



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87
AND HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 94

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

March 23, 2023

Chair Tarnas and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 87 and House Resolution No. 94. These resolutions request 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 and House Resolution No. 94.