

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 179, HD 1
RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

March 16, 2015

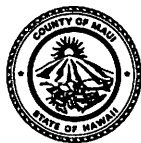
Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 179, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to require that the forwarding address of a permanent absentee ballot be the in-state mailing address contained in the voter's registration record.

We have found that some permanent absentee voters are listing an out-of-state address as their permanent forwarding address. While we understand that a voter may envision that they will be out of the state for an extended period of time, it is inconsistent with the concept of in-state residency to declare that one will be permanently out-of-state.

A seasonal absentee application is available for individuals who may be out-of-state at the time of the election, such as students who are away at school on the mainland, or members of the military deployed out-of-state. This application permits a voter to request a mail ballot to be forwarded to any address. These individuals will only temporarily be out-of-the state and have the intent to return. This is consistent with our voter registration laws regarding in-state residency that speak of a voter having the intention to return to one's residence. HRS § 11-13.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 179, HD 1.

DANNY A. MATEO
County Clerk



JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 179, HD 1

RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

MARCH 16, 2015

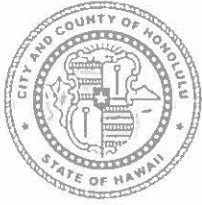
Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 179, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to specify the in-state mailing address in a voter's registration record as the forwarding address for receiving absentee ballots permanently. Also, this bill requires voters seeking a permanent absentee ballot with a different forwarding address to re-apply for an absentee ballot.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui, supports House Bill No. 179, HD 1.

The purpose of the permanent absentee application is to allow voters to remain on the absentee mail list for each election without having to re-apply every year, provided they follow certain conditions. However, we found that voters were updating their voter registration information, but not their permanent absentee record.

Allowing permanent absentee voters to have their ballot mailed to the in-state mailing address on their most recently completed affidavit on application for voter registration will ensure that their permanent absentee record is also updated and reduce the number of undeliverable absentee mail ballots.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 179, HD 1.



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077
TELEPHONE:(808)768-3810 • FAX:(808)768-3835

GLEN TAKAHASHI
ACTING CITY CLERK

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI
ACTING CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 179, HD 1
RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

March 16, 2015

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We support the intent of this bill to help preserve the permanent absentee status of a registered voter by synchronizing the ballot forwarding address with the voter's registration mailing address. We feel if the ballot forwarding address were limited to the county in which the voter is registered, it would better support the integrity of the permanent absentee voter list.

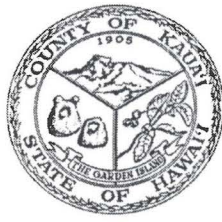
We would like to propose for your consideration a conforming amendment to HRS § 11-15 (a) (4) as follows:

(4) Residence, including mailing address within the county;

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 179, HD 1.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800
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JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk

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ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 179, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

March 16, 2015

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 179, HD 1. This Bill specifies the mailing address in a voter's registration record as the forwarding address for receiving absentee ballots permanently and requires voters seeking to have permanent absentee ballots forwarded to another address to re-apply for an absentee ballot.

This Bill will make it easier for permanent absentee ballot (PAB) voters to maintain updated information in their PAB records by allowing the submittal of a single voter registration application to simultaneously update both their voter registration and PAB records.

This simplified means for updating PAB records will reduce the number of outdated mailing addresses in the PAB file and result in a corresponding decrease in the number of undeliverable PAB ballot packets which are returned to the county clerk.

The decrease in the number PAB ballot packets which are returned to the county clerks will in turn reduce the number of ballot packets which need to be re-mailed so the cumulative effects of this Bill should result in some postage savings and improve the PAB process overall.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 179, HD 1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Monday, March 16, 2015, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016
TESTIMONY
HB 179 HD 1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS
Susan Irvine, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabakuro and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 179 HD1 that specifies the in-state mailing address in a voter's registration record as the forwarding address for receiving absentee ballots permanently and that requires voters seeking to have permanent absentee ballots forwarded to another address to re-apply for an absentee ballot.

The League supports this bill, which has been introduced by the Office of Elections and is supported by County Clerks in their previous testimony. As Chief Elections Officer, Scott Nago, said in his testimony supporting HB 179, "The permanent absentee form is meant to be used by residents who no longer want to go to the polls and would prefer the convenience of receiving their ballot at home. ... some voters are now listing an out-of- state address as their permanent forwarding address. ... it is inconsistent with the concept of in-state residency to essentially declare that one will be permanently out-of-state." The League of Women Voters agrees. Permanent absentee addresses need to be in the State of Hawaii. If one is temporarily out-of-state, one can apply for a seasonal absentee ballot for an election or election cycle.

According to testimony from our County Clerks, this bill will relieve them of time-consuming problems with returned permanent absentee ballots.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 179 HD 1.