



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A
PROPOSAL TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE COST AND PERSONNEL
REQUIRED TO PREPARE AND DISTRIBUTE
A VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

April 20, 2023

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 87. This resolution requests the Office of Elections to prepare and submit a proposal to the Legislature on the cost and personnel requirements to prepare and distribute a voter information guide.

We believe an informed electorate is important for the health of our democracy, however, it is important for the integrity of the election that our office remain apolitical. As such, to compile a voter information guide, we would ask all candidates to submit their statement for inclusion in the voter information guide when they file their nomination paper. Likewise, we would ask that statements regarding ballot questions be submitted to our office for distribution.

For the primary election voter guide, after the candidate filing deadline, we would translate and compile these statements to make them available on our website. Pursuant to the federal Voting Rights Act, our office translates ballots and voter information into Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog. The voter information guide would need to be available at least 45 days before each election to coincide with ballots being sent to uniformed and overseas voters.

For the general election, we would ask that the voter information regarding ballot questions, including translations, be transmitted to our office not later than the 75th day prior to the election. This deadline matches the current deadline to receive ballot questions for placement on the general election ballot. Like with the primary election, the voter information guide would be published at least 45 days before the election when ballots are transmitted to uniformed and overseas voters.

Our cost estimate totals \$171,248 for both elections.

	Primary	General	Total
Translations	53,280	0	53,280
Printed Instructions	30,000	30,000	60,000
Inserting Instructions	15,000	15,000	30,000
Copies to Libraries	13,984	13,984	27,968
Total	\$112,264	\$58,984	\$171,248

If a voter was to request a copy be printed and mailed, we estimate \$15.00 per piece. We propose referring voters to copies at the libraries for public viewing instead of mailing copies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 87.

HCR-87

Submitted on: 4/14/2023 8:13:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/20/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Klungness	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. I moved here from Oregon in 1999 and was quite surprised to learn that there was no voters' pamphlet of any kind that went to every registered voter, like had been done in Oregon for years. I believe strongly that an informed voter is an effective voter. A Voters' Information Guide would go a long way towards creating an educated electorate.

HCR-87

Submitted on: 4/14/2023 11:06:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/20/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE do not want any VOTER Guide what we want is to Have Elections by Paper Ballots a that are secure for Cheating. We will not stand for any Cheating in Hawaii. You will have to pay the Price for this Disgrace Of Hawaii!!!!

HCR-87

Submitted on: 4/18/2023 6:35:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/20/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, & Committee Members:

The [final report of the Speaker's Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct](#) (CISC) recommended an online voter information guide at page 34:

"The Commission finds that Hawaii's voter turnout is well below the national average for each election. In addition, registered voters may not have access to or be aware of information on the candidates or issues on their ballots. The Commission vetted the draft of this proposal with the Office of Elections, as it would require the Office of Elections to prepare a voter information guide to educate voters on each candidate's positions and their candidate statements and provide ballot question analyses."

CISC Commissioner Janet Mason with the League of Women Voters was especially helpful in this regard.

An online voter information guide should be readily achievable given that the Office of Elections already has information on its website in English, Hawaiian, and languages required by the Voting Rights Act.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.