



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2461
RELATING TO VOTER INFORMATION**

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. 2461. This bill requires the Office of Elections to prepare a questionnaire on certain issues to which candidates may respond; and requires the Office of Elections to publish any responses provided by a candidate on its website and in the digital voter information guide no later than eighteen days before a primary election.

While this bill is well intentioned, our office does not have the subject matter expertise to pose questions related to the criteria of the proposed candidate questionnaire on policymaking such as state budgeting, tax policy, education systems and ranking, among other things. Further, we believe it would not be appropriate for our office to take on the role of determining and framing the questions that may guide a voter's thought process in deciding how they will choose between competing candidates.

Historically, our office has maintained an apolitical and ministerial role in the conduct of elections. Our focus is on ensuring that voters have the objective tools and information to allow them to vote. Specifically, the mechanics of elections, such as knowing which contests or questions will be on the ballot, the time and location of the election, how to mark a ballot and utilize the voting system, and similar information that facilitates the ability to exercise one's right to vote.

To remain apolitical, we purposely do not create material that may be interpreted as advocacy in relation to ballot questions or contests. In the past, we have distributed

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materials prepared by the Legislature Reference Bureau and most recently the Department of the Attorney General and the county attorneys on ballot questions concerning our state constitution and county charters, respectively, as part of the digital voter guide. HRS §§ 11-118.5 and 11-122.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2461.



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Friday, February 06, 2026, 09:00 am
Room 016 and Videoconference
SB2461 – RELATING TO VOTER INFORMATION

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 2461, which requires the Hawaii Office of Elections to create a short questionnaire (up to 10 questions) for candidates running for public office, starting with the 2028 primary election. The goal of this bill is to give voters additional, easy to understand, information about candidates' positions on major issues in plain terms. This streamlines the voting process, making it much more intuitive for voters to decide whom to support and why, and discourages abstention altogether.

Straightforward, clear positions on the most pressing issues facing the state, written for a voter to read and interpret, can only help the state of Hawaii and its people understand exactly who they are voting for to represent them. A candidate questionnaire published in a voter information guide will elevate the accessibility of information relating to candidates that voters would not otherwise get unless gathering it from debates or other news sources. The results of these questionnaires will be value-added in a voter registration guide that will already be sought after for useful information about the voting process.

SB2461 would introduce more nuance to the voting process and help people make more informed decisions when voting, something that should be strived for by any healthy republic. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

SB-2461

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:17:10 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: