



**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  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2609, SD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

**March 12, 2020**

Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2609, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to include agents of candidates listed on ballots among the persons prohibited from providing voting assistance at voter service centers and in the use of absentee ballots.

This bill ensures the integrity of our elections by identifying agents of candidates as individuals who cannot provide voting assistance. We would propose that this bill also add similar language to HRS § 11-104, which covers envelopes used in elections by mail, as the measure is currently limited to HRS § 15-6 concerning absentee voters. Otherwise, it may be interpreted that this bill only applies to a small subsection of voting by mail in which voters request absentee ballots, as opposed to all voters who are mailed a ballot as part of elections by mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2609, SD 1.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
[www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com) | 808.531.7448 | [voters@lwv-hawaii.com](mailto:voters@lwv-hawaii.com) | @LWV-Hawaii on Facebook

## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, March 12th, 2020, 2:30 pm., Room 325  
SB 2609 SD1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS

### TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2609 SD1, which adds those working for a candidate's campaign or their campaign committee to the list of individuals prohibited from helping voters when filling out their ballots.**

This measure is a reasonable step towards ensuring that voters receive ample opportunity to get assistance in casting their ballot, and that they are free from undue partisan influence when doing so. We are very pleased to notice that the definition of "agent of a candidate" was clarified in SD1 to prevent confusion, and that the effective date asked for by the Office of Elections is that provided in SD1. We also support an effective date of January 1st, 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
Thursday, March 12, 2020  
2:31 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**SB 2609, SD1**  
**RELATING TO ELECTIONS.**

Chair LEE, Vice Chair SAN BUENAVENTURA, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments on SB 2609, SD1 which includes agents of candidates listed on ballots among the persons prohibited from providing voting assistance at voter service centers and in the use of absentee ballots.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts.

Common Cause Hawaii comments that SB 2609, SD1, prohibiting agents of a candidate, defined as persons who receive compensation from the candidate, candidate's committee, or are official officers of the candidate committee, from providing voters with assistance at voter service centers and absentee ballots may operate to secure the integrity of vote-by-mail. Common Cause Hawaii, however, notes that voter fraud is exceedingly rare. See [https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legal-work/Briefing\\_Memo\\_Debunking\\_Voter\\_Fraud\\_Myth.pdf](https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legal-work/Briefing_Memo_Debunking_Voter_Fraud_Myth.pdf).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 2609, SD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii