

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 , 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2466  
H.D. 2

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. 2466, H.D. 1, 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 may only be terminated for cause.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii; 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 stability and independence of election administration are essential to maintaining public confidence in the electoral process. Your Committee further finds that the absence of clear statutory protections against arbitrary dismissal of the Chief Election Officer may undermine continuity and impartiality in election operations. This measure addresses these concerns by establishing a for-cause termination standard to strengthen institutional stability and consistent statewide election administration.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:



- (1) Repealing language that specified that the Chief Election Officer is an at-will employee; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 2466, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2466, H.D. 2.

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



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DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



