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**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1753
RELATING TO VACANCIES**

February 3, 2020

Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1753. The purpose of this bill is to amend filing deadlines for candidates attempting to fill vacant state senate seats.

Currently, if a vacancy occurs after the close of candidate filing, a candidate who has already filed will find themselves in a situation where they cannot withdraw and file for the special vacancy election. The ability for a candidate to withdraw for any reason is limited to the day immediately following the close of filing. HRS §11-117(a). As such, we are proposing amending HRS §17-3 to coincide with the close of candidate filing.

Further, this bill amends the timing of a vacancy that occurs later than the tenth day prior to the close of candidate filing through the ninety-fifth day prior to the general election. This is meant to establish a single special election to be held in conjunction with the general election with candidates nominated by the county committees of the political parties and a nonpartisan candidate selected by lot. This language is similar to the existing language in HRS § 17-3(b)(3), however, the deadlines have been amended to meet the federal requirement of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to mail covered voters a ballot 45 days prior to the election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1753.

HB-1753

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 2:58:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/3/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: