

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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GLEN TAKAHASHI
ACTING CITY CLERK

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI

ACTING CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

ON SENATE BILL NO. 442, SD 1

RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

March 20, 2015

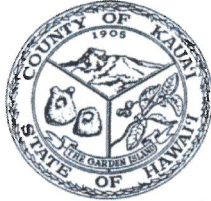
Chair Rhoads and Committee members:

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 limiting the ballot forwarding address to the county in which the voter is registered would better support the integrity of the permanent absentee voter list.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 442, SD 1.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 442, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

March 20, 2015

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 442, SD 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 which simultaneously updates 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This simplified means for updating PAB records will reduce the number of outdated mailing addresses in the PAB file and result in a corresponding decrease in the number of undeliverable PAB ballot packets which are returned to the county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 effect of this Bill should result in some postage savings and improve the PAB process overall.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 442, SD 1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk

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
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TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 442, S.D. 1

RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

MARCH 20, 2015

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 442, S.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to specify the 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 Senate Bill No. 442, S.D. 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 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 Senate Bill No. 442, S.D. 1.



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Friday, March 20, 2015, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325
SB 442 SD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS
Susan Irvine, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Joy A San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

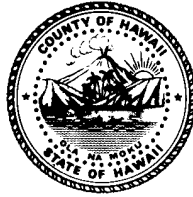
The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 442 SD1 that specifies the mailing address in a voter's registration record as the forwarding address for receiving absentee ballots permanently and that requires voters seeking to have permanent absentee ballots forwarded to another address to re-apply for an absentee ballot.

The League supports this bill, which has been introduced by request from the Office of Elections and is supported by County Clerks in their testimony on companion bill, HB 179. As Chief Elections Officer, Scott Nago, said in his testimony supporting the companion house bill, "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 SB 442 SD1.

STEWART MAEDA
County Clerk



JON HENRICKS
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elections Division
County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

TESTIMONY OF STEWART MAEDA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 442, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

March 20, 2015

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 442, S.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to specify the mailing address in a voter's registration record as the forwarding address for receiving absentee ballots permanently. This bill also, requires voters seeking to have permanent absentee ballots forwarded to another address to re-apply for an absentee ballot.

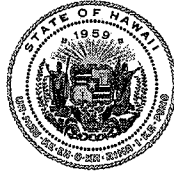
The office of the County Clerk, County of Hawai'i, supports Senate Bill No. 442, S.D. 1.

The purpose of the permanent absentee application is to allow voters to remain on the absentee mail list without having to reapply every election year. Presently a permanent absentee voter is required to maintain current information in two separate records, a voter registration record and a permanent absentee record. Permanent absentee ballots are mailed to the mailing address on the permanent absentee record.

However, we have found that permanent absentee voters will update their voter registration record but not their permanent absentee record. In this situation, the absentee ballots are being returned to the elections office by the Postal Service as undeliverable.

Senate Bill No. 442, S.D. 1 will allow permanent absentee voters to have their ballot mailed to the mailing address on their most recently completed voter registration affidavit. This would significantly improve and simplify the application and re-application process for the permanent absentee voter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 442, S.D. 1.



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 442, SD 1
RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

March 20, 2015

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support on Senate Bill No. 442, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to require that the forwarding address of a permanent absentee ballot be the mailing address within the county 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 Senate Bill No. 442, SD 1.