

**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800  
TTY: (808) 241-5116



**SCOTT K. SATO**  
Deputy County Clerk

Facsimile: (808) 241-6207  
E-mail: elections@kauai.gov

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

**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
**COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI**  
**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**ON SENATE BILL NO. 2113, SD 1**  
**RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

February 24, 2016

Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

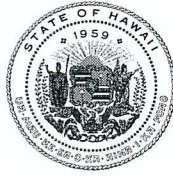
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2113, SD 1. This Bill would allow for the pre-Election Day opening of voted absentee mail ballot envelopes following signature verification. Additionally, the Bill would authorize the counting of valid absentee mail ballots beginning no earlier than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the election but continue to prohibit the release of any election results until all polls have closed statewide.

The popularity of absentee mail voting is growing with each election, but the amount of time allotted for scanning (counting) the increasing number of mail ballots remains static. This current model places a huge strain on both the volunteers needed to manually separate voted ballots from ballot return envelopes and election personnel operating ballot counting equipment, and will soon approach a point where it will no longer be possible to count all absentee mail ballots in a single day.

This Bill is a proactive measure that will spread work required to prepare and count absentee mail ballots over several days rather than continuing to compress the entire process into a single day as is currently the case.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2113, SD 1.

**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
County Clerk, County of Kauai



**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 WAYS AND MEANS  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2113, SD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

**February 24, 2016**

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2113, SD 1. This bill allows absentee ballots to be processed and counted prior to election day.

In recent years, the number of ballots cast by mail or at an absentee walk location has increased to over half of the total ballots cast. Currently, all processing and counting of mail ballots occur on election day. This bill emulates processes and procedures of election by mail jurisdictions to address the continuing increase in the number of absentee mail ballots.

Each voter requesting an absentee mail ballot is provided 1) a ballot; 2) a secret ballot envelope for the ballot; and 3) a return ballot envelope that is to be signed by the voter and that will contain the secret ballot envelope. The bill proposes that the signature validation and opening of the outer return envelope be permitted to occur as ballots are received by the county clerks, with official observers able to be present during that time frame. The internal secret ballot envelope would remain sealed within the return envelope, and the ballots stored in a secured container.

Beginning on the fifteenth day prior to the election, election officials could begin to remove the secret ballot envelopes from the return envelopes, open the secret ballot envelopes, remove the ballots, and scan the ballots through the vote

counting equipment. Again, official observers would be authorized to be present during this process. No person present during the counting would be permitted to disclose any information concerning how voters voted on a particular contest or question, and results will not be produced or distributed until close of polls on election day.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2113, SD 1.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkailianu57@gmail.com](mailto:rkailianu57@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2113 on Feb 24, 2016 13:00PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:37:36 PM

---

**SB2113**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkailianu57@gmail.com](mailto:rkailianu57@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2113 on Feb 24, 2016 13:00PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:37:05 PM

---

**SB2113**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)