anti-voting-ballot-measure-reaffirms-voting-access/>

Please reconsider this backwards, and frankly insulting, recommendation.

On Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 8:46 AM OE.Elections.Commission  
<[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)> wrote:

Aloha,

Thank you for your email. This is to confirm that we have received your written testimony.

If you also intend to provide oral testimony, please click 'Raise Hand' under reactions on Zoom when the meeting has reached the agenda item that you wish to provide testimony on.

Thank you,

Office of Elections

[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)

(808) 453-VOTE (8683)

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**From:** Sarah Burns <[sarahelizabeth2365@gmail.com](mailto:sarahelizabeth2365@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:33 AM  
**To:** OE.Elections.Commission <[elections.commission@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections.commission@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/29 Elections Commission

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:** [access productions](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please do not STOP mail in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:18:12 AM

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Why would u want to go backwards in TIME .

We will fight u for Mail In vote take it to a vote first and lets see how we the VOTERS FILI NOT this President who doesn't own me or speak for me .

Mahalo a voter

Kelli Blincoe Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [SALLY TOMIKO](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] public testimony in support of continuing mail-in voting in Hawaii  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:51:37 AM

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My name is Sally Tomiko. I reside at 4322 Ioela Place, Kilauea HI 96754. Please include this as part of the public testimony during today's "...Continuance of Meeting Originally Convened on October 29, 2025" I strongly believe that mail-in voting during federal, state, and county elections in Hawaii are safe and effective ways to ensure that the voice of the greatest number of citizens are heard. Study after study has shown that mail-in voting can be handled in a manner that is safe and secure. Protests to the contrary tend to be fomented by a minority who speak loudly of their opinions, but do not have evidence to support their claims.

It is difficult for the elderly, the infirm, the transportation-challenged, and working citizens to exercise their right to vote when it requires going to a public polling site. It is difficult to have enough trained poll-watchers at many separate vote in person sites.

Instead, the government should train sufficient personnel to oversee the collection and counting and certification of mail-in ballots, to ensure that the majority of citizens can exercise their democratic right to vote in the USA

Sincerely,  
Sally Tomiko, PhD

**From:** [Vivienne Aronowitz](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in ballots are safe and accessible to all  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 10:32:31 AM

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Aloha,

I find the attempt to do away with mail in ballots disingenuous. It is totally unrelated to the validity and safety of this way of voting. I have been a voter since I have come of age to vote and I believe we should continue with what is working and what allows every person regardless of their disability or closeness to a polling station to vote. Do not change what is working!!!!

Vivienne Aronowitz  
[marriageaces.com](http://marriageaces.com)

**From:** [Kate McAlpine](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 12:29:56 PM

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Please explain the logic in voting to ask the legislature to return to in-person voting only. This is an idiotic decision and every one of you who votes for it need to be removed from the committee. Voting to do away with what works means you simply want to make it more challenging for voters. This is a reckless and irresponsible move. Shame on you.

Kate McAlpine, RPR, CSR, CCR

**From:** [Nancy Moser](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Here is how I testified verbally at the 11/5/2025 Hawaii Election Commission meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 1:06:40 PM

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Aloha Election Commission Staff,

Please share with the Commission this testimony I gave verbally today.

On October 1, 2025, five of nine Election Commission members voted in favor to write to the legislature and advise the Chief Election Officer to make 7 named changes to current election procedures. These 7 changes are:

- \* Return to in-person voting in the precinct
- \* Hand count paper ballots
- \* One day voting
- \* Require ID
- \* Make exception to the above for military and special needs [implied: only these]
- \* Count votes where cast [that would be in each precinct, as seen above]
- \* Report the vote count before sending ballots to the county

Essentially this request is for a system that restricts voter access. These changes would alter current procedure to provide:

- One day only for voting, and only in person. No early voting days.
- Mailed ballots only if by exceptional request, only from a military voter or a special needs voter
- Every precinct statewide would need to staff and train its Elections Office volunteers not just in voting day procedures but also in ballot counting

Note: the current mail-in procedure does already use predominantly paper ballots. That is relevant to the second item in the Commission's motion to write to the legislature. (Currently, exceptions allow assistive technology to be used as requested. Voters with special needs may request an accessible electronic ballot)

Our present mail-in system works. The effort by a bare majority of Commissioners on October 1st to dump the mail-in balloting and revert to voting in-person on one day only, is a "solution" in search of a "problem."

