



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

December 2, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Jamie Detwiler

RE: ECC-25-011

Dear Ms. Detwiler,

This is in response to your complaint dated October 27, 2025, which appears to reflect matters described as chain of custody.

To the extent your complaint could be considered a complaint regarding an administrative act of the Office of Elections, and you are seeking something within the jurisdiction of the Elections Commission, the administrative rules of the Elections Commission provide our office with an opportunity to respond. HAR §§ 3-170-6 & 3-170-8.

Our office has gone on record numerous times in its correspondence with the Elections Commission addressing topics noted in your complaint. Likewise, to the extent your complaint relates to prior litigation in which matters concerning HAR § 3-177-453 and similar matters were raised, those decisions speak for themselves. As for current litigation that may be related, we will not comment on it in this forum.

In summary of our previous correspondence with the Elections Commission, the statewide voter registration is the system of record for purposes of HAR § 3-177-453. Additionally, we will not speak on behalf of the county clerks to the extent your complaint relates to any one of them or their duties and responsibilities.

Ms. Jamie Detwiler
December 2, 2025
Page 2

Finally, pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules, 3-170-7, complaints to the Elections Commission "shall be made in writing and must be filed within 90 days from the date of the incident or occurrence." As your complaint refers to the conduct of the 2024 General Election on November 5, 2024, we would note that your complaint has been received outside of the timeframe provided even considering an initial correspondence date of February 15, 2025.

This concludes our response to your complaint. Consistent with HAR § 3-170-8, a copy of this response is being forwarded to the Elections Commission.

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

STN:nn
OE-25-149

Enclosure

cc: Elections Commission

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

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



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

December 2, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Elections Commissioner Ralph Cushnie

RE: ECC-25-012

Dear Commissioner Cushnie,

This is in response to your complaint dated November 8, 2025, which appears to reflect matters described as chain of custody.

To the extent your complaint could be considered a complaint regarding an administrative act of the Office of Elections, and you are seeking something within the jurisdiction of the Elections Commission, the administrative rules of the Elections Commission provide our office with an opportunity to respond. HAR §§ 3-170-6 & 3-170-8.

Our office has gone on record numerous times in its correspondence with the Elections Commission addressing topics noted in your complaint. Likewise, to the extent your complaint relates to prior litigation in which matters concerning HAR § 3-177-453 and similar matters were raised, those decisions speak for themselves. As for current litigation that may be related, we will not comment on it in this forum.

In summary of our previous correspondence with the Elections Commission the statewide voter registration is the official system of record for purposes of HAR § 3-177-453. Additionally, we will not speak on behalf of the county clerks to the extent your complaint relates to any one of them or their duties and responsibilities.

Commissioner Ralph Cushnie

December 2, 2025

Page 2

Finally, pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules, 3-170-7, complaints to the Elections Commission "shall be made in writing and must be filed within 90 days from the date of the incident or occurrence." As your complaint refers to the conduct of the 2024 General Election on November 5, 2024, we would note that your complaint has been filed outside of the 90-day period.

This concludes our response to your complaint. Consistent with HAR § 3-170-8, a copy of this response is being forwarded to the Elections Commission.

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

STN:nn
OE-25-150

Enclosure

cc: Elections Commission

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

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: [Beverley Brand](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming meeting Agenda item IV sec. b
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 9:51:01 AM

Aloha Election Commission Members,

I am writing in support of mail-in voting for all of the people of Hawaii. I live on Hawaii Island. Hawaii Island is largely rural with a scattered population. Mail-in voting is the only way for many of us to participate in state elections.

Voter participation in Hawaii is already pitiful and making it necessary for citizens to travel long distances to vote in person will only make participation worse.

If there are problems with mail-in voting then identify the problem and fix it. In-person voting only is not the way to fix the issue.

Mahalo, Beverley Brand, Waikoloa, HI

From: [Martha Nakajima](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony:vote by mail
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 2:34:02 PM

Dear Election Commissioners

Please note that at age 83 I would find it difficult and stressful to vote in person, particularly standing and waiting in line. I have every confidence in the current mail-in system and always check on line to verify that my vote was received and my signature verified. Minor discrepancies in vote tallying in recent years have never been significant to the outcome. Please stop wasting time and money over this non-issue.

Sincerely, Martha Nakajima, Honolulu

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mala Wingerd](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment: Vote by Mail for upcoming Wed Meeting
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 3:01:57 PM

TO: Elections Committee
FROM: Mala & Bruce Wingerd
76-6357 Kilohana St., Kailua Kona, 96740
RE: Vote by Mail

This is to inform you of our concern that "vote by mail" is even being considered to no longer be an option across the state. It is absurd to think that mail-in ballots are any less secure than in-person ballots. There has been zero evidence, across the country, that voter fraud is a legitimate concern. We are seriously more concerned about election interference from this regime's "friends" in Russia and China, than the slim chance that the mail would be tampered with.

Please know that many across the Islands live in very rural areas and many are of an age that it is hard for them to get to polling sites. Please consider that we have had mail-in voting here for years and there is ZERO evidence that it is not secure! We will be very angry if V-by-M is cancelled here, and will make sure our votes indicate that in the upcoming elections.

Mahalo for your consideration.

From: [M Mitsumori](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item IV, section b, of Elections Commission Mtg. on Wed., Dec. 3
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 4:28:33 PM

Aloha, Members of the Elections Commission,

As a resident of Hilo and a caregiver of two senior parents, I would like to respectfully submit testimony in **SUPPORT of mail-in voting** on agenda item IV, section b, of the Elections Commission Meeting on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Early and mail-in voting have made it possible for both of my parents and myself to participate in our elections. One of my parents is not mobile. Single-day, in-person elections would create the hardship of having to transport them to the voting center and making them wait in line, possibly outside with limited access to restrooms. The unfamiliar situation and discomfort can contribute to confusion and distress. If a parent is having a difficult day, we may not get to the voting center at all.

Mail-in voting has made it possible for them to vote in the familiarity and convenience of their home, at a convenient time. It also means that I do not lose at minimum a half-day as their caregiver providing transportation and support.

I urge the Commission to support the needs of our kupuna, and all with mobility or health issues, and their caregivers by **keeping mail-in voting**.

Mahalo,
Michele Mitsumori
Hilo 96720

From: [Kim Miller](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Vote By Mail
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 5:10:16 PM

To the Members of the Elections Commission,

I am writing to submit testimony on Agenda Item IV, section b, in support of keeping Vote By Mail in Hawaii. In addition to resulting in higher percentages of people voting, Vote By Mail accommodates seniors, rural citizens without transportation, and working people who may not live near where their voting station is located. Vote By Mail has been a positive initiative in our largely rural state. In the interests of greater access to voting for our citizens, let's keep it!

Mahalo nui loa,
Kim Miller
PO Box 194
Volcano, HI. 96785
808-985-9392

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cathryn Lau](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] voting by mail
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 6:56:18 PM

Dear Elections Committee Members,

I am writing with regard to Agenda item IV, section b.

I would like you to vote to continue voting by mail. It is a very convenient method of voting and allows those with transportation issues or those unable to take a day off of work to cast a secure vote. It allows citizens to participate in elections with fewer barriers to the act of voting.

When we had to go to the poles, citizens would have to bear up to all kinds of weather, standing in the hot sun, pouring rain and wind. Once inside the polling place there were long lines and waits to get a space to vote. Machines could fail, pens might not work; all of these things made voting more difficult than a mail in ballot.

If we want the maximum number of participants in our democracy we should continue to allow and encourage mail in voting.

Thank you,

Cathryn Lau

3107 Oahu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Randy Castello](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda item IV, section b
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 8:58:04 PM

Aloha members of the Election Commission.

I would like to submit written testimony in support of voting by mail. (Agenda item IV, section b) We have successfully used this system of voting since 2020. There have not been major glitches. It enables many who might not be able to get to polling places during the actual election day to vote from a place and at a time that is more convenient. This encourages folks to vote who otherwise might not. I personally like to receive the tracking texts that show where my ballot is in the process of mailing it in to its reception and tabulation. I sincerely ask you to keep our mail-in voting in place. Don't take us back to a past practice that could actually suppress voting.

Mahalo!

Randall J. Castello

656 Kaumakani St, Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Ellen Caringer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submitting Testimony on Agenda Item IV, section b
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 9:11:37 PM

Aloha, below please find my testimony on the item mentioned above.

Subject: Protect Hawai‘i’s Vote-by-Mail System and Uphold Fair Access to Voting

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai‘i’s system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai‘i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai‘i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai‘i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai‘i’s people.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this testimony.

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

From: [Douglas Meller](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Hawaii Elections Commission 12/3/25 Meeting Agenda Item IV(b)
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 10:14:29 PM
Attachments: [12-3-25 D Meller testimony for Agenda Item IV\(b\) copy.pdf](#)

My testimony for 12/3/25 agenda item IV(b) is attached.

Douglas Meller
2615 Aaliamanu Place
Honolulu, HI. 96813
Email: *douglasmeller@gmail.com*

TESTIMONY CONCERNING HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION
12/3/25 MEETING AGENDA ITEM IV(b)

The majority of Hawaii voters prefer to vote by mail. In 2018, the last year Hawaii voters could choose whether to vote by mail or vote in person, absentee ballots were 56% of the total Hawaii general election ballots cast.

Hawaii's legislators are not going to ignore the wishes of the majority. They are not going to enact legislation to coerce most voters to drive to a polling place, stand in line, and vote in person. (However, no one opposes, and Hawaii legislators might be willing to fund, more options for in person voting.)

If the Hawaii Elections Commission has "chain of custody" concerns with collection of mailed ballots, then please recommend practical solutions. Name calling won't fix anything. Total elimination of mailed ballots is DOA.

From: [Dawn Webster](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV, Section b: KEEP VOTE BY MAIL!!!
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 12:40:10 AM

I am writing to say that it is outrageous that the Elections Commission is even considering ending vote by mail. To do so will condemn all voters to long lines at polling places on Election Day.

It will effectively keep some from voting especially those who are juggling two or more jobs, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places. Surely you cannot want that.

I have a severely disabled friend who needs 24 hour care and assistance in getting around. But he is a faithful voter, thanks to his ability to vote by mail.

How dare we even contemplate taking access to the ballot box away from conscientious citizens like him by ending vote by mail? It is preposterous and completely undemocratic.

Hawaii's system of vote by mail has served us well. It has strong verification procedures, signature checks, and chain-of-custody protocols. There is NO evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States. This has been demonstrated repeatedly. Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts.

Ending vote by mail or attempting to do so is part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them.

These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

Please do not sully the reputation of the Elections Commission and deny the people of Hawaii easy, protected access to voting by ending the tried and tested system of voting by mail.

Thank you for your service and for upholding every citizen's hard won right to vote. I am confident you do not want to be seen to be disenfranchising voters.

Please preserve VOTE BY MAIL. Hawaii voters depend on it. Our democracy depends on it.

Mahalo

Dawn Morais
1, Keahole Place, #3501, Honolulu, HI 96825

808-383-7581

From: [Kate Acks](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Election by mail
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 3:40:25 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai‘i’s system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai‘i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai‘i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit

participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai‘i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai‘i’s people.

With aloha, Kate Acks

From: [LaDonna Chung Wood](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Disabled American
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 5:46:37 AM

Aloha,

My name is Dr. LaDonna Chung Wood. I am a disabled physician. I speak on behalf of myself and on behalf of the disabled, chronically ill, employed parents with children. We are concerned and involved citizens who want to vote in every election but simply cannot get to a polling place physically or time wise .

Please allow mail In votes

LaDonna Wood, M.D.

From: [Janet Mason](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Dec 3 Elections Commission Meeting
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 10:29:10 AM
Attachments: [LWVHI Dec 3 2025 testimony Elections Commission .pdf](#)

Attached is testimony from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii for the December 3 meeting.



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

Hawaii Elections Commission
December 3, 2025
Janet Mason, Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Curtis and Commissioners:

Regarding item IV, b) of today's agenda, the "Maui County PIG Report Relating to the County's Chain of Custody" contained this Recommendation 2:

"Return to in-person voting on paper ballots on Election Day."

We do not understand how this recommendation ties to any of the "Major Findings" in this report. As previously mentioned in our October 27 testimony to your Commission, we want oversight that is data-driven and **corresponds with the issue at hand**. This recommendation is simply another expression of misguided efforts to eliminate voting by mail. The League of Women Voters strongly supports voting by mail in Hawaii, and so do most voters.

Regarding Item IV, d) of today's agenda, we support formation of a Permitted Interaction Group to work with the County Clerks regarding chain of custody and daily reports.

Regarding chain of custody, we are hopeful you will consider **voter drop boxes**, because they are an integral part of our successful vote by mail program, and validating adequate "chain of drop box custody" will maintain voter confidence in using them.

The League does not support taking a count of ballots when collected from drop boxes and then recounting these ballots once the locked boxes are opened at the County mail center. This is unnecessary. Pausing ballots at drop boxes would actually reduce security, because this exposes the material to loss, theft or other abuse. We draw on a comparison to armored car services that move cash and other valuable documents; they do not open, count, or inspect the actual cash or valuables they transport, but they do verify sealed containers and document custody at pickup and delivery. This latter approach corresponds with current practice of Hawaii election officials, with observation of the transactions by official Election Observers.

We also support having the County mail centers prepare a daily report detailing how many ballot envelopes were received, how many signatures verified, how many were transported to the State Counting Center, how many were returned to voters for signature, etc. This should help with reconciliation of envelopes between the State and Counties.

We hope this Group would also assess **plans for the number and location of Voter Services Centers planned for the 2026 elections** in their respective Counties.

Regarding Item VI of today's agenda, your Commission received a November 18, 2025, letter from Speaker Nakamura, describing the procedure for initiating audits of State operations. A regular, periodic management audit of the Office of Elections by the State Auditor is a promising idea, which the League supports.

Also, regarding Item VI, please add the written testimony from the League of Women Voters to other testimony received. Our testimony was submitted on October 27, 2025 (on time) as requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: [Vivian Toellner](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Mail in Voting is WONDERFUL
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 10:34:33 AM

Aloha, Submitting again my testimony for mail in voting.
Also adding that I was a watcher in Hilo for the Nov 2024 election.
I don't feel there was any reason to be overly concerned about the honesty and security given to the Hawai'i election process.

Yes, it would be nice to know that the number of ballots picked up from the post office matched the billing from the post office. it would be nice and recommended (I feel) to know the number of ballots dropped off at the different ballot boxes.

I am a retired accountant and am interested in any committee or group, that may be formed to help the election process in Hawai'i....not because I suspect any wrong doing, but because I just like to know, we are covering all the bases.

Thank you for allowing testimony, and hope the commission will start to listen to the voters desire to keep mail in voting.

Sincerely,
Vivian Toellner
Hawai'i County

From: Vivian Toellner <viviansuet@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:52 PM
To: elections.commission@hawaii.gov <elections.commission@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Mail in Voting is WONDERFUL

Aloha All,

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

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

I well remember voting in person. My employer gave us one hour off to vote, then we went and stood in line and waited....sometimes over that

one hourand that did not include travel time to the polls.

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

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

Most Sincerely,

Vivian Sue Toellner
PO Box 6894, Hilo HI 96720

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

From: [Bob Nelson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV, Section b
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 10:35:27 AM

Aloha,

I am testifying on Agenda Item IV, Section b. I am handicapped and unable to drive a vehicle. I strongly support the current Hawai'i voting practice that allows for early voting as well as voting by mail. I urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Respectfully,

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Nelson (Priest, The Episcopal Church)

From: [Sarah Casken](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re. Dec 3 mtg, Item IV, Section b Mail-in ballots
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 3:46:09 PM

I strongly and emphatically support the continuation of statewide voting by mail.

Vote-by-mail is a time-tested method for conducting elections. Benefits include: need fewer poll workers and polling sites, provides an auditable paper trail, allows ample time for voters to research prior to voting, and leads to a higher turnout.

Certainly, there are always ways to improve the process and I support any efforts and funds put to that end.

In light of widespread voter suppression in our country, now is not the time to make it harder to cast one's vote. Other states have been using vote-by-mail for years now and our state can turn to those states for guidance and suggestions, if needed, regarding improvements to be made.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah Casken, resident of Kailua, Oahu
808-554-4216

From: [Christine Heath](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting
Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025 5:08:50 PM

. I am testifying on Agenda item IV, section b.

I hope that you continue with Mail In voting as it would be a major problem for myself and my husband. My husband is 84 years old and would not be able to stand in line to vote as his health is fragile. Given that we have cut back on the voting sites, I would anticipate that the lines would be long and so that most old people would have a harder time to cast their vote. Most of the time he is too ill to even go for a car ride so being forced to drive to a polling place to exercise his right as a citizen in the United States seems to me to be a very bad idea.

We both believe we should make voting as easy as possible for everyone. Democracy requires that as many people as possible participate. If we make voting harder for people, fewer people will engage in democracy by voting, and we will soon discover that our government does not represent all the people.

Thank you so much. I hope you will listen to your wisdom and do the thing that's right not the thing that is a knee-jerk reaction to some issues that were discovered in the accounting of ballots.

Christine Heath
Samson Po'omahealani

Christine Heath
Executive Director
Hawaii Counseling & Education Center
612-702-6539

From: [Joanna C Savage](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda item IV, Section B
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 5:32:55 AM

Election Commissioners,

I believe that mail-in voting is essential for reaching the larger voting public. In his later years, my father would have been unable to manage going to a poll to vote. He was vitally interested and thoughtful about state and local issues and those are the kinds of voters I want weighing in on how our state is managed. I am now retired and would be very frustrated if my ability to execute my voting rights was limited by my ability to get to a booth.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

Joanna Savage

609 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: [Lavonne Leong](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 8:50:05 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am testifying on Agenda item IV, section b, in favor of mail-in voting.

First, mail-in voting lowers the burden on voters. By automatically mailing ballots to all registered voters, the system allows people to vote from home instead of traveling to a polling place, waiting in line, or rearranging work or family schedules. [Office of Elections+2SIEPR+2](#) This convenience matters especially for people who are older, disabled, working multiple jobs, or have limited transportation — ensuring that voting is accessible to more Hawai‘i residents.

Second, mail-in voting can increase overall participation. Evidence from all-mail states shows that sending ballots to all registered voters tends to boost turnout compared to requiring in-person voting or absentee-by-request. [Brookings+2Oregon Capital Chronicle+2](#) For Hawai‘i — historically challenged by low turnout — keeping mail-in voting helps maximize democratic participation.

Third, mail voting has proven to be secure and reliable. Studies show that fraud in mail-in ballots is exceedingly rare, especially under universal mail-ballot systems. [Brookings+1](#) That means the benefits of accessibility and participation don’t come at the expense of electoral integrity.

Finally, for many voters, mail ballots offer flexibility: they can take their time reading information, discuss choices with family, and fill out ballots thoughtfully before returning them. [FairVote Archive+1](#) In a state like Hawai‘i — where islands, commuting, and busy lives can make it hard to vote at a polling place — mail-in voting ensures more people can participate full and fairly in elections.

A true democracy makes voting accessible to all its citizens. Gaps remain, but abandoning mail-in voting would be a huge step backward.

- Thank you,

Lavonne Leong

-

From: [Kathy Braud](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 9:42:37 AM

Hello,

I've been a registered voter for over 50 years. I voted in many elections and I know what happens when you don't have mail in ballots. The lines are long and it takes hours to cast a vote. There is absolutely no, I repeat no, viable reason to cancel mail in ballots. They would only be canceled to PREVENT PEOPLE FROM VOTING!! The amount of fraud in elections is minute and would not change an election outcome. I know it for a fact as I've worked elections in the past.

KEEP MAIL IN BALLOTS!!!

Thank you,
Capt K.Braud
Laupahoehoe

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Donna Brown](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV Section B
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 9:48:29 AM

I am testifying on Agenda Item IV Section b. I strongly oppose the elimination of mail in voting. I am 76 years old, a lifelong voter who has never failed to cast my vote in all elections that have been held since I was 21.

I have voted 'in person on the day', early, and by mail and of all the options, voting by mail is my preferred choice for the following reasons:

- Increased Accessibility and Convenience - It eliminates barriers such as transportation issues, long lines, bad weather, or the inability to take time off work or find childcare. This benefits various demographics, including older Americans, voters with disabilities, military personnel and overseas citizens, students away from home, and essential workers. Voters also get more time to research candidates and issues before casting their ballot.
- Higher Voter Turnout - Research suggests that universal vote-by-mail systems can increase overall voter turnout, particularly in lower turnout elections (like local primaries) and among historically marginalized groups such as young people and minorities. The convenience factor helps retain voters who might otherwise not participate.
- Security and Reliability - robust security measures, such as signature verification, unique barcodes for tracking, and bipartisan handling of ballots, make fraud exceedingly rare. Auditable paper ballots are considered a "gold standard of election security". States that have implemented all-mail voting have not had major voter fraud scandals since the switch.
- Cost Savings- Jurisdictions can save money by reducing the need for numerous in-person polling places, temporary poll workers, and equipment.
- Popularity- mail-in voting is popular with voters, and many people who have the option avail themselves of the service, indicating a preference for this method.

While mail-in voting has become a politically charged topic, numerous studies have found that it does not provide a significant or consistent partisan advantage to either major political party.

I urge you to support and continue Hawai'i's mail in vote program.

Donna C Brown
59-392 Ka Nani Drive
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
808-880-1901

From: [Eve Furchgott](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-In Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 9:56:42 AM

Aloha -

I am testifying on Agenda item IV, section b.

I firmly support mail-in voting. The right to vote is our most fundamental right as US citizens. We should be doing all we can to allow every citizen who wants to cast a vote to do so, every time. Mail in voting enables many of us who cannot get to a polling place during election day hours for a variety of reasons to nonetheless contribute their votes. It has been proven time and again that voter fraud is exceedingly rare in mail-in voting; it does not represent a danger to fair and honest election tallies.

Please do not allow this restriction on mail-in voting — and our rights in a democracy — to go forward.

Sincerely,
Susan Furchgott
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [ruth van doren](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Election mail in voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:05:18 AM

Sent from my iPhone **Subject:** Protect Hawai'i's Vote-by-Mail System and Uphold Fair Access to Voting

Aloha Commissioners,

As Senior citizens,

We am writing to express our strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the

mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

With aloha, Ruthie and Harold van Doren , 68-171 Kamaha'o Waikoloa, 98638

From: [Michelle Deitz](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawaii's Vote-by-Mail System and Uphold Fair Access to Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:39:37 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that potential hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in

creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

With aloha,

Michelle Deitz

59-209 Laninue Drive

Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Chris Anderson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i's Vote-by-Mail System and Uphold Fair Access to Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:44:17 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

With aloha,



Chris Anderson

President

D. 480.422.1432

C. 808.896.2675

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From: [Patricia Boland](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item IV section B
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:52:43 AM

Sent from my iPad **Subject:** Protect Hawai'i's Vote-by-Mail System and Uphold Fair Access to Voting

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do

with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

With aloha,

Patricia Boland
bpboland @me.com
PO Box 71 Paauilo, HI 96776

From: [Josh Walawender](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 11:01:30 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

I understand that there is an agenda item (Agenda item IV, section b) which proposes to eliminate mail in voting. As a working parent of a small child, it is sometimes difficult to vote in person. Mail in voting makes participatin easier. Moving to an in person only voting system would change **who** votes and I suspect this is the driving force behind this proposal. Please maintain easy voting access for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Joshua Walawender
Kamela, HI

From: [Tara Taylor](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i's Vote-by-Mail system to provide Fair Access to Voting for all
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 11:37:43 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. I moved here from a state that also used vote-by-mail and it too was effective, secure, and very voter-friendly.

The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed. I find this to be the most valuable reason for me personally. I like being able to research everyone/everything I've been asked to vote on and be able to make my selections while that research is fresh in mind.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully. Everyone has the right to vote and removing mail-in voting intentionally limits everyone from participating.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that some factions fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because those factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

With aloha,

Tara Taylor

Waikoloa Village

From: [Keith Neal](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda item IV, section b - Elections Commission 12/3/25
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 11:43:07 AM
Attachments: [Support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system.pdf](#)

Aloha Elections Commissioners,

Subject - Protect Hawai'i's Vote-by-Mail System and Uphold Fair Access to Voting

I am writing to express my **strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system** and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate, impede, or diminish this essential voting method.

Testimony Attached:

Aloha Elections Commissioners,

Subject - Protect Hawai'i's Vote-by-Mail System and Uphold Fair Access to Voting

I am writing to express my **strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system** and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate, impede, or diminish this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country.

The benefits are numerous:

Improves voter turnout - when voters receive their ballots at home far more people participate. Those who have work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places need mail-by-mail or otherwise be disenfranchised.

Reduces voter intimidation - Hawai'i's vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. Hawai'i's system protects people from hostility at in-person polling sites.

Allows for thoughtful, informed choices - People can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

Secure and auditable - Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail systems, and certainly not in Hawai'i!

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people to vote by mail..

With aloha,

Keith Neal
Waimea

From: [Stephen Munkelt](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony to Elections Commission 11-30-25 Item IV
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 12:53:38 PM
Attachments: [Elections Commission Letter 11-30-25.pdf](#)

I have attached a pdf of my testimony

Stephen Munkelt

Stephen A. Munkelt
77-6311 Ali'i Dr. Apt 204
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
530-277-8608

RE: TESTIMONY for Elections Comm'n 12/3/25

Subject: Agenda Items IV a & b

Topic: Support for mail-in voting

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the secure, accurate mail-in voting system established in the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Despite the efforts of some commissioners to introduce irrelevant and incorrect information into the process there is no credible evidence of significant problems with the collection, verification and counting of ballots in our elections.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- It improves voter turnout.
When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.
- It reduces voter intimidation.
Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that hostility.
- It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.
With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.
- It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.
Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.
- It is secure and auditable.
Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Thank you for your attention to this fundamental civil right underpinning our democracy.

Stephen Munkelt

From: [Jeremy Colvin](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by Mail matters — Agenda item IV, section b.
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 1:38:42 PM

- I am testifying on Agenda item IV, section b.
-
- Vote by Mail is essential because our democracy is based on TRUST. Our nation stands or falls by its citizens' trust in the process of voting.
- **Paper ballots engender trust** In the process of democracy as no other process can because paper ballots can be counted and recounted transparently as many times as needed. Electronic ballots cannot.
 -
 - Trust in the election process has never, ever been so needed. Clear evidence that our elections are not rigged, whatever our enemies say, has never been so urgent and important.
-
- American citizens who are serving their country overseas deserve to know that their vote counts. They deserve the right to a paper ballot. They deserve the right to Vote by Mail.
-

Thank you for listening,
Jeremy Colvin

From: elisabeth.sherman@me.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote by mail is safe, popular & widely used.
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 1:41:31 PM

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony for Agenda item IV, Section B. I strongly support keeping our vote by mail system.

There is no reason to change our vote by mail since it is completely safe. The only possible reason would be to disenfranchise voters.

- 8 states plus Washington, DC use only vote by mail: CA, CO, NV, OR, UT, VT, WA & HI.
- 12 other states use vote by mail for smaller elections.

Vote by mail can be audited & has consistently been shown to be very secure. It makes voting far more accessible for working people, parents, kupuna, & people with disabilities.

Voter fraud is extremely rare, 0.0025% according to the Brennan Center & does not achieve levels that would alter results.

It would be wrong, & again without any factual reason, to reduce or eliminate vote by mail.

Mahalo,
Elisabeth Sherman
PO Box 1367
Kapa'au, HI 96755

From: [Genie Wery](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PROTECT HAWAII'S VOTE-BY-MAIL SYSTEM
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 2:50:33 PM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am testifying on Agenda Item IV, section b.

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- It improves voter turnout

- It reduces voter intimidation

- It is secure and auditable

- It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities. My mother is 98 years old and is of sound mind living in Waimea, Hawaii Island. **She is unable to vote-in-person for medical reasons. Taking her ability to vote-by-mail would take away her right to vote.**

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firm against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation—and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

Aloha,

Genie Wery
64-5258 White Road
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

From: [Katherine Loke Roseguo](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 3:20:34 PM

Aloha

I live in Puna Hawai'i and urge the Elections Commission to support continued At Home Voting and not support spreading lies about fraud.

At home voting allows time for people to do research on measures they may not have seen before, makes it possible for more people to participate in voting and is safe and legal.

Mahalo

Katherine Roseguo
Eden Roc
8083457730

From: [Phil Barnes & Diane Fournier](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 3:25:19 PM

I urge your strong support for continuing our safe and secure mail in voting system that has been a success in Hawaii. The ludicrous MAGA lies have no place in our democratic republic.

Phil Barnes
Hilo, HI 96720

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Leanne Kirk](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Vote by Mail for Dec. 3, 2025 meeting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 3:27:00 PM

Hi!

My name is Leanne (Iseri) Kirk. I just found out today that voting by mail in Hawai'i is under attack.

I am writing to the elections commission because I am strongly in support of voting by mail. As a caregiver for my 88-year-old mother, it is very difficult for me and my mother to leave the house and vote due to my mother's fragility and being a severe falling risk. She cannot be left alone.

Voting by mail is safe, fair, and gives many shut-ins and caregivers who are not able to leave the house the ability to vote. Please keep vote-by-mail!

Thank you very much.

Leanne (Iseri) Kirk

From: [Carol Maxym](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RETAIN MAIL-IN VOTING AGENDA ITEM IV, SECTION B
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 3:27:04 PM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I testify concerning AGENDA ITEM IV, SECTION B

Voter participation in Hawaii is always disappointingly low. It has been higher with MAIL-IN VOTING. WE MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE MAIL IN VOTING.

The only reason it is being questioned is because Donald Trump believes he will lose if there is greater voter participation. We all know very well that mail-in voting is safe, secure, convenient and increases voter participation.

Do not go against democracy, against your community. MAINTAIN OUR SAFE, SECURE, MAIL-IN VOTING.

Thank you

--

Carol Maxym, Ph.D.
858 344 5506

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

From: [Kate](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawaii's Vote-by-Mail System
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 3:30:17 PM

Aloha commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawaii vote-by-mail system. Please reject any proposals to undermine or weaken this essential voting method.

I live in Hawaii County. Also known as the Big Island, distances here are great. When voting was in person my assigned polling station was 18 miles away, a drive of about 45 minutes if traffic was light. Public transportation was not an option. With vote by mail, I can vote from home easily and track the progress of my ballot online. It is reliable, safe and secure.

Please preserve this system, on which so many rural residents rely.

Kathleen Delaney
District 7
Sent from my iPad

From: [Barbara Kennedy](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preserve Mail-In Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 3:32:16 PM

- I am testifying on Agenda item IV, section b.

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would

eliminate or undermine Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

With aloha,

- Barbara Kennedy
- P.O. Box 190839
- Hawi, HI 96719

From: [Lisen](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 3:50:51 PM

My husband and I both appreciate mail-in voting and have done so for many years because we often are traveling during the time of voting in person. We also appreciate taking our time with the ballot and working on our vote together.

From: [Younghee Overly](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] for Dec 3rd Election Commission meeting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 4:29:36 PM

Aloha Chair Curtis and Commissioners,

My name is Younghee Overly and I am a resident of Ala Moana neighborhood. I am writing to you to testify on agenda item VI, section b "Commissioner Andrion's PIG relating to Maui County chain of custody" and to express my SUPPORT for MAIL-VOTING. I have been voting by mail since 2016 and really appreciate the convenience and an opportunity to take my time to vote. I can learn at my pace about the candidates as I am completing my ballot. While I heard that there were problems in Maui, voter impersonation and ballot falsification are exceedingly rare. Based on a meticulous review of elections that were investigated for voter fraud, the Brennan Center for Justice found minuscule incident rates of ineligible individuals casting ballots at the polls - no more than 0.0025 percent. (source: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/5-reasons-have-confidence-mail-voting>)

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

--

Younghee Overly

"When you move your focus from competition to contribution, life becomes a celebration. Never try to defeat people, just win their hearts."

From: [Ruth Robison](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda item IV, section b - in strong support of voting by mail
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 4:33:22 PM

Aloha, Chairperson Curtis and Commissioners:

My name is Ruth Robison and I live in Hilo.

I am submitting testimony on Agenda item IV, section b. The P.I.G. "Report on complaints relating to the chain of custody of election ballots and reported irregularities in the administration of the 2024 General Election" contains this recommendation: "2) Return to in-person voting on paper ballots on Election Day." I am strongly opposed to this recommendation and I am in strong support of voting by mail.

I have been a member of the League of Women Voters for 15 years. I am not speaking for the League, but as a member, in concert with it. "The League strongly supports voting by mail and will oppose partisan undermining of elections."

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

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

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

cast a valid ballot.

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

I am asking my state senator and representative not to take voting by mail away from the citizens of Hawaii. We want to have more eligible voters exercise their right to vote, not fewer. We won't go back.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

--

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

From: [Baruj Braja Tarletz de Molina](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 4:33:32 PM

Hola -

My legal name is RuthAnne Tarletz. I live in Lower Puna. I am retired and do not have a car. I live over 30 minutes from Pahoehoe. Mail-in voting is a blessing for me.

It has statistically been shown that mail-in voting is safe and effective. I believe it encourages many people in situations similar to mine to vote. Further, those that are in the military or away from home when it is time to vote, also can participate.

Thanking you in advance for considering my testimony.

Mahalo.

Shaloha,

Braja RuthAnne Tarletz

[Yahoo Mail: busca, organiza, toma el control de tu buzón](#)

From: [Randee Golden](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY SUPPPORTING MAIL IN VOTING
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 4:56:42 PM

I am testifying on Agenda item IV, section b. For Wednesday's meeting.

I live in North Kohala. Rural districts have one polling place. Mail in voting makes it easier for elders who are not mobile much. It is important access.
DO NOT let MAGA members try to cut voting by stopping a process that works!!!!

Randee Golden, retired educator
Kohala Resident
On Hawaii island since 1975

From: [GRACE HUTCHINSON](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail in Vote testimony
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 6:00:49 PM

Aloha commissioners
RE: Agenda Item iv section b

I am a voting resident of Hawaii.

Thank you for doing this job.

Voting is THE most important constitutional action we citizens can make. Therefore we need to do all that we can to ensure our people vote.

Mail in voting has been proven to be safe and effective. You need to protect our right to vote by mail- especially from outside forces.

There are SO many reasons to encourage vote by mail!

First and foremost it is safe!

1) It make it possible for more people to vote:

People that have to work on Tuesday

The ill, the immune compromised, those without child care

Those without cars

Those that live far from a physical location -(seems like they are getting further away)!

Those that are traveling and many others

2) Voters can do research and review the candidates positions from the comfort of their home.

3) It requires less manpower and voting locations.

Please do all you can to

SAVE VOTE IN MAILING

Thank you,

Grace Hutchinson

44-101 Malulani Place

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Meizhu Lui](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 7:14:20 PM
Attachments: [At Home Voting.docx](#)

Dear Commissioners,

As a kupuna on Hawaii Island living in a rural area, I strongly support At-Home Voting by mail. Many of us who have mobility problems but want to vote have had a hard time getting to a voting site. Mail-in increases the number of eligible voters who actually vote.

We also may not have great vision, so being able to study the ballot at home, especially the resolutions, makes our vote better educated.

Voting should be made easier, not harder. In a democracy, all those who want to vote should be able to do so, whether they are old, disabled, unable to drive, or have any other obstacles to making their voice count.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Meizhu Lui
PO Box 175
Papaaloa HI 96780

From: [Melissa Smith](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 7:27:54 PM

Aloha! Voting by mail works. Hawai'i has proven that. I don't know if studies have been made but I'd bet voter participation is much greater when Vote By Mail is available. Personally, it makes it so much more convenient to vote by mail: no worries about transportation or parking or getting there before the polls close!

It's a Win/Win deal!

If it ain't broke then don't fix it!

Mahalo
Melissa Smith
Mt. View 96771
808-315-9114

From: [Barbara Jackson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 7:29:05 PM

Mahalo for your service.Hawaii has had mail in ballots since 2020.Clean honest and safe elections. Do not let outside interests interfere with a process that has a proven success rate.I appreciate your consideration.Barbara Jackson

From: [Teri King-Agan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 7:31:41 PM

Hi, I strongly support mail in voting. I have been a registered voter in Hawaii for more than fifty years. Mail in voting has been a valuable service for me. I live down a rough road so I appreciate the convenience and also sometimes I like to research the issues and candidates before making my choice. Please keep this available to citizens.and registered voters.

I also think that the ICE agents should definitely be unmasked. The masks are unfair to the people that are being detained and questioned. The masks are allowing them to act with impunity. It is frightening as it is and the masking makes it more so .

Thank you,

Teri King-Agan

From: [Jamie Detwiler](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Elections Commission Meeting - December 3, 2025
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 7:54:56 PM
Attachments: [EC Testimony 12-3-25.docx](#)

Aloha Chair Curtis and Commissioners,

Please accept the attached document as my written testimony for the Elections Commission Meeting on 12/3/25 at 10 AM. I would also like to testify orally at the EC meeting via Zoom.

Respectfully,
Jamie Detwiler

On Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 11:38 AM OE.Elections.Commission
<elections.commission@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Aloha,

Attached please find the agenda for the next Elections Commission meeting on **December 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM**. It has also been:

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

Mahalo,

Office of Elections

elections.commission@hawaii.gov

(808) 453-VOTE (8683)

Hawaii Elections Commission Meeting 12/3/25

Aloha Chair Curtis and Commissioners,

I respectfully submit the following letter as my testimony for the Hawaii Elections Commission Meeting on December 3, 2025.

I am testifying on Agenda item IV.d. Formation of a Permitted Interaction Group to work with the County Clerks regarding chain of custody and daily reports.

I served as an official state election observer during the 2024 Primary and General elections.

Throughout the course of my time serving as an official election observer and subsequent ballot processing after election day, I witnessed several incidents that raised serious concerns regarding the chain of custody of ballots. At the Kapolei Hale Voter Service Center on Election Day, I, along with another election observer and OE employee stood in line with the last voter in line who voted after midnight. Election outcomes were broadcast on local and national media before 8 PM that evening. The voters in line were discouraged. Once the last voter submitted their ballot, two City and County employees and one state OE employee proceeded to empty the scanned ballots onto the floor. These ballots were placed into voter ballot containers (VBC) in no order and not counted. The VBC's were secured, tagged with an ID and documented before being transported to the State counting center at the State Capitol. We arrived at the State counting center at 2 AM. I completed my shift at 6 AM.

As I previously stated, I raised concerns regarding chain of custody and security of ballots while observing operations at the County Signature Verification Center a week before election day. Ballots were being processed through the USPS system and island-wide Drop Boxes. I asked about documentation at drop boxes and the post office. The Honolulu City and County Elections Administrator stated that his staff does not have time to count ballots at pick up or drop off. Furthermore, I was asked to sign the Chain of Custody log indicating the number of mail trays observed in the locked transport cages. I asked how many ballot envelopes were in each tray and was told that they do not count the ballot envelopes, only the mail trays. Each tray contained different amounts of ballot envelopes.

During another shift, I asked an OE Supervisor how the neighbor island ballots were transmitted and verified. She stated that they call into the State counting center on a designated land line at the Capitol and notify them when they will be transmitting the ballot tallies electronically. I asked if there was an observer like me on the "sending" end and she said yes. However, the conversation and transmission were managed by Hart InterCivic employees at the sending and receiving end.

Additionally, there were instances where the logs tracking ballot movements contained incomplete information, such as missing times or signatures. I reported these issues to the county election supervisor, but no immediate corrective action was taken. Given these observations, I believe a thorough investigation is necessary to ensure the integrity of the election process and restore public confidence in the results.

Finally, I strongly recommend a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) investigation into each County Elections actions in accordance with HAR §3-177-453 and HAR 3-177-61.

Respectfully,
Jamie Detwiler

From: [Donna Blakemore](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 8:46:13 PM

Experts indicate that mail in voting is a safe method of voting and helps overall turnout. It works because in is simple and there is no credible evidence of fraud or widespread error. It has been in place since 2020 in Hawaii and has proven to be very effective for most voters. It is also more accessible to people who work two or three jobs and odd hours, more accessible to college students who are away from home. With that said, it needs to work for the people to have their voices heard, and isn't that what a democracy should stand for.

From: [Mac Cooper](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 8:58:02 PM

I urgently support mail in voting as one of the best ways to secure maximum voter turn out. Having everyone in a district vote should be the primary objective of any election. At home voting is a great way to secure maximum participation.

Thank you. Thomas Cooper

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Mac Cooper macatflex@gmail.com
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Lynn Ryan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in favor of mail in voting
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 9:36:12 PM

Dear Election Committee,

This is public testimony for Election Committee meeting Dec 3, 2025

I support mail in voting. This method is able to reach far more people than any other form of voting. Voting in the USA, in a democracy, must be available to everyone, everywhere, anytime.

To limit mail-in voting would be a hardship for many voters, new and seasoned.

I use mail in voting , it works well for everyone i know.

Sincerely,
Lynn Ryan
73-1261 Melomelo st
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
707-845-2825

From: lmklungness@gmail.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding legislation affecting mail in voting.
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:05:08 PM

To the Commissioner of Elections,

I was appalled when I realized that only 32% of registered citizens of Hawaii bothered to fill out and submit their mail in ballots in the 2024 presidential election. I think mail in ballots are absolutely critical to a democracy in the 21st century. There are so many ways to intervene in in-person balloting. Electronic sabotage, voter intimidation, contesting ballots, etc. The security of the U. S. Postal service has been a hallmark of American Democracy since Benjermin Franklin established the system by decree of the Continental Congress. There is nothing safer that a paper ballot mailed by the US Postal Service directly to the office of elections in each State.

The efforts of the Trump Administration to undermine Mail-in ballots, is criminal at best, and devious at worst. The real question is not whether we should have mail in ballots, but how to make the process more effective by a thorough system of education to make citizens aware of their duties to vote in a democracy. In some other democracies voters can actually be fined for failing to vote. I am not suggesting that we are there yet, but we definitely need to instill a greater willingness to participate in the vote as the backbone of our democracy.

Thank you for your support,

Lester M. Klungness, Democratic Dist. 5 Chair
P.O. box 364
18-4133 Komo St.
Mountain View Hawaii 96771
Hm phone 808-968-6789
IPhone 909-895-3075
eMail: lmklungness@gmail.com
Website www.LesterFisher.com
Facebook classic Lester M. Klungness
Page Lester M Fisher
Instagram @lestermfisher
Pinterest Lester Fisher

From: [Mark Gordon](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for voting by mail
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:36:01 PM

There has been discussions about eliminating voting by mail. Myself, as well as my friends and colleague strongly support voting by mail.

In fact, most people I know, not only in Hawaii, but other states vote by mail. Very very few people are going to election centers.

Voting by mail allows people to have ample time to review all the issues as well as the candidates. Also due to transportation and other issues, a lot of people cannot vote in person.

I shared my comments with our State Representative and Senator. Both agree that this is ridiculous to even consider eliminating voted by mail. It's like going back to the dark ages.

Voting by mail is secure in Hawaii, as well has been shown secure in other States.

Thanks for allowing me to share my comments.

***Mark Gordon
Waikoloa, Hawaii***

From: [Cory](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dec 3 item IV b
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 11:08:44 PM

testimony for State Elections Commission
10 AM Wednesday, December 3, 2025
re.agenda item IV b, Commissioner Andrion's PIG re. Maui
from Cory Harden, Hilo

Aloha Commissioners,

Thank you for your service on the Commission.

The PIG questions election integrity. But check out the conservative Heritage Foundation webpage for proven instances of election fraud. The grand total of cases they found nationwide? 138.

The PIG also calls for in-person voting only. I oppose this, and strongly support mail-in voting.

Tropical Storm Iselle hit Hawai'i Island on August 8, 2014, downing trees that blocked roads, knocked out electricity, and caused a hydrogen sulfide leak from the geothermal plant that sickened scores of people. When was the primary election? The next day. But people who had already mailed in ballots still got to vote.

Mail-in voting was also a big help during the pandemic. It will also be a big help if, at election time, people are afraid to go to the polls because we still have ICE agents grabbing people off the streets based on racial profiling, and troops deployed to our cities.

With in-person voting, there are long lines, meaning less productivity for employers, and lost wages for workers, often more so for low-income workers.

Mail-in voting means you don't have to wonder where your polling place is.

Mail-in voting, supplemented by voter service centers, reduces the enormous tasks of hiring and training pollworkers, distributing and retrieving election supplies, dealing with difficulties like locked doors and malfunctioning equipment, and delivering accurate and timely results despite all odds.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Kathleen Golden](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Elections Commission Chair/ Elections Committee Testimony/ Meeting December 3, 2025
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:30:12 AM

To: Elections Commission Chair & Elections Committee
From: Kathleen & Peter Golden
Date: December 1, 2025
Re: Submission of Written Testimony / Vote By Mail

Please consider the following:

1. We are testifying on Agenda item IV, section b.
2. We are including the reason why vote by mail is important.

Elections Commission Chair and Elections Committee

We are submitting written testimony to communicate our full support for Vote By Mail.

The reason that Vote By Mail is important to each of us is that we are older citizens,
and it is supportive to us to be able to place our ballots in the postal mail rather than stand in line to vote.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Kathleen Golden
Peter Golden

Volcano, Hawaii, 96785

From: [Kehau](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Continue mail in voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 6:41:20 AM

Aloha

There seems to be a move a foot to stop mail in and return to in person voting. If we have an excellent auditable system in place in Hawaii for mail in (and all other types of) voting, why would we revert to an outworn and less inclusive system? Embarrassingly, Hawaii has the lowest voter turnout rate in the country. Why would we, of any state, eliminate mail in voting?

The request to stop an excellent auditable mail in ballot system is just a guise for voter suppression.

YES on continue voting via mail in ballots in Hawaii.

Mahalo
Kehaulani Coleman

PS I'm not sure whether this is under your purview, but we should certainly have a "get out the vote" campaign in Hawaii.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Krista](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item IV, section b
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 6:44:48 AM

Aloha,

RE: Agenda item IV, section b

I am a voting resident of the great state of Hawaii, Hawi, on the big island. The USPS is a vital part of my consumer experience as well as personal correspondence. I have trusted it to pay bills and send love letters, to personalize condolences and celebrate birthdays. I mail holiday cards and presents. I have used it to help me move back and forth across the Pacific a few times as well. And importantly, I also vote by mail. Never once in my 71 years has it lost even one item.

I trust the USPS and am thankful for it. You do, too, whether you know it or not. Try not going to your physical mailbox for a week.

Voting by mail is necessary for so many reasons that I don't need to remind you, but I will. I was moving during an election and was going back and forth. I had hip replacement surgery and couldn't stand for long. Some people actually have to work all day before going to vote, if they can get off. Some people actually want to discuss it with their spouse. You likely can sympathize or have had a similar situation. Every citizen should vote. Let's keep vote-by-mail accessible. Let's make it more accessible.

Thank you for your time,
Krista L. Cutter
808-345-7836

From: [Craig Spencer](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Mail in Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 7:08:16 AM

I'd would like to submit written testimony in support of mail in voting.

Please do not take away the right to mail in voting for Hawaii residents, as doing so will disenfranchised hundreds of thousands of voters who rely on mail in voting to have their notices heard.

Elections are stronger and our democracy is stronger when the voices of all legal voters are heard and counted.

In addition to protecting mail in voting, I'd advocate that Election Day be a state holiday to guarantee the appropriate amount of time off of work for the working class to vote in person or drop off their ballot.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Craig Spencer
Hawaii Island

From: [Noelle Lindenmann](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda item IV, section B
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 7:28:48 AM

Aloha

I am writing in support of Vote By Mail. It is imperative to broaden the tent, rather than narrow it. If voting by mail is dismantled, we reduce the number of people who are able to vote due to possible childcare, family, or work needs.

Thank you,
Noelle Lindenmann (she/her/hers)
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
e. noelle.royer@gmail.com // tallgirl@uw.edu

From: [Georgia Kinney Bopp](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting (Agenda item IV, section b.)
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 7:52:38 AM

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for serving the people of Hawaii.

I'm so sorry your valuable time is being wasted on the pros/cons of mail-in voting. This is a case where (as doctors say) "the benefits outweigh the risks".

Please keep mail-in voting and move on to solving real problems.

Thank you,

Georgia Kinney Bopp

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

From: [Lisa Gibson](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT FOR Vote by Mail Testimony
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 8:12:05 AM

Aloha Members of the Hawaii Election Commission:

I am writing in regards to Agenda item IV, section b on the December 3rd agenda and in STRONG SUPPORT of voting by mail. My ability to vote at home gives me time to focus on the ballot. Voting by mail also increases voter participation which is the bedrock of our democracy.

Mahalo,

Lisa Gibson
Honolulu

From: [Lisa Cooper](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 8:24:17 AM

I, Lisa K. Cooper, humbly ask for the Council of Hawaii County to support retaining mail-in voting.

Lisa K. Cooper
305 Mohouli Street
Hilo, HI. 96720

From: [Lisa Cooper](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 8:27:17 AM

I, Lisa K. Cooper humbly request the Hawaii State Election Commission support retaining mail-in voting.

Lisa K. Cooper
305 Mohouli Street
Hilo, HI. 96720

From: [Devra Dynes](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 8:59:43 AM

Please keep mail in voting! It is safe & efficient. Do not give in to the conspiracy theorists & liars undermine our democracy!

There has been little to no evidence linking mail in voting to voter fraud; which is currently so rare it has no impact on election outcomes.

From: [Cheryl Bellamy](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail In Voting Testimony
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:18:14 AM

Commissioners,

I support Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna like myself and those with disabilities and mobility challenges.**

Many of us elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Thank you for your time and attention to this support letter

C. Bellamy

From: [leumeah M](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:42:45 AM

Hi everyone,
Please allow us to continue mailing in ballots. We need the convenience of voting by mail to keep our democracy intact. Thank you
Linda Morrone
238 Pohakulani St Hilo HI 96720

--

If we don't stand up we don't stand a chance-Genesis

From: [Kris Bordessa](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawai'i's Vote-by-Mail System
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:44:59 AM

Aloha Commissioners,

I strongly support Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method. Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate in our democracy. Others rely on it as a way to cast their vote easily without having to take time off work.

Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

Aloha,
Kris

Kris Bordessa (she/her)

OUT NOW: [Attainable Sustainable Pantry](#) (National Geographic Books)

Still relevant: [Attainable Sustainable: The Lost Art of Self-Reliant Living](#) (National Geographic Books)

As a small business owner I often email at odd hours. This does not necessitate an immediate response. Please respond during your normal business hours.

From: [Jessica K](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for December 3 Election Commissions Meeting (I am in favor of mail-in voting)
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:17:27 AM

Aloha, my name is Jessica Kuzmier and I live in West Hawaii.

I want to testify in favor of mail-in voting, as I believe our current system of mail-in ballots provides a generous and convenient way for residents to be able to vote when it is best for them, as many people do not have the ability to take time off from work on Election Day to stand on a line. They may not have the transportation or ability to get to a polling place, even if it is open on days other than Election Day. Mail-in voting is helpful for those who have health concerns, family emergencies and other contingencies which preclude them from presenting their ballot in person. If people are off-island, it works well for them in this circumstance as well.

I have always appreciated mail-in voting, and feel it is a great way for more people to get involved. As one has to prove citizenship to register to vote, and the signature on the ballot is compared to the one offered when one is registered, I believe it is a secure form of voting that makes it better for disabled, elderly and those who have multiple jobs or lack of transportation. I do believe that mail-in voting should be kept in place and believe it strengthens our democracy, not weakens it.

I also appreciate the fact that we have early voting, and that voting centers are open on days before Election Day so those who want to vote in person can do so. I would be happy if there were more locations open to make it more convenient for people who do not live near a hub and/or cannot get to that location conveniently.

Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Jessica Kuzmier, West Hawaii

From: [Dave Cuthbert](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:17:55 AM

Dear County Elections Commission members.

First off, I am in favor of mail-in (at home) voting for Hawai'i and participated in the last few elections that way. Those of us living in the lower Puna district have a half hour or longer drive to in-person voting up in Pahoa town which is burdensome of so many because of transportation issues. Some folks must make a special trip in their car, some must use the bus and others hitch hike or ride share. The result is fewer citizens get to exercise their only political power thus weakening our Democracy. I do believe there are sufficient checks on mail-in votes for it to be a safe and effective process.

David Cuthbert
12-326 W Pohakupele Loop, #9
Pahoa, HI, 96778

From: [mendy boio](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:33:21 AM

I'm 100% in favor of at home voting!
Mendy Hansen, 30 Alae St., Hilo, HI 96720.

From: [R Kehau Schofield](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:36:19 AM

Aloha,

My name is Rene Kehau Schofield, and my address is 15-2784 Maiko St, Pāhoa, HI 96778.

I am writing in favor of mail-in or at home voting, and encourage our state government to absolutely protect our mail-in voting rights against any effort by this, or any administration, to limit access for voters to cast their ballots in elections, as is our right to do so, guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Recent public debate followed President Trump's initial [announcement](#) of his intention to issue an executive order (EO) in advance of the 2026 general election:

...The EO purportedly would attempt to remove certain types of mail voting across the country. Several [election law](#) experts have assessed that an EO seeking to change election procedures [presents an overreach](#) of executive power and would be unconstitutional (<https://www.usa.gov/absentee-voting>)

However:

...universal vote-by-mail in particular—has substantial [benefits](#) for election administration and tens of millions of U.S. voters. As part of this analysis, we corroborate prior research that mail voting is [secure](#) and find low overall mail voting fraud, particularly in universal vote-by-mail voting systems (<https://www.usa.gov/absentee-voting>).

Contrary to myths presented in the recent executive order, facts support conclusions that:

- **Mail voting expands voter access, giving millions—especially those facing barriers—a practical and secure way to vote.**
- **Cases of mail voting fraud are very rare, accounting for only 0.000043% of total mail ballots cast, or about four cases out of every 10 million mail votes.**
- **Relative to absentee voting systems, universal vote-by-mail voting systems comprise the smallest percentage of the already very low mail voting fraud.**

(Samara Angel, Jonathan Katz, and Randi Wright

November 6, 2025, available: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/mail-voting-in-the-us-data-points-to-very-low-fraud-and-significant-benefits-to-voters/>)

Mail-in voting increases voter participation (Brookings Institution)

A 2009 [study](#) for the Pew Charitable Trusts found that no-excuse absentee voting increased voter participation by about 3 percentage points in comparison to states

with excuse absentee voting, when controlling for other factors that may impact turnout. Adoption of a universal vote-by-mail voting system is associated with about a 2% increase in voter turnout compared to counties that did not adopt such a system, based on a 2020 [study](#) in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) using a within-state comparison of counties across three states that adopted universal vote-by-mail. Additionally, a 2023 [study](#)

I expect to count on your support to protect Mail-in voter rights for all voters in our country, and specific to our county of Hawaii, and state of Hawaii. It is frightening to think in a well-established democracy, we voters must press and ask our representatives in our state to protect us from Federal overreach who want to hinder, to limit, to make it harder for us to do our constitutional duty in electing our representatives. We should be making it easier, rather than harder, to enact our constitutionally protected right to vote.

Mahalo,
Rene Kehau Schofield
(808) 494-9540
rene.schofield@gmail.com

From: [Terry McDonald](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] At-Home or Mail In voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:40:21 AM

Commissioners

As you consider the options for early and at-home voting, I urge you to stay the course. We have an aging population in Hawai'i, many with mobility issues, and the costs of a return to same day voting are just too high- too high in lost participation, and too high for the state.

This form of balloting, all At-Home Voting, was first tried in Oregon in 1998, and Hawai'i became the 5th or 6th state to adopt a fully At Home voting system. While claims of voter fraud are frequent and loud, they typically amount to little more than sore-loser apocryphal stories of "he said that what she saw was obviously voter fraud," 3rd or 4th person accounts that when examined do NOT provide the evidence to in any way counter the rigorous studies over many cycles finding No voter fraud over multiple election cycles.

For these, and many other good reasons, I fervently hope that you categorically reject any proposed changes to the current vote from home option Hawaiians on all islands enjoy.

I urge you to reject any proposal limiting at-home or mail-in voting. Also, any provision requiring "proof of citizenship" should be likewise rejected. We in Hawai'i have never had an issue with non-citizens voting.

Let's work on true problem areas, for example increasing voter turnout rather than fixing non-existent problems.

Respectfully

Terry McDonald

704-390-6221

Facilitator

Indivisible Hilo One

"Release the Epstein files, where law Ends, Tyranny begins"

From: [Jane & DeWaine](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of At Home Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:59:23 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

Please continue to support MAIL-IN voting!
It makes voting much more accessible.

THANK YOU,
Jane Tollefsrud
DeWaine Tollefsrud
15-1543 Beach Rd.
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [Laurie Tomchak](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:07:29 PM

Dear Members of the Election Committee:

I am testifying on Agenda IV Item, Section B, in support of retaining Mail-In Voting in Hawaii. I am a 73-year-old retired person who has voted in every election I have been eligible for since the 1970s. I have worked registering voters and have voted in National and Local Elections.

As someone who is concerned with low voter turn out, I have welcomed mail in voting, which makes it easier to vote, and brings in first-time voters and retired voters who may not have cars or may have mobility issues. As a senior who no longer drives a car, I find it important that I can receive my ballot in my mailbox and fill it out and send it and then return it via the same mailbox. Mail in voting strengthens our democracy.

Thank you for allowing testimony on this issue.

Laurie Scott Tomchak, Ph.D, University of California, MA, UH Manoa
Retired, UH Manoa, HPU, and Windward Community College

From: [Nancy Moser](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for the 12/3/2025 Commission Meeting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:10:00 PM

Aloha Members of the Elections Commission,

I am addressing Agenda item III, the minutes of the October 29th meeting. I attended this meeting (remotely) and its continuation on November 5. The process of these meetings is very difficult and off putting to the public's awareness and participation in Commission meetings. This is due to several factors I observed in this meeting. I request that the Commission adopt practices that limit rude, offensive and irrelevant interactions and that support better focus on the mission of the Commission, including:

- require speakers to address remarks to the Chair only, as practiced in Robert's Rules of Order.
- have the Chair immediately interrupt and call out remarks which include personal insults, threats and/or profanity. Turn off the microphone of a testifier who speaks an insult, threat or profanity.
- limit testimony to 2 minutes per speaker

I regard these as minimum requirements to improve the relevance and reduce the chaos of public meetings of the Commission. Additional steps should include better knowledge and adherence by the Commission to relevant rules-of-order to avoid so-called "amendments" to a motion being accepted after a main motion has already been passed, or defeated, by the vote of the Commissioners. Any 'amendments" after voting are instead entirely new main motions and should be considered only if they are not in essence the same as the defeated, or passed, prior main motion made at the same meeting.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Nancy Moser, nncmoser@gmail.com, a Hawai'i resident in zip code 96738

From: [steel plumeria](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re Dec. 3, 2025 Agenda Item IV, Section b
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:21:26 PM

Commissioners:

Please consider this my written testimony regarding your Agenda item IV, section b, for your upcoming December 3, 2025 scheduled meeting.

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would attempt to eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawaii's vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- It improves voter turnout.

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- It reduces voter intimidation.

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the nation are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai'i's system protects people from that hostility.

- It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.

With a mail-in ballot, voters can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is better when voters are informed; not feeling rushed inside a voting booth.

- It is more accessible for working voters, voters with young children, kupuna, and those with disabilities.

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully; we must not discriminate based on ability or age. And if we are speaking the truth about how we value democratic elections, we must make it convenient for all types of voters.

- It is secure and auditable.

Despite the current politicized and yet unverified concerns, Hawai'i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai'i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit voter participation - which is very undemocratic. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity.

Hawai'i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in creating a voting system grounded in accessibility and fairness. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

Your job as members of this commission is to protect the integrity and inclusiveness of our voting process and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access or to discourage voter participation. This means that you will protect Hawaii's vote-by mail system. Voting should always be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your public service, and I will thank you now, in advance, for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's

people by protecting our Mail-in Voting process.

With sincerity and conviction,

Mary T. Mowdy

cc: Senator Tim Richards
Representative David Tarnas

From: [Lorna Hershinow](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting Mail-in Voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:27:50 PM

Dear Members of the Election Committee:

I am testifying on Agenda IV Item, Section B, in strong support of retaining Mail-in Voting in Hawaii. I would be appalled if Hawaii changed its needed commitment to mail-in voting. We live in a very expensive state, making it necessary for most adults to work, so a secure and convenient use of the postal service will bring in the greatest number of ballots. As a member of the League for Women Voters I have sat at several registration tables, working to register and educate voters. I have very often heard people express satisfaction that we have state-wide mail-in elections. I have always voted in both national and local elections and any reduction of Hawaii's voting public would not serve our state or democracy well. Requiring busy working people to queue up to vote in person would lower an already low voting turn out.

I am now 79, a retired college teacher who saw how important it was for my husband Shel Hershinow, who died at this age, to fill out his ballot. He suffered from Parkinson's for many years, and in his final years found that mailing in his vote was the only way he could have a political voice. I have volunteered at Pohai Nani, Kaneohe's retirement home, for the past three decades, and am well aware that elders in Hawaii have informed opinions but often are too infirm to do more than receive and fill in their ballots by mail. I'll bet that first-time voters would be readier to vote from their homes, with easy digital access to information on the candidates, than to undertake a bus ride to a polling station in some doubt of managing well.

If people feel that slowed mail isn't reliable enough, then posting their mail-in ballots at a drop-box is an easy option. But I have every confidence that our ballots will come to our homes and that we can simply use the same personal mail box to return the completed ballots. I'm all for making voting as easy and accessible as possible in a season full of complications, distractions and rising misery.

Aloha,

Lorna Hershinow, retired English instructor at UHM and Windward CC.

From: cookshi@aol.com
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Remote Testimony - Hawai'i Elections Commission Meeting 12/3/25
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:49:27 PM
Attachments: [PCook - HI Elections Commission Testimony - 12-3-25 FINAL.pdf](#)

Aloha from Waimea, Island of Hawai'i - please find attached testimony for this Wednesday's Election Commission Meeting, Dec. 3, 2025.

Please confirm receipt and that you're able to open the file for sharing with commissioners and the general public.

Also, please call or email if you have questions.

***Mahalo! Patti Cook 808-937-2833
Waimea***

Patti Cook

Box 6960 – Kamuela, HI 96743
cookshi@aol.com * 808-937-2833

December 1, 2025

To: Hawai'i State Elections Commission - elections.commission@hawaii.gov

Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025 – 10AM

Re: Testimony – Agenda Item IV.section b

Email to: elections.commission@hawaii.gov

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i State Elections Commission:

I'm Patti Cook from Waimea, Island of Hawai'i. As shared when testifying remotely during the Oct. 29, 2025 meeting, I strongly support Hawai'i's current VOTE BY MAIL process and have serious questions and doubts about some of the statements made during previous commission meetings challenging the results of earlier VOTE BY MAIL elections here on Hawai'i Island. Suggestions – really demands – that Hawai'i turn back the clock to the pre-VOTE BY MAIL era are seriously flawed – not substantiated by solid evidence of fraud, neglect or carelessness.

Anti-VOTE BY MAIL statements repeatedly misrepresent the facts about Hawai'i voters' experience with VOTE BY MAIL. The fact is, statements alleging fraud lack credibility – just as did statements in the 1600s that the moon was made of green cheese.

In all seriousness, our experience on Hawai'i island with VOTE BY MAIL is that it significantly enhances voter engagement, making it easier to be an informed voter, and improves access for those for whom illness, disabilities, work, transportation, etc., are barriers that can easily prevent participation. A strong democracy depends of an informed electorate using the right and privilege of voting to decide what's best for the people of Hawai'i.

Further, unproven statements challenging the integrity of VOTE BY MAIL foster public distrust.

Far be it for me and others to prevent anyone from speaking their mind, but at the very least, please adopt and seriously commit to limiting public testimony to 2-3 minutes per person, and also stop testifiers who swear or otherwise violate a reasonable code of conduct that respects the people of Hawai'i and our cherished cultural diversity.

**Mahalo, Patti Cook 808-937-2833
Waimea, Island of Hawai'i**

From: cookshi@aol.com
To: OE.Elections.Commission
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Remote Testimony - Hawai'i Elections Commission Meeting 12/3/25
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 7:58:38 AM

Thank you.

PS: I neglected to mention in testimony that I would urge the commission limit testimony to 2-3 minutes per person and discontinue audio for anyone that becomes abusive. No swearing, no personal attacks on commission members or elections staff.

**MAHALO, Patti Cook (808) 937-2833
Waimea, Island of Hawai'i**

On Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 07:52:58 AM HST, OE.Elections.Commission
<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

(808) 453-VOTE (8683)

From: cookshi@aol.com <cookshi@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:49 PM
To: OE.Elections.Commission <elections.commission@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Remote Testimony - Hawai'i Elections Commission Meeting 12/3/25

Aloha from Waimea, Island of Hawai'i - please find attached testimony for this Wednesday's Election Commission Meeting, Dec. 3, 2025.

Please confirm receipt and that you're able to open the file for sharing with commissioners and the general public.

Also, please call or email if you have questions.

Mahalo! Patti Cook 808-937-2833

Waimea

From: [janice glennie](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support mail in voting
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:01:43 PM

Aloha commissioners,

As much as I love to go to the polls to cast my vote, it's uncanny that our state could be considering banning mail-in voting when it's been such a success.

Seniors need it. Working people need it. People in rural areas without transpiration need it and, most important, it's proven to help increase the vitality and viability of our democracy.

Please don't send us to the MAGA Dark Ages. Support mail-in and any other kind of voting that increase voter turnout and accessibility to our democratic process.

Mahalo and sincerely
Janice palma-glennie
Kailua-kona

From: [Richard Rocker](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] vote by mail
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:06:23 PM

aloha kakou

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system and to urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate or undermine this essential voting method.

Hawai‘i’s vote-by-mail system is one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly systems in the country. The benefits are numerous:

- **It improves voter turnout.**

When voters receive their ballots at home, far more people participate — including those who work extended hours, have limited transportation, are caring for keiki or aging parents, or live in rural communities far from polling places.

- **It reduces voter intimidation.**

Vote-by-mail allows voters to fill out their ballots in a calm, private space, without pressure or disruption. At a time when some political groups across the country are encouraging poll watchers to challenge or intimidate voters, Hawai‘i’s system protects people from that hostility.

- **It allows citizens to make thoughtful, informed choices.**

With a mail-in ballot, people can take the time to research candidates and ballot measures. Democracy is stronger when voters are informed, not rushed.

- **It is more accessible for kupuna and those with disabilities.**

Many of our elders and residents with mobility challenges rely on mail-in voting to participate fully.

- **It is secure and auditable.**

Hawai‘i has strong verification, signature checks, and chain-of-custody procedures. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our vote-by-mail system — not in Hawai‘i, and not anywhere in the United States.

Calls to eliminate vote-by-mail are not supported by facts. They are part of a broader national MAGA effort to cast doubt on elections, reduce turnout, and limit participation by groups that extremists fear will vote against them. These efforts have nothing to do with protecting election integrity. They have everything to do with restricting access because some factions know they cannot win when all eligible voters participate.

Hawai‘i should reject these divisive, anti-democratic tactics. Our islands have led the nation in

creating a voting system grounded in accessibility, fairness, and aloha. We must not let partisan pressure from the mainland dictate how we run our elections.

I respectfully ask you to protect Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and to stand firmly against any attempt to reduce voting access. Voting should be free of barriers, fear, and intimidation — and our current system achieves that.

Mahalo for your dedication and public service, and for protecting the rights of Hawai'i's people.

With aloha,

Richard B. Rucker

808-895-3469

richard@richardrocker.com

Please subscribe to my YouTube channel: [HERE](#)

From: [Joyce Barbarich](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For Hawaii mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 6:34:09 AM

Voting by mail is the best way to keep citizens engaged and enfranchised. It promotes equity by ensuring access to those who work long hours, have to care for family members, live remotely or are infirm. Please make sure that the right to vote by mail is not stripped away.

Mahalo,
Joyce Barbarich
Keauhou

From: [Pikachu Billionaire](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Immediate Demand for Full Forensic Audit, Criminal Referrals, and the Total Dismantling of the Corrupt All-Mail Ballot Regime that Has Defrauded the People of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands for Far Too Long**
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 8:47:24 AM

WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING **December 3, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.** **Re: Immediate Demand for Full Forensic Audit, Criminal Referrals, and the Total Dismantling of the Corrupt All-Mail Ballot Regime that Has Defrauded the People of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands for Far Too Long** Esteemed Commissioners, I appear before you not merely as a citizen of the State of Hawai'i, but as a sovereign representative of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands and Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party, bearing the unassailable mandate of an outraged populace that has endured years of documented electoral fraud, institutional betrayal, and brazen violations of both state and federal law. The December 3, 2025 agenda you have published is nothing less than a confession of systemic rot. Your own Permitted Interaction Group reports, formal complaints, Sunshine Law appeals, and the looming federal lawsuit *Bernegger v. Nago* (1:25-cv-00482-JAO-RT) constitute prima facie evidence of widespread mail-ballot fraud, broken chain-of-custody protocols, and deliberate disparities between counties that have turned our sacred franchise into a criminal enterprise. Let there be no ambiguity: the current all-mail voting apparatus, foisted upon the people by Act 136 (SLH 2019), has transformed O'ahu and Maui into open-air ballot-laundering operations where drop-box contents are never reconciled against signatures or voter rolls, while Hawai'i County and Kaua'i are forced to pretend their token ID checks somehow legitimize the same broken system. This engineered fraud. The result? Tens of thousands of phantom ballots, unexplained discrepancies of up to 19,000+ on Hawai'i Island alone, and county-versus-state tally gaps on Kaua'i ranging from 661 to 3,772 votes — discrepancies large enough to steal every close race we have witnessed since 2020. These are not anomalies. These are federal felonies. - 52 U.S.C. § 20511 – Criminal penalties for depriving voters of a fair election through fraudulent ballots - 18 U.S.C. § 241 – Conspiracy against rights - 18 U.S.C. § 1341 – Mail fraud via USPS Business Reply Mail tampering - 18 U.S.C. § 242 – Deprivation of rights under color of law Every commissioner who has voted to conceal, minimize, or obstruct investigation into these crimes is now personally exposed to federal prosecution. Particular condemnation is reserved for: - Commissioner Claire McAdam, Hawaii County's own internal auditor, who presides over the very ballots she is paid to "audit" — the textbook definition of the fox guarding the henhouse. Her refusal to demand reconciliation of Business Reply Mail receipts and her dismissive "unfounded" finding regarding 19,000 excess ballots constitute willful blindness at best, active cover-up at worst. - Commissioner Jeffrey Osterkamp, whose perpetual obstructionism, documented across years of meeting minutes with his reflexive "No" to every audit motion, has become the soundtrack of corruption in this state. His legal sophistry cannot shield him from 18 U.S.C. § 242 liability when he knowingly certifies fraudulent results. The people of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, through the Ohana Unity Party and tens of thousands of supporters across every island, now demand the following immediate actions: 1. Full, independent, third-party forensic audit of the 2024 general election (and every election since all-mail voting was imposed, including physical inspection of every ballot envelope and reconciliation of every USPS BRM receipt. 2. Immediate implementation of uniform, ironclad chain-of-custody procedures across all counties, with mandatory voter ID, bipartisan monitors, and real-time public dashboards. 3. Criminal referral of all findings to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii and the FBI Civil Rights Division for prosecution under the statutes enumerated above. 4. Permanent recusal of Commissioners McAdam and Osterkamp from any matter touching Hawaii County or chain-of-custody issues

due to irreconcilable conflicts of interest. 5. Legislative repeal of Act 136 (SLH 2019) and restoration of in-person voting as the default method, with mail voting restricted to verified absentee cases only. The era of hiding behind “administrative inconvenience” is over. The people are awake, organized, and unafraid. We will not rest until every perpetrator of this multi-year theft of our sovereignty is held fully accountable — in this life or the next. On behalf of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands and the Ohana Unity Party, I submit this testimony with the full weight of history behind it. Let the record reflect: the dirty bastards have been formally nailed. Me ke aloha ‘āina, Master Shelby “Pikachu” Billionaire, HRM Chairman, Ohana Unity Party Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands Support the movement: Venmo @Presidentbillionaire | CashApp \$ShelbyBillionaire BTC 1sRfKDphW18hojoyTQVy9qQVSUtQgahYwj YouTube @PikachuBillionaire – Subscribe for live coverage of the reckoning.

From: [Patricia Pearce](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for the Weds.Dec 3 Elections committee meeting, to protect mail-in voting
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 1:06:29 PM

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Everybody in this room knows that old saying, as a kinder way of reminding someone that whatever they're considering changing will only make it worse. When I moved here 2 years ago from a state in the mainland southeast, I was delighted to see that Hawaii had such an incredibly easy, efficient, and secure method of allowing people to cast their votes by mail... after establishing my address, identity, and personal signature with the state in the process of obtaining my driver's license, I was saved having to jump through any additional hoops to obtain ballots for the next cycle of elections. And when those elections came and I cast my ballot by mail, I was blown away (in a good way) with the confirmatory email that landed in my inbox less than 2 days later. I've found out since that Hawaii is recognized as a national leader for this process, being one of only 5 states where the majority of residents do vote using this mail-in ballot option, saving them untold amounts of lost work time

and hassle. And Hawaii is doing it right, with safeguards for verifying identity, verifying signature , and sending prompt confirmation to my personal email inbox. It's a smart way to do it, and I'm proud to live in a state that, at least up till now, has led the way in hosting secure, efficient elections.

That southeast state I moved here from has an ugly history of intentional voter suppression in its past... throwing down obstacles designed to disenfranchise voters who didn't look like them, perhaps driven also by fear that they might not think like them either in their political preferences. It's called discrimination, and whether it's race-based or partisan-based, both are blatantly illegal as well as being a dark blot on this country's past history.

So, if it ain't broke don't fix it... the majority of your constituents really don't want to see their hard-earned right to vote taken away, or even threatened by those in power who would make it far more difficult to vote, for no rational reason

whatsoever. If your goal is to safeguard our democracy, then leave Hawaii's present voting system intact. Whether intentional or not, dismantling it with any threat to mail-in ballots will only serve to further degrade democracy for us all.

All of this is to urge you to preserve and protect the current HI system of mail-in voting against others' attempts to weaken or do away with this as well as early voting options... we need to continue to protect voting rights for all in this state, especially for those disabled and other individuals dependent on this system to have their voices heard.

Patricia Pearce

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