



**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 FINANCE
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1005, SD 2, HD 1
RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

April 5, 2023

Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 1005, SD 2, HD 1. This bill establishes presidential preference primaries; and makes an appropriation.

We want to emphasize that our office does not conduct closed primary elections, and political affiliation is not collected nor is it a requirement to register to vote. The conduct of a presidential preference primary election would need to comply with Article II, Section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution, which provides “[s]ecrecy of voting and choice of political party affiliation or nonpartisanship shall be preserved.” Our voter registration laws do not involve individuals registering or affiliating with a particular party. Instead, voters select the political affiliation on their primary election ballot. The conduct of a presidential preference primary election would have to be at the same time, date, and manner for all qualified political parties and voters, to prevent voters from voting in the State-conducted presidential primary as well as participating in their party-run nomination process and to comply with the provisions of the State Constitution.

The conduct of a presidential preference primary election would require the Office of Elections to conduct candidate filing, including an objection and appeal process, print and mail ballots to all registered voters, support and maintain the voting equipment, and count, report, and audit the ballots. The County Clerks would also be responsible for voter registration, absentee voting, voter service centers, and places of deposit at the cost of the State. Our estimate of the costs of State responsibilities is \$3,987,024 for over 900,000 registered

voters. Our estimate does not reflect the need for any costs accrued by the counties.

From our previous testimony, we have revised our cost estimates related to the consumables for mail ballot packet which include ballot paper, printing, and envelopes to provide replacement ballot packets, voter service center ballots, and spoilage. Additionally, we have revised the estimated costs of counting center facilities, as we would not be able to use the Hawaii State Capitol as the Oahu Counting Center for the presidential preference primary as the Legislature will be in session. Our new estimate accounts for the use of the Hawaii Convention Center, which was used as a counting center for the 2020 Elections. We have also added the cost to produce the accessible format ballot and vote data storage devices used to tabulate the results.

Mail Ballot Packet - Ballot and Envelopes	\$ 308,160
Ballot Printing Services	252,000
Ballot Mailing Services	237,774
Accessible Format Ballot	20,350
Vote Data Storage Devices	33,000
Postage (Outgoing)	452,213
Postage (Incoming)	569,789
Ballot Tracking	60,000
Counting Center Volunteers	192,500
Counting Center Facility	800,000
Staff Overtime	155,400
Voting System Vendor	538,995
Voter Education Campaign	366,843
Initial Estimate	<u><u>\$3,987,024</u></u>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 1005, SD 2, HD 1.

MOANA M. LUTEY
County Clerk



RICHELLE M. THOMSON
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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

April 4, 2023

Hawaii House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: Senate Bill No. 1005, SD2, HD1, relating to the election of the President

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 1005, SD2, HD1, establishing presidential preference primary elections in the State of Hawaii.

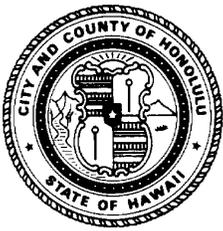
A presidential preference primary election would require the County of Maui to administer Candidate Filing, Voter Registration, Voter Service Centers, Places of Deposit, in-house mailing of ballots, and receiving of ballots on all three of Maui County's islands. We estimate the initial cost of conducting a presidential preference primary election for nearly 116,000 registered voters to be in excess of \$600,000.00. The cost estimates reflect a program that would provide similar services and resources deployed during the 2020 and 2022 Primary and General Elections.

The presidential primary would occur in the midst of candidate filing, which will complicate staffing and operations. Therefore, we request that if the effective date is modified from the present version that the earliest applicable presidential election would be the election of 2028 to allow sufficient time for planning, procurement, and staffing.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Thomson", is written over a white background.

RICHELLE M. THOMSON
Deputy County Clerk



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3099
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3800 • FAX: (808) 768-3835

TESTIMONY
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1005 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

April 5, 2023

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1005 SD2 HD1. The bill proposes to conduct a presidential preference primary election in March of certain election years.

The Office of the City Clerk takes no position on the merits of the proposal but notes that the outcome of the 'election' would have no bearing on the candidate names that may be subsequently included on the general election ballot later in the year.

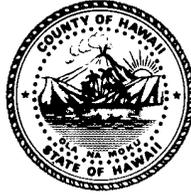
We broadly estimate that the cost expected to be incurred by the Honolulu Elections Division for this 'federal contest only' election to be \$775,000. This estimate is comprised primarily of labor and other costs associated with processing returned vote-by-mail ballot envelopes (i.e. signature/authentication activities), the full complement of places of deposit, voter service centers, and an informational direct mail notification to educate voters.

As you are likely aware, each County is engaged in annual budgeting activities that do not contemplate conducting a presidential preference election next year. For regularly scheduled elections, we typically find ourselves procuring certain services as early as eight months prior the regularly scheduled elections. If this matter is to move forward, funding for the anticipated County expenses would need to be made available by September 2023. This would enable the Honolulu Elections Division (and all election offices) to enter into the necessary contractual obligations associated with the effort.

As one might expect, in addition to accommodating the above time constraint, the requirement to conduct a third and entirely new statewide election would also involve a litany of preparations and marshalling of resources. As such, if the committee desires to advance this measure, the City requests the committee consider 2028 as the earliest date for implementation to allow sufficient time for planning, procurement, and staffing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB1005 SD2 HD1.

JON HENRICKS
County Clerk



AARON BROWN
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 JON HENRICKS

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

ON SENATE BILL NO. 1005, SD 2, HD 1

RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

April 4, 2023

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 1005, SD 2, HD 1. This bill establishes presidential preference primaries and makes appropriations.

A presidential preference primary election would require the County of Hawai'i to administer Candidate Filing, Voter Registration, Voter Service Centers, Places of Deposit, in-house mailing of ballots, and receiving of ballots. We estimate our initial cost of conducting a presidential preference primary election for nearly 132,000 registered voters to be approximately \$258,075.00.

If passed in current form, this bill would require the presidential preference primary election to be conducted in the early months of 2024. This timeframe directly coincides with intense preparations for the regularly scheduled primary and general elections. Should the committee decide to advance this measure, we kindly ask the effective date be amended for implementation in 2028 to allow sufficient time to properly plan and execute a presidential preference primary election.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 1005, SD 2, HD 1.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

April 5, 2023

TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1005, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Chair Yamashita and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 1005, SD2, HD1. This Bill establishes presidential preference primaries for the state of Hawai'i and makes appropriations.

Our office takes no position on this Bill but notes that in addition to costs already reported by the State Office of Elections, we anticipate needing an additional \$147,500 to conduct a presidential preference primary election.

Temporary Staff	\$45,000
Staff Overtime	25,000
Election Notification Mailing Vendor	7,500
Postage*	25,000
Voter Service Center Volunteers	15,000
Voter Education (County-specific)	30,000
	<hr/>
	\$147,500

*For outgoing Notifications and return postage for undeliverable Notifications.

Senate Bill 1005, SD2, HD1 will introduce significant operational and fiscal challenges for our County, especially given the proposed date of the election. Therefore, we respectfully request that the effective date be changed to 2028 to allow for adequate time to plan for the election, procure necessary equipment, and hire and train staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill No. 1005, SD2, HD1.


JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB 1005 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF THE
PRESIDENT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

JASON BRADSHAW, CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII LABOR CAUCUS

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawaii Labor Caucus **offers comments on SB 1005, SD2, HD1**, relating to the election of the president. This bill establishes a date for presidential primaries, as well as signature and fee requirements for a person to be nominated as a presidential primary candidate.

As part of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Labor Caucus we support a state run presidential primary; **however, it would have to be a closed primary with only those registered as members of the Democratic Party voting, and that would require a State Constitutional Amendment for it to be state run.** In our last SCC meeting for the Democratic Party of Hawaii, it was specifically stated that only members of the Democratic Party should be able to vote for the choice of which candidate should be the choice of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i for president. If this cannot be done by the state, then the Democratic Party must continue to run our own Presidential Preference Poll with our members to ensure that our choice of a primary candidate for president is indeed, a choice of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i members.

The Labor Caucus supports a closed primary for the Presidential Preference Poll, which would deter crossover voting. An open primary would allow all unaffiliated voters to cast a vote for a Primary candidate and crossover voting.

As members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, we must abide by our DPH Constitution as amended by our last State Convention on 05/28/2022

Art. I, Sec. 1

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that its primary election, a state-imposed mandatory nomination procedure, ought to be open to participation of only such persons as are willing to declare their affiliation with and support for the Party, either through public registration to vote, or through maintenance of membership in the Party.

The Party further believes that the current Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, by maintaining secrecy of affiliation, and by compelling the Party to admit to its nomination procedures those who may have no interest in, or actually oppose the interests, values, and platform of the Party, do violence to the Party's associational freedoms and the individual

freedoms of its membership to define their own political views, guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.

Art. VIII, Sec. 8

The resolving clauses of resolutions, except for those clauses that refer to a specific date, event, or legislative session, once adopted by delegates at a convention of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall represent the official policies of the Party and shall remain in force and effect until rescinded or amended by the delegates at an annual or special convention.

To: FIN Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair and Committee members

Date of Hearing: April 5, 2023, at 2 p.m., Rm. 308

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1005 Relating to the Election of the President

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of SB1005 relating to the selection of President candidates.

The strength of a democracy is in the participation of its citizens in the democratic process. It has never been more important to assure transparency and the widest possible participation of America's citizens and voters in the selection of their candidates and elected leaders.

Once every four years, a government-run presidential primary is a reasonable price to pay to strengthen our democracy and ensuring the participation of voters in the selection of the leadership of the nation.

The Hawai'i legislature has made voting and registering to vote easier and more convenient. Voting by mail and automatic registration at driver's license renewal were important advancements in citizen participation.

Prior to 2016, the selection of the Democratic candidate for President was done in caucuses. I recall how registered Democrats met in school cafeterias and community centers, we gathered to select our Democratic Party's presidential candidate. We gathered at a specific date and time to cast our vote. I went to Koko Head Elementary School, but many could not participate, those who didn't drive at night, the disabled, those who had to work, those with childcare or family issues, or, as in the 2008 or 2012 elections, voters couldn't find parking or get through the crowds to cast a vote.

In 2020, in an effort to expand participation beyond caucuses, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i held a Party-run Presidential Primary. It was a mail-in ballot, so physical access or attendance was not a problem. However, not all Democrats are registered, and only registered Democrats received a ballot. In 2020, 35,000 Democrats voted in the first Party-run Presidential Primary. By contrast, over 290,000 voted for Senator Schatz and over 260,000 voted for a Democratic governor in the 2022 General election. Clearly only a fraction of Hawaii voters have ever participated in the selection of a presidential candidate. This bill would allow all voters the opportunity to participate in the selection of their party's presidential candidate.

Hawai'i needs to join the states that have moved to a State-run presidential primary. Please pass SB1005.

Thank you,

Amy Monk

DNC Committeewoman for Hawai'i

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:40:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa H. Gibson	Indivisible Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for this bill which will strengthen Hawaii's participatory democracy.

STONEWALL CAUCUS

FORMED IN 2001



THE FIRST CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

April 3, 2023

House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 5, 2022 at 2:00 PM

RE: **OPPOSITION for Senate Bill 1005 SD 2**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and fellow committee members,

I am writing opposition for House Bill 1485 on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, in its current form.

SB 1005 would establish a date for presidential primaries, as well as signature and fee requirements for a person to be nominated as a presidential primary candidate.

The Stonewall Caucus held a talk-story to discuss the subject of this bill. Everyone, caucus member or not, were invited to attend.

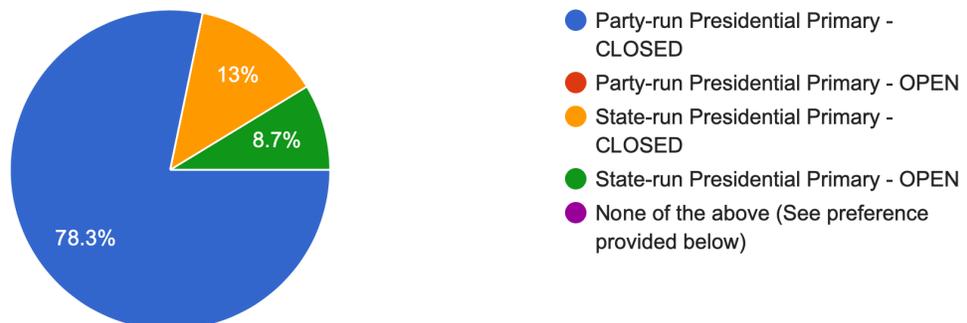
Here are the resources from that event:

1. Recording of the primer that was used before we opened the floor for discussion: <https://youtu.be/3-3TIm8GxM> (13 minutes long)
2. Slide deck used for the talk-story: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VQH-cS2E7Pqcrz7Uut1Lv5FXwwSRL5Q/view?usp=share_link

The results from the survey show OVERWHELMING support (91.3%) for a Closed Primary no matter who runs it, which coincides with what is dictated to the DPH by our foundational documents.

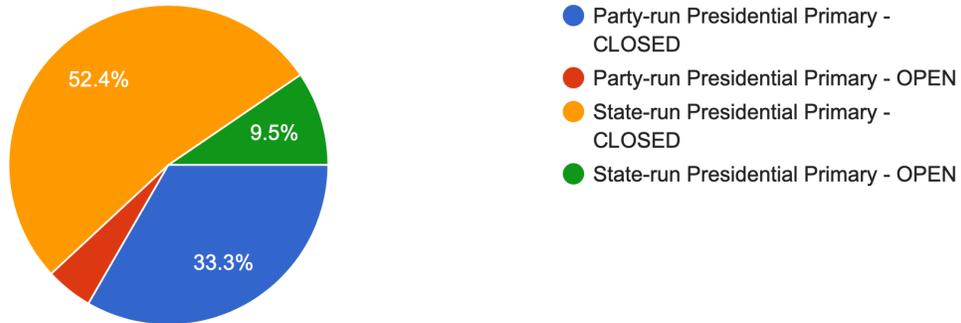
For the 2024 Presidential Primary which of the following proposals do you support the most:

23 responses



For the 2024 Presidential Primary which of the following proposals do you support the second most:

21 responses



It should be noted that the 2 people that did not give a 2nd choice picked “Party-run Presidential Primary – CLOSED” as their 1st choice.

Given the responses from our members, plus the Caucus’ long-standing position on this matter, and what is in the Democratic Party of Hawai’i’s foundational documents in our Constitution¹ and Resolution² the Stonewall Caucus can ONLY be able to support a CLOSED Presidential Primary. The Caucus understands for the State to run a closed Presidential Primary it would require an amendment to the State Constitution.

The Caucus can also think of a lot of better ways of spending \$2.7+ million dollars.

Without any amendments to the bill to ensure a closed Presidential Primary we must oppose SB 1005.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

¹ Article 1, Section1 - DPH State Constitution - https://www.hawaiidemocrats.org/files/ugd/cac0ab_e0fbaa66facd465fa9fd16f24cb10dc0.pdf

² GOV 2010-02 Limitation of Voting in Democratic Party Primaries to Party Members - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fYib_Dca9bR4K1kjP-flEfoAiXfW-Ih7/view

DPH Constitution as amended by the State Convention 05/28/2022

Art. I, Sec. 1

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that its primary election, a state-imposed mandatory nomination procedure, ought to be open to participation of only such persons as are willing to declare their affiliation with and support for the Party, either through public registration to vote, or through maintenance of membership in the Party. The Party further believes that the current Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, by maintaining secrecy of affiliation, and by compelling the Party to admit to its nomination procedures those who may have no interest in, or actually oppose the interests, values, and platform of the Party, do violence to the Party's associational freedoms and the individual freedoms of its membership to define their own political views, guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.

Art. VIII, Sec. 8

The **resolving clauses of resolutions**, except for those clauses that refer to a specific date, event, or legislative session, **once adopted by delegates at a convention of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall represent the official policies of the Party and shall remain in force and effect until rescinded or amended by the delegates at an annual or special convention.**

GOV 2010-02 Limitation of Voting in Democratic Party Primaries to Party Members

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fYib_Dca9bR4K1kjP-flEfoAiXfW-lh7/view

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i take all action necessary and proper to limit participation in all Democratic Party primaries within the State of Hawai'i to persons who are bona fide members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and to cause the Hawai'i State Government to institute such limitations in all future primaries as soon as possible; and



Democratic Party of Hawai'i Supports S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1, which amends the state election law to provide for a state-run Presidential Primary to permit the voters of the State of Hawai'i to select by ballot party candidates for the office of President of the United States of America in primary elections organized and controlled by the State of Hawai'i. The benefits of S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1 to the people of the State of Hawai'i far outweigh the costs to the State of Hawai'i.

Article I, Section 1 of the DPH Constitution provides as follows:

Section 1. General. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall be open to all persons who desire to support the Party, who wish to be known as Democrats, and who live in Hawai'i. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that its primary election, a state-imposed mandatory nomination procedure, ought to be open to participation of only such persons as are willing to declare their affiliation with and support for the Party, either through public registration to vote, or through maintenance of membership in the Party. The Party further believes that the current Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, by maintaining secrecy of affiliation, and by compelling the Party to admit to its nomination procedures those who may have no interest in, or actually oppose the interests, values, and platform of the Party, do violence to the Party's associational freedoms and the individual freedoms of its membership to define their own political views, guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.

Notwithstanding the above, we whole heartily support S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1, because we accept the reality of modern politics. State party run caucuses reach out and touch a small number of prospective voters, who may or may not reflect the economic, geographical, and social diversity of our people, even despite our best efforts as partisans to be inclusive.

We seek to promote democracy. We have good reason to be concerned about the process of how we elect our national leaders. We ought to encourage broad participation in an open process to elect our national leaders in a way that strives to be responsive to the needs and wishes of the people.

We believe that a Presidential Primary serves all these goals. We believe in elections that are inclusive, rather than elections that are exclusive, even if this means that we, as self-motivated partisans, must relinquish a certain quality of us being able to promote the niceties of our political views in favor of the political views of the people.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

PO Box 2041 • Honolulu, HI 96805 • www.hawaiidemocrats.org

The President of the United States of America is arguably the most important leader in the free world. It makes a difference who we elect to sit in the Oval Office. So consequential is this matter that we ought to do everything within our power to bring the question of who should be President to each and every registered voter in the State of Hawai'i.

We believe that S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1 will achieve all of this.

S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1 recognizes the need for a special election aligned with the time when our nation turns its attention to the question of who should be our President.

We respectfully suggest that S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1 encourages all our political parties to engage in a uniform process to bring forth their best candidates and to give choice to the people.

A Presidential primary in Hawai'i may induce candidates for the office of President to come to Hawai'i to share with us their hopes, and dreams, and their vision for our collective future. A Presidential primary in Hawai'i may give us with a chance to share with them a sense of our hopes, and dreams, and our vision for our collective future.

S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1 arrives at a time in our nation's history when the legitimacy of public elections is called into question by deniers who seek to cast doubt as to the efficacy of our public institutions. We ought not to sit idly by. We have got to do something.

A Presidential primary will cost money, but the benefit of holding a Presidential primary will substantially outweigh the cost of giving our people a full and fair opportunity to meaningfully participate in our democracy. This is a big deal. This becomes a story of us doing something big to defend our democracy.

Our vote will help to decide who shall be our President. How cool is that? How important is that? It is very cool. It is very important.

We urge passage of S.B. No. 1005 SD2 HD1. We respectfully ask for this bill to become law effective **forthwith**.

Mahalo.

Dennis W. Jung
State Chair
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 2:15:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 4:13:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a closed primary. If SB1005 allows for an open primary, the bill should be deferred.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 5:45:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bickel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying for this bill as an individual. I have had experience with the Central Committee of the Democratic Party, the Affirmative Action Committee of the Party, and the Presidential Preference Poll committee of the Party. I am familiar with the Democratic Party rules for state parties as they choose their delegates to the Democratic National Convention. The Democratic National Committee has been urging us to hold a state run primary. In 2020, we did our first Party-run Presidential Primary. This opened the process to a lot more people than the old caucus system. One reason I like the state-run primary is it opens the process even more. Admittedly I like a closed primary, but I understand the State Constitution makes that unlikely. Yet a primary gives the parties key data that enables the parties to award delegates to national conventions. I also like ranked choice voting. We did it in 2020. You may want to amend the bill to accommodate this. The Democratic Party nationally gives an incentive to hold primaries a little later in the calendar. So Hawaii Democrats got a bonus of two extra delegates in 2020 for holding the primary on or after April 1. Therefore I am pleased HD 1 amended this bill to move the date to early April. For Democrats it is helpful to get the bonus delegates but also to have time between the primary and the state convention. The state conventions usually translate the numbers to named individuals who will go to the national convention. So it is helpful to have some lead time. The mail-in voting system is fine for the Democratic National Committee. They do want drop boxes. We want our presidential nominees to be the ones supported by the party members. President Biden has indicated he wants to see primaries more than caucuses. This bill would help make that a reality. It is big task to ask the parties to run their primaries. Having the state do it ensures it is fair and done with enough resources to do the job.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:21:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Stanley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair House Committee on Finance

Members House Committee on Finance

FROM: Kate Stanley

SUBJECT: SB1005 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Election of the President

I am Kate Stanley testifying in my individual capacity in support of SB1005 SD2 HD1.

As many of you know I served as Interim chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i from August 2019 through August of 2020. During that time the Party had to deal with the impact of COVID, run a Presidential Primary by mail using rank choice, and conduct a State convention using email.

During this time The DNC encouraged States to move away from caucuses, and party run primaries to state run presidential primary elections. Most states now have state run presidential primaries. It is time for Hawai'i to do so.

I have full confidence in the State Office of Elections and the County Clerks to run fair and efficient elections. Elections are important and the state of Hawai'i should be proud of how well our mail ballot system works.

Please support SB 1005 SD2 HD1 by moving this measure forward.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 9:15:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1005 SD2 HD1 because a state run presidential primary will provide more voters with the opportunity to choose our next president. Please support SB 1005 SD2 HD1 to expand the number of people who can participate and vote.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:21:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Klungness	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill. It provides Hawaii a vital voice in the selection of Presidential candidates.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:03:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1005. A Presidential Primary in 2024 would be terrific. I strongly urge support of SB1005.

Thank you for your consideration of my strong support of SB1005.

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Finance Committee:

I write in support of SB1005 SD2 HD1.

I am currently a member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH).

I was one of those persons hurt by the lack of a State-run presidential primary.

When I moved back to this State in 2014, I was not a DPH member. In 2016 I wanted to vote in the Democratic Presidential Primary and awaited notice in the mail. I missed my chance, only realizing that when I found out the caucus had been held. I was puzzled about why nothing came in the mail about the election. I only found out later that there is no State-run Presidential Primary in Hawai'i and that you have to be a registered Democrat to participate. Thus, due to no fault of my own, I was unable to exercise my right to vote. Others in my position and those who just turned 18 will similarly not be aware that extra steps need to be taken in order to vote in a Presidential Primary under this State's current system.

That's why this bill is needed. Under the current law there are hundreds or voters, perhaps thousands, who want to vote in the Presidential Primary but cannot because they lack the knowledge of how the system works.

According to the agencies which would be responsible for conducting a state-run presidential primary, the cost of this bill would be around five million dollars every four years. This would be money well spent. Many voters feel that their vote for President is the most important and consequential one they cast. The President and their Party will run the vast federal bureaucracy for a four-year term. We want as many voters as possible to be able to make this crucial decision. Both parties and the country as a whole benefit by having our President chosen by a broad electorate.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Elton Fukumoto

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:32:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo nui for hearing SB1005. I strongly support this bill with the amendments that have been added to accommodate the reports from the Office of Elections and the County Clerks. This second set of reports were submitted to the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee and are quite thorough. It's important to note, however, that these expenditures occur every four years and need only be included in budget cycles that include Presidential Primary elections.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:25:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Hustace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:18:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering this - it would significantly improve the "voice" of all of Hawai'i's voters and awareness of our unique issues and opportunities by Presidential candidates for all participating parties. At present, we have very little if any "voice" because of the small size of our state and population. This is an investment in supporting long term equity and social justice for the people of Hawai'i.

MAHALO, Patricia (Patti) Cook - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Lisa Kitakawa, Vice-Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 2pm
Room 308

SB1005, RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

My name is Bart Dame. I am speaking as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1005, which would establish a State-run presidential primary, to be held in the Spring every four years.

The number of Hawaii residents wanting to vote in the presidential nominating process has grown to the point where it has outstripped the ability of the political parties to provide a convenient, secure, accurate and verifiable means for them to cast their vote.

The policy question facing legislators is whether there is a public interest in providing Hawaii voters a secure, convenient and verifiable voting system for the presidential primary as is already done by the state for all other primary elections.

These 44 state governments have decided it is in the interest of their citizens for state and county agencies to run a presidential primary:

CHART #1

New Hampshire	Tennessee	Illinois	Nebraska
Nevada	Texas	Ohio	Kentucky
South Carolina	Utah	Louisiana	Oregon
Alabama	Vermont	Wisconsin	Montana
Arkansas	Virginia	Delaware	New Jersey
California	Idaho	Maryland	New Mexico
Colorado	Michigan	Pennsylvania	South Dakota
Maine	Mississippi	Rhode Island	Georgia
Massachusetts	Missouri	Connecticut	
Minnesota	Washington	New York	
North Carolina	Arizona	Indiana	
Oklahoma	Florida	West Virginia	

Only these states continue to use caucuses or party-run primaries:

Alaska	Iowa	Wyoming
Kansas	North Dakota	Hawaii

These territories continue to rely upon party caucuses:

American Samoa Guam Northern Marianas Virgin Islands

But the two largest territories, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC, provide their voters with a government-run presidential primary.

I note the other states without a government-run primary are all run by Republicans. All states appear to be moving away from using party-run caucuses, but it has been the DNC that has been pushing states to move away from caucuses. In 2020, Washington state abandoned the use of caucuses and held a government-run primary. In 2024, Nevada will hold its first state-run presidential primary. **Hawaii is the last holdout among Democratic-led states.**

HISTORICAL TURNOUT IN DPH PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUSES

These figures will help understand what has happened in recent years on the Democratic side. These are Total Statewide turnout figures:

CHART #2

1988	4,975	M. Dukakis v J. Jackson	2008	37,562	H. Clinton v B. Obama
1992	3,014	Clinton v Brown v Harkin	2016	33,734	H. Clinton v B. Sanders
2004	4,080	Kerry v Dean v Kucinich	2020	35,044	Biden v Sanders v et al.

From 1988 to 2004, voting in the Democratic presidential caucuses was very low. Only active party members, plus a few newcomers excited by a particular candidate, showed up. Party volunteers were able to hold meetings, collect and count the votes in full view of those present and report the results.

That changed in 2008 with the Obama v Clinton race. Both campaigns in Hawaii were well-financed and backed by major institutional forces. They flew in professional campaign workers. The local media, and the public, took an interest. The number of people wanting to vote shot up and a voting system that had previously been able to handle a few thousand voters strained and struggled under the load.

Again, in 2016, there was a massive turnout of people wanting to vote in the presidential race and the party volunteers struggled to carry the load. Again, as in 2008, there were news stories about “chaos” at the voting sites. There were long lines of cars trying to get into the school parking lots. There were long lines of voters waiting to register, to join the party, to get their ballots, to vote. At many sites, we ran out of ballots and had to resort to pieces of scrap paper, even torn up cardboard boxes. At some sites, even if we had enough ballots, we ran out of voter registration forms for new voters or party enrollment forms needed so people could join the party prior to voting.

There were long lines of cars trying to get into parking lots and then of voters trying to get ballots to cast. There were many news accounts decrying the “chaos” of the process. Thousands of voters turned away in frustration. I have no doubt the experience has discouraged turnout.

I have attached a news story about the problems at the 2016 voting sites to help refresh your memory. There were similar stories in the Star-Advertiser and on local TV news. (2016 Civil Beat article ATTACHED below.

A PARTY-RUN PROCESS REDUCES VOTER PARTICIPATION

Continuing to rely upon a party-run primary or caucus system significantly reduces voter participation in the selection of the presidential nominees.

Hawaii’s State and county election officials already run partisan primaries for the following offices: State House and Senate, US Congress, Governor and Lt. Governor. Many times more voters participate in those primaries than in selecting the presidential nominees.

CHART #3

VOTES CAST IN HAWAII DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES COMPARED

Race	Year	Votes Cast	
State House	2020	245,000 (est.)	
State Senate	2020	245,000 (est.)	
Governor	2022	251,412	
US Senate (2022)	2022	244,320	
1st Congressional	2020	131,802	
2nd Congressional	2020	131,864	
Total Dem Turnout	2020	306,619	STATE-RUN PRIMARY
President	2020	35,044 11.43%	PARTY-RUN PRIMARY

MAIL-IN, PARTY-RUN PRIMARY, PROBLEMS REMAINS, SECURITY AT RISK

In 2020, the Democrats moved to an all mail-in party-run primary election, in part to make it easier for people to vote without waiting in line or excluding those who could not make it to their local school in a short and specific period of time. The Covid public health crisis hit just at that time, also making in-person voting impossible.

But a mail-in voting system requires, as the most basic safeguard, the ability to verify the signatures on the return envelope to protect against election fraud. I spent six years as an Official Observer of the State election process, asking questions and working to ensure a secure, accurate and verifiable election system. While I have respect for the professionalism and integrity of the contractors who have been helping the Democratic Party of Hawaii run its party-run presidential primary, **neither they nor the Party has access to the signature verification software and database** that is necessary for scanning and verifying the signatures on the envelopes containing returned ballots.

I urge you to ask Scott Nago to explain the measures the State takes to verify signatures on returned ballots and why this is essential to the security of a mail-in election.

CONCLUSION

It has become obvious the number of voters wanting to be involved in helping pick the president has outstripped our abilities. Well-intended, amateurish efforts need to be replaced by the professionalism and efficiency of a state-run primary. Hawaii voters, like those of 44 other states, deserve this support.

I hope you will be able to support SB1005. While my experience has been rooted in the Democratic Party presidential nominating process, I do not believe the bill favors any particular party and that a state-run primary will greatly increase the number of voters participating in the selection of presidential candidates for all parties. The main beneficiary will be the voters of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bart Dame

ATTACHED: CIVIL BEAT 2016 ARTICLE: "CHAOS" in Democratic Caucuses

Caucus ‘Chaos’: Complaints Follow Hawaii Democrats’ Presidential Preference Poll

UPDATED: The state’s Saturday balloting was criticized by many voters, but local party officials defended the process.

By Chad Blair    / March 29, 2016

 Reading time: 8 minutes.



Long lines. Disorganization and poor communication. Voters turned away.

Those are some of the criticisms that have been shared about Saturday’s [presidential preference poll](#), where Hawaii Democrats chose Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

Complaints have been posted on Civil Beat’s report on Sanders’ victory, on Twitter, via email and on the [Facebook page](#) of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. National media [such as NBC](#) shared some of the discontent in news reports.

Were things that bad?

Party Chair Stephanie Ohigashi doesn’t think so.

“I have been trying to follow up on some of these complaints, calling the county chairs,” she said. “For instance, I was told a Big Island poll closed at 1:15 p.m. and people were turned away. “But I checked with Hawaii County Chair Phil Barnes and he said, ‘No, that’s not true.’ So, with some of these things, I am not really sure if it’s just that people weren’t playing by our rules or they are just making accusations.”



Hawaii Democratic caucus voters drop their ballots in a shoebox at Stevenson Middle School in Makiki.

Knowledge of party rules is important to understanding what happened Saturday, said Democrat Bart Dame, who coordinated the Sanders campaign locally.

"One problem we brought on ourselves is we were trying to accomplish two things on the same day," he said. "One was the presidential preference poll and the second was the precinct organization meeting, where we elect our local officers and delegates to the state convention."

That meant holding the polling first and the other business after. The idea was to bring new blood into the party — something that was accomplished, said Ohigashi, who noted that at least 18,000 new members were registered.

Not A State-Run Election

The challenge, however, was that many voters who turned out Saturday seemed to expect the private poll to run just like a state primary or general election.

"I am concerned about the complaints because it creates hostility of the party," said Dame. "But a big part of the problem is under-educated voters. People have been spoiled by the efficiency of the [Office of Elections](#) and come expecting something similar to a government-run election."

That resulted in situations like one that Ohigashi described: Workers at a precinct allowed the last people in line to vote and then turned to completing the balloting process and moving on to other party matters. Ten minutes later, however, a voter and her son walked up expecting to still be able to vote. But, under party rules, it was too late.



A sign at Jefferson Elementary School near Waikiki directing voters where to vote in the caucus.

"Accusations that there was planned disenfranchisement or planned turning away of voters, I doubt very much that happened," she said. "It was probably just a matter of miscommunication."

Not everyone said there were problems at the polls.

Marilyn Lee said, "Our caucus in Mililani was well organized, and went fairly smoothly — thanks to the work of the district chairs, and the many volunteers who came out to help."

Mililani extended the voting until 3 p.m., she said, "so most folks got a chance to vote. There was a crowd that was pretty much good natured."

But Linda Morgan, who voted at the Ocean View Community Center on the Big Island, had a far different experience.



Honolulu City Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi holds ballots in the Manoa Elementary School cafeteria.

"I waited in line a half hour to get into the room, which was packed shoulder to shoulder," Morgan said. "It was impossible to hear the directions of those in charge. It was complete chaos. Many left in frustration before voting. I waited two hours to get my ballot."

Morgan said some participants speculated that the confusion was planned by the party establishment, which has embraced Hillary Clinton, to suppress Sanders voters. But she also observed that if that was the case, it simply didn't work.

Sanders prevailed with 70 percent of the vote to Clinton's 30 percent. All told, 33,716 people voted Saturday — down from the Hillary Clinton versus Barack Obama matchup in 2008, when 37,273 participated. (The results were even more lopsided then, with native son Obama winning 75 percent to 24 percent.)

Voters Turned Away

Still, complaints persist.

Dennis B. Miller, a Sanders supporter who was at Jefferson Elementary School near Waikiki, said, "Ballots were counted before the precinct meeting at District 34 and 35 (Aiea and Pearl City), and while other volunteers were visibly helping a trickle of newly arriving voters. Notice was not given that ballots were going to be counted."

A few officials tried unsuccessfully to stop the counting, said Miller, but the ballots were counted anyway.



Ballot boxes came in various forms throughout Oahu during Saturday's Democratic caucus in Hawaii.

"People who were still arriving to vote were told that they were too late," he said, adding that was the case when he left the precinct after 4 p.m.

"I feel that their precinct meetings are invalid because they were held in violation of Hawaii Democratic Party rules," said Miller. "I feel that the precinct officers and delegates, which were elected in meetings which were held in a manner that violated party rules, are invalid. The meetings need to be held again, ASAP, because those delegates can go to the state party convention and propose changes."

UPDATE: Miller wants to end the caucus, which technically is not a caucus in Hawaii but a presidential preference poll. Miller prefers mail-in and online voting that would replace the caucus.

"That's important, because we're talking about saving the party money and increasing voter participation," he said.

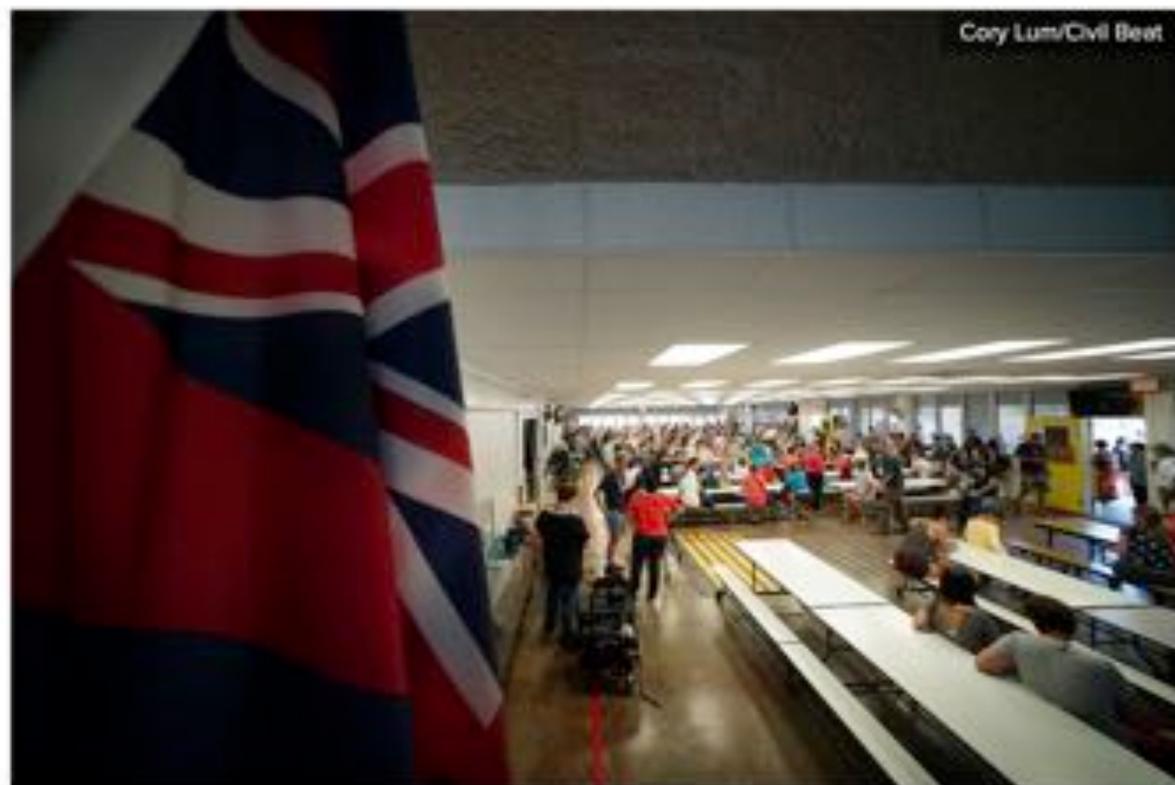
Time For A Primary Instead?

Some suggest a solution to a better-run election is to hold a primary rather than a caucus.

The idea has the interest of U.S. Rep. Mark Takai, a Clinton supporter, who visited three polling sites Saturday on Oahu.

"It ran better this year than it did in 2008," he said, noting that when they ran out of ballots in the previous election, some people voted on scraps of paper.

But Takai said the complaints "resonated" with him, and he said it might be better to hold a traditional primary instead. He said that would make Hawaii similar to Illinois and California, where people vote for president but also other offices.



People gather at Manoa Elementary School cafeteria, one of Saturday's polling locations.

Hawaii Democrats used to caucus on a Tuesday evening but switched to a Saturday at the urging of the Democratic National Committee, said Dame — the same day as party caucuses held in Alaska and Washington state.

The reason is that the state party would be awarded more delegates — 34 as opposed to 31.

Look North To Alaska?

Hawaii Democrats might also consult with their counterparts in Alaska on how to run a caucus.

Jake Hamburg, communications director for the Alaska Democratic Party, said the turnout surpassed the 2008 numbers, even though Alaska is considered a Republican state. Hamburg credited the turnout — 10,617 voters compared with 8,880 eight years ago — to an aggressive outreach campaign that included robocalls to party members letting them know where their caucus was.

The party also held a press availability before the election so that “everyone knew what to expect.”

Hamburg said the feedback he’s heard from Democrats in his state was a sense of “general satisfaction” about the caucus, which Sanders also won by a large margin.

“It was my first caucus and I did not know what to expect, but I walked away with a smile on my face,” he said. “It was so much fun.”

What was especially gratifying, he said, was that Democrats in the 49th state were surprised to see that there were other Democrats who turned out to vote.

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“It was my first caucus and I did not know what to expect, but I walked away with a smile on my face,” he said. “It was so much fun.”

What was especially gratifying, he said, was that Democrats in the 49th state were surprised to see that there were other Democrats who turned out to vote.

“They did not know that there were this many Democrats in Alaska,” he said.

That’s something Democrats in the 50th state never have to worry about — unless it comes to wanting to vote in a Saturday caucus for president of the United States.

About the Author



Chad Blair [✈](#) [✉](#) [📺](#)

Chad Blair is the politics and opinion editor for Civil Beat. You can reach him by email at cblair@civilbeat.org or follow him on Twitter at [@chadblairCB](https://twitter.com/chadblairCB).

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 11:25:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm testifying in opposition of SB1005 and can not support it unless there is an amendment for a closed primary.

In addition there is a significant amount of cost for a state run primary, funds that could be used for other priorities.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Abby Simmons

Honolulu

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 2:13:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Meacham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita,

This is to ask for the passage of SB 1005, regarding Presidential Elections.

Forty-four states have a Presidential Primary, which allows all voters to have a say in deciding which candidate to support in our country's most important election.

However, in Hawai'i the parties have to run their own elections, which reach only the fraction of voters who have signed up as party members. For example, in 2020 the Democratic Party of Hawaii polled its 80,000 enrolled members, who are only 20% of the approximately 400,000 registered voters in Hawaii.

SB 1005 would remedy this by setting up a Presidential Primary every four years, so that all voters would have an opportunity to express their preference. This expansion of democracy would reinforce our state's modern history of increased inclusion and opportunity, and bring us in line with practices in the rest of the country.

Nearly all of the testimony has been in favor of the bill, and it was favorably reported out of the Senate. This is to urge you to continue this effort to broaden participation in our most important election.

NOTE: the expense is only once every four years.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Larry Meacham

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 3:32:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony on my own behalf, but am also speaking as a long-time active Hawai'i Democratic Party member, and recent former State Party Vice Chair.

I believe that our State Democratic Party is no longer in a position to manage an election of this size and that by adopting the language in this bill the State would be doing a service to Democracy and ALL VOTERS, by managing and overseeing this process with their election experience, staff, security resources, and ability to verify signatures on return ballots.

I am in strong support of accessible elections and believe this is a necessary step to take at this point to make sure that we get the highest participation in the primary elections for all those interested in casting a vote.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:38:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I support SB 1005 SD2 HD1

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:40:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a better way to do the presidential election.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:41:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1005.

Kanani Kai

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 6:19:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAMELA SUMMERS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1005 SD2 HD1

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 6:38:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. With concerns over the election process nationally, a State-run Presidential Preference Primary using the rules and procedures already used by the State for the summer Primary and the General Elections is the best option for Hawaii. The current State-run process allows voter access, is inclusive, secure and fair. It is a process that Hawaii voters already know. Thus, it is likely that with a state-run presidential preference primary, more voters would be engaged. A closed primary is preferable.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:55:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1005 SD2 HD1! Thank you!

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:12:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Fine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In our current system, only a very small percentage of registered voters have any say in the Presidential primary election process. And by the time our state primary elections are held in August, the nominees for president have already been chosen in party conventions. This bill, if passed, would give Hawaii a voice (equal to other states of comparable population size) in the selection process of the major political parties.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:45:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARILYN JOHNSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help Hawaii voters care about the primary - it must be before the party conventions!

The current party run "primaries" are a farce, and must be replaced by something that makes Hawaii voters know their vote matters.

Thank you for keeping this bill alive.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:48:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and members of the FIN committee:

I support SB1005.

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:52:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1005 SD2 HD1.

Mahalo for your support for this bill.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:55:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karolle t. bidgood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1005 and ask that you do the same.

Thank you.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 10:51:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace L Hutchinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1005 SD2 HD1

mahalo

aloha

Grace Hutchinso

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 11:35:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in favor of SB 1005 SD2 HD1. I really do believe that having a state-run primary is best for our presidential primary and I agree with the terms set in the bill. It allows for people who do not wish to affiliate with a party to participate in the early rounds of choosing their president.

I am for a ranked presidential vote, and would like it even if it was done in a nonpartisan way where one could rank their preference for candidates regardless of their party affiliation or that of the candidates seeking the presidency. Mahalo for your time.

SB-1005-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 1:01:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cora Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1005 SD2 HD1.

I lived and voted in Northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C. for over thirty years. I served as an election official and as a pollwatcher for many primary elections there. After moving back home to Honolulu where I was born and raised, I have been able to compare the similarities and differences between elections here and there..

My experience and observations leads me to believe that a State-run primary in April for each party's Presidential candidate would provide Hawai'i voters a better opportunity to find out about these elections and be able to trust the process more. Voter turnout, should increase and the candidates who win their primaries should be more of a reflection of the will of voters of Hawai'i rather than the choice of a smaller number of party regulars. It would also standardize how voting is conducted among the parties and perhaps put smaller parties on a more even footing.

Please support this bill.