I am calling this out as it restricts citizens' access to voting. It especially restricts voting access by working people, elderly, low income voters, and houseless citizens.

I urge the Commission to rescind this request to radically change the mail-in system.

Nancy Moser  
[nncmoser@gmail.com](mailto:nncmoser@gmail.com)

**From:** [Jamie Detwiler](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#); [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Official Complaint Regarding Violations of HAR §3-177-453 and HAR §3-177-61 and Request to testify on 10/29/25  
**Date:** Monday, October 27, 2025 9:32:32 AM

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Dear Chair Curtis and Members of the Hawaii Elections Commission,

I am re-submitting my official complaint dated February 15, 2025 as I have never received a response from the Office of Elections or the Elections Commission.

I would also like to testify via Zoom at the Elections Commission Meeting on October 29, 2025.

In light of recent facts being provided through the Permitted Interactive Group (PIG) reports, it is evident that an audit should be conducted as soon as possible.

**Subject: Official Complaint Regarding Violations of HAR §3-177-453 and HAR §3-177-61**

I am writing to formally submit a complaint in accordance with HAR 3-170-7 regarding the testimony provided on January 15, 2025, concerning significant violations of Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §3-177-453 and HAR §3-177-61 in the handling, security, and accountability of ballots during the 2024 election cycle.

## **Violations Identified**

- 1. Violation of HAR §3-177-453 – Accountability and Security of Ballots**
  - During observations at the Honolulu County Signature Verification Center on October 25, 2024, it was noted that ballot envelopes retrieved from drop boxes were not being counted at pickup locations.
  - Honolulu County Elections Administrator Mr. Rex Quidilla admitted that ballot envelopes were not being counted upon arrival at the Signature Verification Center due to a lack of manpower.
  - Observers were required to verify the number of mail trays being transported but were not permitted to verify the actual number of ballot envelopes inside these trays. This constitutes a failure to maintain a complete and accurate count of ballots as required by HAR §3-177-453(b).
- 2. Violation of HAR §3-177-61 – Security of Ballots and Election Supplies**

- Observers witnessed secured ballot containers being opened with wire cutters, with no clear chain of custody documentation confirming the exact number of ballots picked up from each drop box location.
- Election officials did not maintain or verify a log of security seals used on transport containers, violating HAR §3-177-61(b), which mandates a chronological record of seal usage and witness verification.

## Concerns Raised and Lack of Remedial Action

- These concerns were raised during an observer debriefing on November 25, 2024, with Chief Election Officer Mr. Scott Nago and his staff. Mr. Nago dismissed the issues as a county-level problem, despite his state-level responsibility for ensuring compliance with election security protocols.
- Additionally, election observer conduct was called into question, with reports of senior election observers making inappropriate and biased comments about voters, which compromises the integrity of the election observation process.

## Commission's Duty to Investigate

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §11-7.5, the Elections Commission is mandated to "investigate and hold hearings for receiving evidence of any violations and complaints." This statutory duty obligates the Commission to thoroughly examine the violations detailed in this complaint to uphold the integrity of Hawaii's electoral process.

## Requested Actions

In light of these serious breaches, we formally request that the Hawaii Elections Commission take the following actions:

1. **Conduct an independent audit** of the election ballot handling process, specifically focusing on drop box ballot collection and transportation procedures to ensure compliance with HAR §3-177-453 and HAR §3-177-61.
2. **Enforce strict chain of custody protocols**, including requiring election officials to log and verify ballot counts at each pickup location and upon arrival at counting centers.
3. **Review and address observer conduct** to ensure that senior election observers remain neutral and professional in their roles.
4. **Evaluate the performance of the Chief Election Officer** and reconsider any salary adjustments in light of these documented security lapses.

The integrity of Hawaii's electoral process is paramount. The issues documented in this complaint highlight a serious failure to comply with established election security rules, and immediate corrective action is necessary to restore public confidence.



I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jamie Detwiler

**From:** [Ralph Cushnie \(EC\)](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Formal Complaint – Reliance on Electronic Records by Chief Election Officer Scott Nago Undermines Verifiability of Elections  
**Date:** Saturday, November 8, 2025 8:45:37 AM

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To:  
Chair Michael Curtis  
Members of the Hawai'i State Elections Commission

Subject: Formal Complaint – Reliance on Electronic Records by Chief Election Officer Scott Nago Undermines Verifiability of Elections

Dear Chair Curtis and Members of the Commission,

I submit this formal complaint pursuant to the Commission's oversight responsibilities under HRS §11-7.5 and its statutory duty under HRS §11-8.5 to develop and implement an elections review program that ensures the validity and reliability of election results.

