

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 , 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2143
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2143, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish an order of succession for an Interim Chief Election Officer in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission; Pride at Work Hawai'i; HOKU PAC; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; League of Women Voters of Hawaii; Hawaii State AFL-CIO; Indivisible Hawai'i; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaiian Islands Republican Women and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that the absence of a clearly designated interim Chief Election Officer during a vacancy may impede the timely and lawful administration of elections. Your Committee further finds that assigning interim authority ensures continuity of operations while preserving the Elections Commission's appointment authority.



Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2143, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2143, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2143 (D)	Committee Referral: JHA	Date: 3/17/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle			✓	
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. GARCIA, Diamond			✓	
10. SHIMIZU, Garner M.			✓	
TOTAL (10)	7	0	3	0
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				