

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 20 , 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2466
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 Labor, to which was referred S.B. No. 2466
entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to specify that the Chief
Election Officer who has passed the standard state probationary
period may only be terminated for cause.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii and numerous
individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to
this measure from the Hawaiian Islands Republican Women and five
individuals.

Your Committee finds that ensuring stability and independence
in the administration of elections is essential to maintaining
public confidence in the electoral process. Existing law does not
clearly protect the Chief Election Officer from arbitrary
dismissal, which may create uncertainty in leadership and
undermine continuity in election operations. Your Committee
believes that establishing a clear for-cause termination standard
will strengthen institutional stability and support consistent,
impartial election administration statewide.

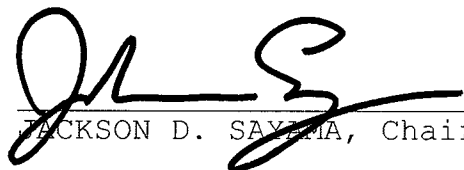


Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Moving the substantive provisions of this measure to a more appropriate section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (2) Deleting language that would have tied termination protections to the completion of the standard state probationary period;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2466, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2466, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor,


JACKSON D. SAYAMA, Chair