Background and Basis of Complaint:

1. Hawai'i Administrative Rule HAR §3-177-453(b) requires each county clerk to maintain a complete and current count of all marksense ballots issued, spoiled, and received in their county, and to record the accounting on forms prescribed by the Chief Election Officer.
2. Through public records requests and correspondence, it has been established that the State Office of Elections, under Chief Election Officer Scott Nago, has shifted recordkeeping away from independent county-level documentation and toward a centralized electronic system, the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS), controlled exclusively by the State.
3. In his March 17, 2025 letter (OE-25-042), Chief Election Officer Nago stated that the SVRS "effectuates the language of HAR §3-177-453(b)," meaning that the required "forms" are now electronic and that counties are no longer maintaining their own paper manifests. This change eliminates the independent chain-of-custody record at the county level.
4. Because counties no longer maintain separate paper audit trails that can be independently reviewed—and because audits are now conducted electronically—there is no physical reconciliation of ballots or envelopes to verify the accuracy of tabulated results.
5. The combined effect is that Hawai'i's elections can no longer be considered verifiable within the meaning of HRS §11-8.5(3), which directs the Commission to ensure the validity and reliability of election results. Without county-level physical documentation showing issuance, receipt, and transfer of ballot envelopes, no independent audit or review can confirm whether electronic records correspond to actual ballots handled by election officials.

Complaint and Request:

By reason of the foregoing, I respectfully request that the Commission take the following actions consistent with its duties under HRS §11-8.5:

- Find that the current reliance on electronic-only records implemented by Chief Election

Officer Nago fails to satisfy the paper form and county documentation requirements of HAR §3-177-453(b).

- Direct the State Office of Elections and all county clerks to reinstate, maintain, and produce paper-based chain-of-custody forms and transfer manifests reflecting ballot issuance, envelope receipt, container transfers, and reconciliation, consistent with statutory and administrative requirements.
- Include in the Commission's biennial evaluation under HRS §11-8.5(4) a specific review of the absence of independent paper records, the risks it poses to election verifiability, and recommendations for corrective action to restore compliance.
- Require that the findings and recommendations arising from this review be incorporated into the Commission's biennial report to the Legislature under HRS §11-8.5(5).

Request for Agenda Placement:

In accordance with HAR §3-170, I respectfully request that this complaint be acknowledged as received and placed on the agenda for discussion and possible action at the Commission's next duly noticed meeting. Please confirm receipt of this letter and advise when it will be scheduled for public discussion.

Conclusion:

The Commission's duty under HRS §11-8.5 is to ensure the validity and reliability of Hawai'i's election results. That goal cannot be achieved if the only documentation of ballot handling exists within a centralized electronic database under the control of the same office responsible for tabulating results. Independent, paper-based chain-of-custody documentation is essential for verification, public confidence, and compliance with state law.

For these reasons, I request that the Commission open a formal review into the Chief Election Officer's recordkeeping practices, direct the reinstatement of paper documentation at the county level, and include the issue in the Commission's next biennial report to the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cushnie

**From:** [Diane Ware](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting 12/3/25 meeting Item IV section b  
**Date:** Friday, November 28, 2025 8:22:02 AM

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Dear Chair and Commissioners,

I support mail in voting with the possibility of greater walk in/drop off for those who choose that option. I am 77 and have voted by mail for years. I occasionally had problems with the electronic machines when voting in person.

I do support an audit to determine the degree of accuracy of the elections and upgrading accountability of the election process.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware  
808-967-8642  
P. O. Box 698  
99-7815 Kapoha  
Volcano HI 96785

**From:** [Chaine, Llasmin M.](#)  
**To:** [OE.Elections.Commission](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY in OPPOSITION of Agenda Item IV, Section b of the 12/3/25 Hawaii Elections Commission Public Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, November 28, 2025 9:07:50 AM

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## 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 Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I offer this testimony regarding Agenda Item IV, Section b, of the 12/3/25 Hawaii Elections Commission Public Meeting, 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

Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women | HRS 367

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