



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2453
RELATING TO THE VOTING**

February 6, 2026

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2453. This bill requires the Office of Elections to include a notice to voters that a digital and print voter information guide is available; requires the notice to be in thirty-two-point font and enclosed as a separate insert with each ballot; requires the Office of Elections to maintain a notice on its website providing certain information about the voter information guide; requires the Office of Elections to make the digital voter information guide available to the public no later than twenty-one days before the primary election and no later than fifty days before the general election; and appropriates funds.

In the 2024 Elections our office included verbiage on the ballot and secrecy sleeve directing voters to view the digital voter information guide at elections.hawaii.gov. We also promoted the guide through a rotating banner on the homepage of our website and in our advertisements that notified voters that ballots were arriving. For the 2026 Elections, we have moved the verbiage from the secrecy sleeve to a more prominent location on the exterior of the mail ballot packet, and it will continue to appear on the ballot as part of the instructions.

As this bill would require an insert included in the mail ballot packet, we would note the appropriation through this measure would be used for the printing and mailing house services:

	Primary	General	Total
Printed Instructions	30,000	30,000	60,000

Testimony on SB 2453 – Relating to Voting

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<u>Inserting Instructions</u>	15,000	15,000	30,000
Total	\$45,000	\$45,000	<u>\$90,000</u>

We would respectfully request that this bill clarify that the digital version of guide be available to the public at least 45 days before Election Day and that the printed guide be available for viewing at public libraries at least 18 days before Election Day. The 45 days coincides with the distribution of ballots to voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The 18 days coincides with the arrival of mail ballot packets to voters and ensures adequate time for printing and delivery.

As we are currently in the middle of conducting the 2026 Elections, we would also ask that this bill be effective January 1, 2027, for subsequent elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2453.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

February 6, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2453 – Relating to Voting

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Bill 2453 – Relating to Voting. This bill requires the Office of Elections to include a notice to voters that a digital and print voter information guide is available. It requires the notice to be in thirty-two-point font and enclosed as a separate insert with each ballot. It also requires the Office of Elections to maintain a notice on its website providing certain information about the voter information guide, and it requires the Office of Elections to make the digital voter information guide available to the public no later than twenty-one days before the primary election and no later than fifty days before the general election. Appropriates funds.

It is important that digital voter information is offered in an accessible format for persons with disabilities because this allows participation in the elections process by having access to the same information provided to all voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

KRISTINE PAGANO
Acting Executive Director



Committee on Judiciary

Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Friday, February 06, 2026, 09:00 am

Room 016 and Videoconference

SB2453 – RELATING TO VOTING

TESTIMONY

Nette Monaus, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2453, which strengthens Hawai'i's digital voter information guide by ensuring voters are clearly notified of its existence and can easily access accurate, accessible information about candidates, ballot measures, and voting logistics. By improving visibility, accessibility, and timely distribution of the guide, this bill helps voters make informed choices and reduces confusion in the voting process. We advocate prioritizing a digital version to reduce the cost that is associated with producing and distributing print versions.

The League of Women Voters has long held that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of the public. Voter education is a cornerstone of that participation. SB 2453 aligns directly with this principle by investing in voter education and ensuring that all voters—regardless of language, disability, or access to technology—have the information they need to fully engage in our elections.

Voting guides that are widely accessible and easily readable will provide voters with a better opportunity to make informed decisions about the candidates and state measures they are voting for. An improved guide will make what can feel like a daunting process more attainable for citizens and reduce inequalities in political knowledge.

A concerted, well-funded voter education process is essential for a healthy democracy. SB 2453 takes a meaningful step toward that goal. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2453

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:16:00 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Mower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: