



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1552, RELATING TO THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Jung Min (Charles) Lee, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) opposes this bill.

This bill amends section 11-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide that in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Election Officer, the Attorney General shall serve as the Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a permanent successor. The bill includes a "notwithstanding" clause to override existing law during this interim period.

The Department is concerned that requiring the Attorney General to serve as the Interim Chief Election officer creates substantial conflict-of-interest risks that could become the basis for election-related challenges. The Chief Election Officer administers elections and makes discretionary decisions that can become contested in administrative proceedings or litigation. At the same time, the Attorney General is the State's chief legal officer and may be called upon to advise state entities regarding election administration, represent the State in election-related litigation, or take legal positions regarding the validity of election procedures and outcomes. Assigning the Attorney General to simultaneously perform both roles—election administrator and the State's legal advocate in election matters—creates an inherent structural tension that can compromise the State's ability to manage, defend, and litigate election issues without disqualifying conflicts.

The Department is also concerned that the bill may raise issues of incompatible offices or dual office holding by directing the Attorney General to exercise the statutory powers and duties of the Chief Election Officer while continuing to serve as Attorney General. The bill does not limit the interim chief election officer's authority to ministerial or caretaker functions, and it does not impose a defined deadline for the Elections Commission to complete the appointment. As written, the interim arrangement could extend beyond a short transitional period, increasing the likelihood that these incompatibility and conflict concerns will arise in practice.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully requests that the Committee defer this bill.



House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

February 10, 2026, 2 p.m., Room 325  
HB1552 — Relating to the Chief Election Officer

TESTIMONY

Amy Monk, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER HB1552.**

Current law requires the chief election officer to compile, certify and release the election results. This is a simple and nearly automatic occurrence that takes place after the counties report their ballot counts. Members of the LWVHI have pointed out that there is no alternate should some unforeseen event cause the chief election officer to be unable to certify the election results, particularly in the US Presidential race where the results are used to determine which presidential electors who vote in the Electoral College.

We have already seen in the last Presidential election where phony alternate slates of electors were created and submitted. The LWVHI believes that it is therefore prudent to provide for an official alternate in the event that the chief election officer position is unable to certify the election results.

League requests that the measure take effect upon passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:24:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abby Simmons	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Abby Simmons, Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1552. Stonewall has been watching with extreme concern as far right MAGA extremists have been working tirelessly on eroding our Democratic foundations and trust in an election system that has proven to be effective, efficient and accurate. The manufactured misinformation and fear mongering by MAGA extremists is designed to disenfranchise voters, undermine public confidence in democratic institutions and to force voters to vote in person where they can be intimidated and bullied by fascist extremists and white nationalists. It is absolutely essential we hold the line to protect our right to vote free from threats of violence and intimidation. Please pass HB1552 out of committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)

Chair, Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:35:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Austin Martin	Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha!

I am Austin Martin, Libertarian Party of Hawaii Chairman, and on behalf of Libertarians statewide, I oppose this dangerous proposal.

The Hawaii AG has ZERO accountability to the People, and has shown outright contempt for the rule of law. They have corruptly covered up felony elections crimes, and are already the proxy power behind the OE, protecting them from accountability. The governor's stooges must not be trusted anywhere near decision-making power for the office of elections. They are functionally incompetent, corrupt as can be, and absolutely deserve RICO charges for their existing election racketeering enterprise. Please don't put the fox in charge of guarding the Hen House.

This bill is an absurd and stupid idea which is both unnecessary and unhelpful, unless one is trying to cover up rigged elections. Vote this down, and do not allow it to survive another day.

Mahalo!

Austin Martin

Libertarian Party of Hawaii — Chair

Libertarian National Committee — R1 Alt



**LIBERTARIAN**  
PARTY of HAWAII  
**IN OPPOSITION TO SB1432/HB1552**

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii submits this testimony in fierce opposition to SB1432/HB1552. This bill would make the Attorney General the automatic interim Chief Election Officer upon any vacancy. This is not just bad policy. It is reckless, and risks furthering the institutional capture of our election administration.

Hawai'i's Elections Commission and Office of Elections have [repeatedly demonstrated serious issues](#) with transparency and accountability in election administration. The 2025 Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) reports and commission discussions exposed:

- A documented discrepancy of 661 more ballots counted by the state than Kauai County reported delivering in the 2024 general election
- A massive purported overage on the Big Island
- Broken chain-of-custody records under HAR §3-177-453
- Unverifiable electronic records and ballot images
- Repeated refusals to fully reconcile data with county clerks or USPS receipts, and
- Persistent resistance to public oversight, including suppression of debate, invocation of attorney-client privilege to limit disclosure, and failure to address commissioner and public concerns.

Rather than embrace transparency, Chair Michael Curtis and Chief Election Officer Scott Nago have repeatedly dismissed legitimate inquiries, limited participation, and blocked key motions. The U.S. Department of Justice sued Nago in December 2025 (United States v. Nago, Case No. 1:25-cv-00522) for refusing to provide the full statewide voter registration list as required by federal law (Civil Rights Act of 1960, NVRA, HAVA). The Libertarian Party of Hawai'i passed a resolution on December 22, 2025, fully supporting that lawsuit, condemning the pattern of noncompliance as eroding trust through secrecy, and affirming that transparency strengthens election integrity.

Now this Legislature proposes handing interim control of the entire election apparatus with zero oversight to the same Attorney General's Office that is actively defending Nago and Curtis in federal litigation (Bernegger v. Nago, Case No. 1:25-cv-00482, filed November 2025) while simultaneously representing the Commissioners. Commission minutes from December 3, 2025, show explicit debates over conflicts of interest. Questions arose (and were never properly addressed) as to whether the AG truly represents the Commission as an institution or the individually named officials as well as whether privilege has been compromised by sharing opinions with the Office of Elections. Calls were made for independent counsel due to inherent conflicts. This measure would only serve to strengthen the very conflicts that have already heavily affected public confidence.



Free and fair elections remain the last peaceful mechanism for the people to hold their government accountable and protect individual liberty. Placing even temporary control in the hands of an executive official whose office shields accused officials from scrutiny and litigates election disputes is a betrayal of basic best practices and fundamental principles alike.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is demanding the opposite:

- Greater public access to records
- Independent audits
- An elected Chief Election Officer held directly accountable to the voters, and
- Real adherence to transparency laws.

**Kill this bill.**

Respectfully submitted,

Abbra Green | Libertarian Party of Hawaii Secretary | [LibertarianHawaii.com](http://LibertarianHawaii.com) | (808)824-LPHI



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HB1552 Relating to the Chief Elections Officer  
February 10, 2026, at 2:00 PM, State Capitol CR 329 and Videoconference

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee,

The current procedure to select a Chief Elections Officer in the event of a vacancy is threatened by HB 1552 with partisan bias and government control.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in STRONG OPPOSITION of HB 1552 for the following reasons:

1. HB 1552 is a threat to the current law, §11-1.6 Appointment of the chief election officer; requirements; term; restrictions; salary; reappointment; removal. (a) The chief election officer shall be appointed by the elections commission, without regard to chapter 76. The appointment shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the senate. In the event of a vacancy, the elections commission shall meet expeditiously to select and appoint a new chief election officer to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

The current law provides for a fair and balanced process for appointing a Chief Elections Officer.

By introducing bureaucratic control and government power as proposed in HB 1552, the ability to have a bi-partisan appointment of a Chief Elections Officer (CEO) by the Elections Commission is nullified. HB 1552 gives control to the majority party in office. Such changes will restrict the ability of Elections Commissioners representing parties to engage in meaningful discussions and debates, potentially limiting diverse perspectives and reducing the effectiveness of the selection process.

2. Conflict of Interest and Abuse of Power

Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-1.6 Appointment of the chief election officer, was established in accordance with the law. The appointment is to be conducted by a bi-partisan Elections Commission.

- HB 1552 threatens the current procedure of appointing a Chief Elections Officer
- By allowing the Attorney General to function as the Chief Election Officer, decisions and actions will be biased and give unfettered power to the administration in office.
- The Attorney General's office could potentially delay the appointment of a new CEO leading to government overreach.

### 3. Solutions, Recommendations, and Observations

- Keep the current practice of appointing a Chief Elections Officer. The Elections Commission is equipped and prepared to meet, discuss, and appoint a new CEO in the event of a vacancy.
- Consider supporting legislation for citizens to elect a Chief Elections Officer.

May I respectfully remind this committee that Article 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution states that **All** political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people. All government is founded on this authority.

For these reasons, please vote NO on HB 1552. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Detwiler, President  
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women



Protect Democracy

Move Forward

[www.indivisiblehawaii.org](http://www.indivisiblehawaii.org)

[info@indivisiblehawaii.org](mailto:info@indivisiblehawaii.org)

**To:** Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee

**Hearing Date/Time:** 02-10-26 2:00 PM

**Place:** Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**Re:** Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1552

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai'i, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1552.

This bill provides that in the event that the position of Chief Election Officer is vacant right before the election, the Attorney General would act as Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer. This would ensure that the vote could be certified.

Given what happened on January 6, 2021, and the fact that the outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election is still being challenged today by a non-trivial segment of the population, it is imperative that we safeguard our elections by taking every prudent measure to ensure that elections results are protected, validated, and certified. HB1552 is a major step toward maintaining the electorate's trust and confidence in our elections.

We thank you for supporting HB1552.

Sincerely,

Marlene Thom

Indivisible Hawai'i Good Government and Secure Elections Team

*The mission of the 14-chapter Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) is to protect Hawai'i and democracy by defending civil rights, communities and values, most importantly, Hawai'i's Constitutionally protected spirit of Aloha. In October 2025, IHSN with other partners turned out over 22,000 residents on all major islands to say No Dictators! and to stand up for democracy. This call-to-action was part of Indivisible national's mobilization of more than 7 million across the country as the voice of the people, committed to election integrity and to evolving as a place of equity, opportunity and peace.*



**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:52:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1552.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:45:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is simply good practice to have established clear operational procedures in place for any important function of an organization.

And, all the more important when we know these very institutions are under threat of manipulation and interference.

Thank you.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:20:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Kamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1552, and I am submitting this as an individual and as a member of Indivisible Hawaii. Thank you.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:10:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been submitting testimony and watching Election Commission meetings. They have been hijacked by MAGA extremist who want to do away with **MAIL IN VOTING**, regardless of the overwhelming testimony of public testimony in favor of **MAIL IN VOTING !**

These few also keep meetings going for hours (6 hours) They keep accusing that 19,000 votes were manufactured on the Big Island of Hawai'i, and rehashing past elections counts.

**I was an election observer in Hilo at the counting center, and was impressed with the people and system.**

Please protect our **Right to Vote**. Aloha & Mahalo for accepting my testimony.

Most Sincerely, Vivian S. Toellner

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:50:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rachel Howard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly support HB1552. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii.**

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:19:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Passage of this bill is essential to maintaining the state's electoral process in light of the Commission's difficulties. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:01:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:16:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:34:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danielle Goren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support of HB1552 as a Lahaina resident and member of Indivisible Hawai'i.

This bill provides that, if by some coincidence the position of Chief Election Officer is vacant right before the election, the Attorney General would act as Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer. This would ensure that the vote could be certified.

Our state Attorney General is one of the few statewide officials in charge of making sure elections are free, fair, and secure. Let's make sure they have the tools available to do their job.

Both Senator Karl Rhoads (Chair, Judiciary Committee) and Representative David Tarnas (Chair, Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee) have stated that they **support** this bill. It is intended to constrain the Elections Commission authority to fire Scott Nago, the current Chief Election Officer, as was recommended by a 3-member panel last August.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our democracy,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, Hawai'i

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:36:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:51:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support,

Judith White

Member, Kauai Indivisible

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:48:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1552.

In these dangerous times when our fundamental right to vote our conscience and to have our vote count, it is critical that a clear, objective, fair, and transparent process be in place to ensure this goal.

HB1552 fills a critical hole in this process.

Thank you for receiving my testimony.

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
February 7, 2026

Dear Representative Tarnas, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

**I am submitting this testimony in Favor of HB1552, Relating to the Chief Election Officer.**

We voters need to know that someone will have the authority to certify our elections. If the current Chief Election Officer position becomes vacant, the Attorney General should be designated to serve as the Interim Chief Election Officer until another Chief Election Officer can be appointed.

We want people of these islands to vote! And we citizens need to know that our vote counts by having election results certified.

**Please vote yes on HB1552.**

Mahalo and Aloha,

Eileen Cain  
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:45:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine Trecker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1552.

Sadly, we are living during a time when our national elections are at serious risk of being undermined, including the certification of election results. HB1552 appears to strengthen the certification process by requiring our State Attorney General to act as Interim Chief Election Officer, should that position become vacant, and to hold that position until such time the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer.

Please pass HB1552. Thank you.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:34:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1552 so that should the position of Chief Election Officer be vacant before an election, the Attorney General would act as Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer. This would ensure that the duties of the office be carried out and the vote could be certified.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:06:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:03:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
G L Hutchinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolututy support the AG (as if she is not busy enough alreedy!) acting as chair of election commision if the postion is (suddenly! ) empty- we need to be ale to count our votes have secure elections.

more now that ever,

Thank you for your support for this bill

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:05:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please work to protect our democracy.

We need to safeguard our elections. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Joanne Amberg

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:07:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this sensible bill; recent history has shown its necessity; we do not want maga fanatics to subvert our elections!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:37:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This position needs to be an elected position by and for the people of Hawaii.

Quit appointing unelected officials.

THIS BILL IS NOT PONO.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:43:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathryn Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:53:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mala Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"If by some coincidence the position of Chief Election Officer is vacant right before the election, the Attorney General would act as Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer. This would ensure that the vote could be certified.

This is a rational, easy solution to a potential problem. It will help support our democracy and protect election integrity. This is NOT a "partisan" issue - remember that it could go either way in a time of crisis. Please support this rational solution to ensure our elections are certified in a timely manner, and not held up as a tool to blackmail 'the other side'.

Thank you.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:56:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge all Legislators to vote YES on HB1552. In these divided times when our elections are vulnerable to unlawful challenges by the political machinery of the White House, we must armor our election systems from fraudulent attack in every way possible. I believe HB1552 is one way to help achieve this goal. This bill will strengthen our fair elections from an attack on democratic activities.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:14:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Sylvester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill. I am a member of Indivisible.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:18:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Hester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“Thank you for supporting this bill. I am a member of Indivisible.”

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:32:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill. I am a member of Indivisible.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:42:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Elmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support that the Attorney General would serve as the interim chief election officer in case of vacancy in the position of chief election officer

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:48:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having contingency plans is smart. I support HB1552. Thank you for supporting HB1552

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:59:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the compromised current elections commission and commissioner dis bill further prohibits we the people from having a voice and choice in our electoral process and who overseas the commission commissioner and commission.

Unequivocably opposing this bill!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:08:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roberta Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill.

I am a memembr of Indivisible Hawaii.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:24:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1552. This bill creates a conflict of interest and defeats the purpose of changing the Chief Election Officer. We need the Chief Election officer to be an elected position by the people. Put it on the ballot! How can the AG run elections while simultaneously representing the office of elections in court cases??

vote NO!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:48:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Wassell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Secure elections are very important. Chief Election Officer needs to be filled by AG in case of vacancy.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:05:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Estrella S Marin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Estrella Marin and as someone who lives here in Hawaii, I do not support HB1552. I believe having the AG act as the inter chief, is a conflict of interest and does not keep the checks and balances fair. There should be another option proposed. As we should be careful to not follow suit with this current unjust US administration.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:48:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mona Eisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing you today in strong support of HB1552 as it relates to the cheif election officer. I ask that you please support this measure.

Mahalo,

Mona Eisa, Honolulu, HI

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 1552, RELATING TO THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER.**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran from Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-time resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support of HB 1552**, Relating to the Chief Election Officer, which provides that, in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Election Officer, the Attorney General shall serve as the Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer.

As Marc Elias, noted elections and voting rights attorney has noted in Democracy Docket, anti-democratic forces are engaged in efforts to suppress the vote and interfere in our elections. This is something we witnessed here in Hawai'i when the Elections Commission voted to ask the Legislature to consider returning Hawai'i to one-day, in-person voting, getting rid of mail-in voting all together, and narrowly rejected a proposal to fire the chief election officer, Scott Nago.<sup>1</sup> It is frankly terrifying to think that extreme members of the Election Commission are making deliberate efforts to restrict voting options and fabricating doubt in our elections. I, myself, relied on mail-in voting in the 2024 election because I was on the mainland dealing with family matters at the time of the election. I do not want my vote suppressed over completely unfounded fears related to the security of mail-in voting and misinformation about election fraud.

HB 1552 is intended to constrain the Elections Commission's authority to fire Scott Nago, the current Chief Election Officer, as was recommended by a three-member panel last August. The goal of anti-democratic forces is to subvert faith in our elections as a means of suppressing the vote and allowing election outcomes to be contested. For excellent resources on the overall subject of subverting elections as a tenant of the authoritarian playbook, I direct you to Democracy Docket and to Protect Democracy.

In the context of Hawaii elections, there were allegations of vote count discrepancy brought forward by certain members of the Elections Commission. A 220-page report from Election Commissioners Osterkamp, McAdam and Kahiolani Papalimu determined however that "a purported discrepancy of

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<sup>1</sup> Chad Blair, Honolulu Civil Beat, "Elections Commission Wants State Auditor To Examine Hawai'i's 2024 Vote," Oct. 1, 2025.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/10/elections-commission-wants-state-auditor-to-examine-hawai%CA%BBis-2024-vote/>

more than 19,000 ballots<sup>2</sup>” between Hawai‘i County and the state in the 2024 general election was unfounded. The report stated, “we find a complete lack of credible evidence to support the claim of a significant ballot discrepancy.”

The report added, “When we encourage voters to pursue conspiracies or to believe that government workers are hiding ballots or creating new ones, we significantly damage the system on which our democracy depends.” We must be ever-vigilant against outside influences attempting to hijack state control over elections, subvert the will of the voters, and create doubt over the security of our elections. It is, again, a noted antidemocratic strategy to sow doubt about elections as a means of suppressing the vote and undermining democracy. I **support HB 1552** as a necessary measure to protect the role of the Chief Election Officer from unfounded attacks and to ensure that, should he be removed, the Attorney General is able to step in to replace him immediately.

Mahalo for supporting efforts to protect our elections,

Christine Andrews, JD  
Wailuku, Maui

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<sup>2</sup> State of Hawaii Elections Commission, Permitted Interaction Group Report on Purported Big Island Ballot Discrepancy, Sept. 29, 2025, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-10-01-EC-Supplemental-Meeting-Packet.pdf>

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:11:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Boyd Ready	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee members,

Let the Commission do its work, and let the current next highest officer in the Office of Elections serve as interim, in the event of a Chief Elections Officer vacancy.

The Attorney General would have an inherent conflict of interest in that position, further undermining the public trust in elections being fairly administered.

If you want to increase public trust in elections, make the Chief Officer an elected position, and give the Elections Commission a budget, its own office staff, and paid investigators. The status quo is not satisfactory.

Mahalo,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:16:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Wayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the State of Hawai‘i allowing the Attorney General’s office to manage or oversee the Chief Elections Officer position on an interim basis while the Elections Commission considers a replacement. I am with Kona Indivisible and disagree with them on this measure. NO ON HB1552.

I strongly disagree with this approach.

The Elections Commission have supported and retained Scott Nago, whose tenure has resulted in a complete loss of public confidence for many voters, myself included. Based on his record, I view Mr. Nago as having acted in ways that were deeply harmful to the integrity and trustworthiness of Hawai‘i’s election process. Despite these outcomes, the Commission continued to support him.

Because of that history, I have zero confidence in the Commission’s judgment—particularly in decisions shaped by the same relationships, advisors, and internal influences that led to Mr. Nago’s continued leadership in the first place.

Placing interim authority with the Attorney General does not resolve these concerns. On the contrary, it further concentrates power away from transparency and public accountability at a moment when independence and trust are essential.

The Chief Elections Officer role must be handled with strict neutrality, independence, and credibility. Any interim arrangement that bypasses meaningful public trust only compounds the damage already done.

I urge the State to reconsider this decision and to ensure that the process for selecting—and temporarily managing—the Chief Elections Officer is transparent, independent, and clearly insulated from prior failures of judgment.

Respectfully,

Jon Wayan Big Island since 1985



**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:46:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill HB1552.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:16:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1552. Granting the Attorney General of Hawaii to the position of Chief Elections Officer is a conflict of interest and abuse of power. Do not approve this! Mahalo.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:17:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-7.5 clearly states the employment of the full-time Chief Election Officer is a duty of the Elections Commission. An interim Chief Election Officer is not, and should not be, an option.

In particular, the idea of the Governor appointed Attorney General serving in the role as Chief Election Officer is an unconscionable conflict of interest.

Those who introduced HB1552, TARNAS, AMATO, BELATTI, ILAGAN, KILA, KUSCH, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, MORIKAWA, OLDS, PERRUSO, POEPOE, SAYAMA, SOUZA, TAKAYAMA, as well as those who introduced the companion bill SB2143, RHOADS, CHANG, FEVELLA, HASHIMOTO, RICHARDS, SAN BUENAVENTURA, include some of the usual suspects who like to introduce legislation that does not pass the smell test.

Kindly reject this politically embarrassing proposed legislation.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:46:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting HB1552.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:06:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support secure election

**AG to serve as the interim Chief Election Officer in case of vacancy in the position of Chief Election Officer**

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:06:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:29:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:30:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Isaac Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. Why are we not addressing the facts that discrepancies are present in Hawaii elections.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:29:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Verschuur	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Chair and members of the JHA committee,

It appears to be prudent to have a predetermined back-up for the position of the Chief Elections Officer.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lahilahi Verschuur

12-7002 Kaiheenalua St. # 4587

Pahoa, HI 96778

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:21:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meg Ganser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not consent to the passing of this bill, I oppose this bill due to the grave nature of the conflict of interest. This bill serves to preserve an opaque, corrupted elections process propped up by self interested officials in a draconian system. Hewa, we see you.

I oppose this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:37:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Sweet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB 1552. Granting the Attorney General the position of Chief Election Officer in the case of a vacancy is a conflict of interest! I consider this an abuse of power! We already have a law in place that grants authority to the Elections Commission to select a new CEO in event of a vacancy.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:52:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1552. Vote NO!

- This bill automatically grants the Attorney General the position of Chief Election Officer in the event of a vacancy.  
This is a conflict of interest  
This is an egregious abuse of power
- Current law already grants the authority to the Elections Commission to select a new CEO in the event of a vacancy.
- If you vote yes for this bill, it's obvious you oppose free and fair elections.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:02:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Attorney general giving the power to sway elections would be more powerful than what scott nago is doing now. especially if an emergency proclamation is in place. I veto this as so the rest of hawaii.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:33:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristy Gund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill as it provides a safeguard to our election process.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:13:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you -- I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:21:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1552

DSM in Waimea, Hawaii Island

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:37:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alberta Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask that you oppose HB1552. I believe this is a conflict of interest.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:15:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a huge conflict of interest!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:43:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:48:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
wyонette wallett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1152.

Allowing the A.G to potentially take over this position when they clearly are part of the problem trying to cover up voting ballots also bribery and corruption in the senate.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:48:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy Staples	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and respectfully submit this testimony to that fact. This bill keeps the same executive power within the current power structure and doesn't encourage audits or transparency within the elections commission. Hawaii's citizens deserve and must have secure, fair elections.

Thank you.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:03:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Duchess Aranaydo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. The attorney general is not the right fit to replace the Chief elections officer. We need clear and transparent government. By having the attorney General replace the Chief elections officer it doesn't change the power structure. It keeps the election authority in the same executive system. The replacement for the election officer needs to open to doing audits when needed. We need honest government which we the people can trust. I believe our state can be open and honest. Thank you for your time.

Duchess Aranaydo

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:41:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a member of Indivisible and support this bill because it will help ensure the integrity of Hawaii's elections. Thank you for also supporting this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:48:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Collat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Effective leadership of our elections process is critical for full-functioning democracy. This provision will ensure continuity of the Chief Election Officer position in the event of an untimely vacancy in conjunction with an election. I support this bill and ask for you to do so as well.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:53:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brent Matson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I see no need to change the current law. This will only make the election commission delay selecting a new chief elections officer and allow the attorney general to take over the position without any oversight for an undetermined period of time. Why would we change this law, there is no good reason.

Thank you,

Brent Matson

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:04:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
D Cadi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:09:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Opposition to HB1552**

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB1552, which would authorize the Attorney General to serve as Chief Elections Officer in the event of a vacancy.

My concern is not directed at any individual, but at the structure of authority this bill would create and the effect it could have on public confidence in our elections.

The Attorney General serves as the state’s chief legal officer. That office enforces election laws, investigates potential violations, defends the state in election-related litigation, and may provide legal guidance on compliance matters.

The Chief Elections Officer, by contrast, administers elections. That role includes overseeing procedures, supervising election operations, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements, and certifying results.

These functions are distinct for an important reason.

If the Attorney General were to assume the role of Chief Elections Officer, the same office would be responsible both for administering elections and for enforcing or defending election law. This creates a structural conflict of interest.

Specifically:

**1. Administration and Oversight Combined**

The Attorney General may be required to investigate irregularities, prosecute violations, or defend the state in election disputes. If that same office is also administering elections, it could be placed in the position of reviewing or defending its own administrative decisions.

**2. Loss of Functional Separation**

Effective governance relies on separating administrative authority from enforcement authority. This separation provides checks and balances, reduces the risk of bias, and protects against both actual conflicts and the appearance of conflicts.

**3. Public Confidence and Perception**

Elections depend not only on lawful administration but also on public trust.

Consolidating administrative and enforcement authority within a single office—particularly one that is politically elected—may undermine confidence in the neutrality of election oversight, even if no improper action occurs.

4. **Availability of Alternative Safeguards**

If a contingency plan is needed for a vacancy, alternatives that preserve independence should be considered. For example, the role could be filled temporarily by a deputy within the elections office, an appointed neutral administrator, or a mechanism that maintains institutional separation between administration and enforcement.

The integrity of elections requires more than compliance with statutes; it requires systems designed to withstand scrutiny and preserve confidence across the political spectrum. Concentrating authority in a single office weakens those structural safeguards.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this bill or amend it to ensure that election administration remains independent from legal enforcement authority.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:36:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1552

Defining a clear interim chief election officer during vacancies protects continuity.

Aria Juliet Castillo, Kailua

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:41:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
SARAH-ANNE ELLIS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support the fact that the Attorney General shall serve as the Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:48:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monique Perreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1552.

This measure creates a clear and unacceptable conflict of interest by placing the Attorney General- an executive branch official with active law enforcement, advisory, and litigation responsibilities- in the role of Interim Chief Election Officer. The Chief Election Officer is intended to be an independent, nonpartisan administrator of elections. The Attorney General, by contrast, regularly represents the State, defends election-related litigation, advises state agencies, and may be required to investigate or prosecute election-related matters.

Allowing the Attorney General to temporarily oversee elections undermines the structural independence of election administration and erodes public confidence in the neutrality and integrity of the electoral process.

Vacancies should be filled in a manner that preserves independence and maintains a clear separation between election administration and enforcement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to OPPOSE HB1552.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Perreira

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:48:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Ann Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE BILL HB1552

THANK YOU,  
DORIS ANN SANTIAGO

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:02:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Definitely a strongly oppose this, giving the power back to the same people who are not showing us transparency is insanity. Stop playing games with our elections

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Friday February 10, 2026, 2:00pm

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 325 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports HB1552 Relating to an The Chief Election Officer

Dear Chair Rep. David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Rep Mahina Poepoe and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, support HB1552 which will secure elections in case of vacancy in the position of Chief Election Officer

This bill provides that, if by some coincidence the position of Chief Election Officer is vacant right before the election, the Attorney General would act as Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer. This would ensure that the vote could be certified.

Both Senator Karl Rhoads (Chair, Judiciary Committee) and Representative David Tarnas (Chair, Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee) have stated that they support this bill. It is intended to constrain the Elections Commission authority to fire Scott Nago, the current Chief Election Officer, as was recommended by a 3-member panel last August.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:03:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynda Suesue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill in order to help assure that Hawaii elections will be protected from unconstitutional, federal overreach attempts to interfere with our elections. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii. Thank you for supporting this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:10:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

I strongly oppose having the state AG being involved in the state elections.

Respectfully,

Jason K

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:11:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melvin Amaral	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want the attorney general to bcome the interim Chief Elections officer in the event that the CEO is removed.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:16:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a constituent in district 31, I oppose HB 1552.

Sincerely,

Sara Wallace

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:16:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Penner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We already have provisions in place to replace the Chief Officer of Elections if need be - this bill is unnecessary and will introduce confusion legal language and loopholes that could be exploited in the future.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:33:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1552 for the following reasons:

The Elections Commission already has a process to fill the position of Chief Elections Officer if there is a vacancy.

There is an egregious conflict of interest with having the Attorney General take the position if there is a CEO vacancy.

The AG's office already advises on election law interpretation, defends election officials in litigation, and prosecutes election-related crimes.

- Serving as interim Chief Election Officer would give the AG direct administrative authority over election operations (e.g., overseeing ballot processes, certification), potentially while their office handles related legal challenges or investigations.
- The AG is a gubernatorial appointee (not elected), which some view as introducing partisan risk in a role meant to be nonpartisan and insulated (via the bipartisan Elections Commission). Hawaii is already one of the few states that does not elect their Chief Elections Officer (Secretary of State in most states). Filling a vacancy by automatically filling the position with the AG just adds insult to injury as there is no appointment process subject to at least committee hearings thus undermining transparency.

Please vote no on this bill, and let the Elections Commission appoint the Chief Election Officer as is written in our current law.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:52:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaunani Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as this is a conflict of interest. Please oppose this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:57:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan Andrion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to HB1552.

Hawaii’s election system depends on public trust, neutrality, and clear separation of powers. The Chief Election Officer’s role is meant to be independent and insulated from political influence. Allowing the Attorney General to automatically step in as Interim Chief Election Officer when the position becomes vacant undermines that independence and concentrates too much authority in one office.

The Attorney General is a political appointee who represents the Governor and the executive branch. The Chief Election Officer, however, is intended to operate independently to administer elections fairly, impartially, and without political pressure. Combining these roles, even temporarily, creates an appearance of conflict of interest and erodes public confidence in the integrity of elections.

This proposal also weakens institutional checks and balances. The current structure provides for continuity of leadership without merging enforcement authority with election administration. Placing both prosecutorial power and election administration authority in the same office, even on an interim basis, risks politicizing election operations and invites legal and ethical concerns.

Even if no wrongdoing occurs, perception matters. Public confidence in elections is fragile, and policies that blur lines between independent election administration and political offices damage trust. Hawaii should be strengthening independence and transparency in election oversight, not consolidating power during moments of transition.

If there is concern about vacancies or continuity of leadership, a more appropriate solution would be to designate a nonpartisan senior elections official or deputy within the Office of Elections to serve as interim Chief Election Officer, rather than assigning the role to the Attorney General.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB1552 and to preserve the independence of Hawaii's election administration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

## **Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:**

I respectfully oppose the proposal to appoint the Attorney General (AG) as the interim Chief Election Officer. This change would create a serious conflict of interest and undermine required election oversight.

A pre-certification audit cannot legally occur without reconciliation reports, chain-of-custody logs, audit logs, and ballot accounting records. The Permitted Interaction Group report officially received by the Elections Commission on August 27, 2025, concluded that the electronic records cannot be verified. Ballot images, audit logs, and reconciliation reports were withheld; only summaries were released. Hawaii County counted 19,042 more ballots than envelopes collected. The Chief Election Officer certified the 2024 general election on November 20, 2024, five days before the deadline to contest the results.

During the last Office of Elections Commissions meeting, the Deputy Attorney General advised the Office of Elections Commission Officers to go into Executive Session, before he advised on the ability to do an audit. This shows a lack of transparency. The Election Commissioners declined the advice.

The AG's office has taken the position that ballots cannot be unsealed for review until 22 months have passed. This means placing the AG into the role of interim Chief Election Officer would allow the same office currently delaying audits to gain full control over ballot access and audit decisions.

Hawai'i's election laws outline a clear process for how and when audits may occur, and it may be helpful to view these provisions together. Under HRS §16-42, a post-election, pre-certification audit of at least ten percent of precincts using the electronic voting system is required before results are certified. The related administrative rule, HAR §3-177-762, describes how these audits are conducted and clarifies that they may be carried out by the Chief Election Officer, the county clerk, election officials, counting center officials, or a designated representative, with safeguards in place for ballot handling and secure procedures. Another section sometimes referenced in discussions, HRS §11-154, focuses on the proper sealing, unsealing, and preservation of ballots, and notes that ballots may only be destroyed after meeting federal retention requirements, which include the 22-month preservation period established under 52 U.S.C. §20701. Although the federal rule requires the State to retain election materials for that period, it does not expressly prohibit authorized election officials from conducting audits or reviews during that time, provided preservation and security procedures are maintained. Considering these provisions together, the statutes appear to allow for audits to occur while still meeting both state and federal requirements for ballot handling and record preservation.

Given the unresolved 19,000-ballot discrepancy, the lack of a legally required pre-certification audit, and the AG's demonstrated conflict of interest, placing the Attorney General in charge of elections—even temporarily—would severely undermine accountability and public trust. I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this proposal.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:01:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Tamaribuchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony with regard to HB 1552, relating to the Chief Election Officer.

I am in strong opposition to HB 1552 proposing that the attorney general serve as the interim chief election officer until the elections commission appoints a new chief elections officer primarily for the reason that it presents a clear conflict of interest. Instead, the individual being considered for the interim position, should go through the proper legislative process and be subject to the advice and consent of the senate.

Mahalo for your time and I urge you to vote no on HB 1552.

Jessica Tamaribuchi

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:05:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1552. It seems to make good sense to me. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:20:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1552.

Tina Marie Even

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:25:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! Major conflict of interest!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:26:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! Major conflict of interest!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:26:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! Major conflict of interest!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:33:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tara Gregory	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I have been on numerous calls in which scott nano and the attorney general have shown lack of care for the judicial system or laws such as HAVA or NRVA which now has us, as a state potentially \$30 million with federal funds that may have to be returned if voter rolls aren't audited. Both the CEO & AG need to be held accountable. And NO neither are equipt to make decisions for the people of Hawai'i.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:48:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Likeke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I find this bill to have no trust. Inorder to have any type of election there must be checks and balances. We cannot have the checker check him/herself this creates an opportunity for misuse or mistrust. Right now we the voters cannot trust the process thats happening so we oppose this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:54:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:20:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marianne Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chief election authority should not be appointed by governor, we need an audit.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:50:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:04:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this measure.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:47:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill provides that, if by some coincidence the position of Chief Election Officer is vacant right before the election, the Attorney General would act as Interim Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer. This would ensure that the vote could be certified.

Both Senator Karl Rhoads (Chair, Judiciary Committee) and Representative David Tarnas (Chair, Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee) have stated that they support this bill. It is intended to constrain the Elections Commission authority to fire Scott Nago, the current Chief Election Officer, as was recommended by a 3-member panel last August. Thank you, Jane Indivisible Hawaii, Hawaii J20

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:34:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Lee	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Opposition to HB1552: Safeguarding Election Integrity in Hawaii

As a resident of Honolulu concerned about fair and transparent elections, I strongly oppose HB1552. This bill would automatically appoint the Attorney General as the interim Chief Elections Officer (CEO) in the event of a vacancy, until the Elections Commission selects a permanent replacement. While it may seem like a simple administrative fix, it risks centralizing too much power in one office and could compromise the impartiality of our electoral process, especially amid ongoing controversies surrounding the current CEO and investigations into the Office of Elections. Aa few more pressing reasons why this bill is problematic:

1. Major Conflict of Interest: The Attorney General’s office often handles legal matters related to elections, including defending the state in lawsuits or investigating irregularities. Allowing the AG to step in as interim CEO creates a situation where the same entity could be overseeing elections while simultaneously litigating or probing them, potentially biasing outcomes and eroding public trust.
2. Bypasses Democratic Processes: Unlike most states where the equivalent role (like Secretary of State) is elected, Hawaii’s CEO is already appointed. This bill skips even the standard appointment hearings and public input, handing control directly to the AG without oversight or opportunities for citizens to weigh in on candidates, resembling an authoritarian shortcut rather than accountable governance.
3. Lack of Expertise and Independence: The AG’s primary role is legal enforcement, not election administration. Without specialized knowledge in managing voter rolls, ballots, or polling logistics, this could lead to inefficiencies or errors. Moreover, it further entangles the executive branch in what should be an independent function, especially when the AG is already involved in probing the Office of Elections for issues like chain-of-custody gaps from the 2024 election.
4. Risk of Political Manipulation: In a state with a history of single-party dominance and recent calls for reform (like electing the CEO directly), this bill could enable undue influence. If the CEO is removed amid controversy, as many residents have demanded for the current one, the AG’s takeover might protect insiders rather than ensure reforms, stifling efforts for greater transparency and auditability.

Mahalo, Sally

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:47:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill protects election integrity by ensuring that the vote would be certified.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:34:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill. Do not create this unnecessary bill as there is already a fair process for this scenario to be resolved. Do not create any more opportunity for abuse of power in our corrupt State. Please do not pass this bill.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:45:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your support of this important measure to protect elections in our state.  
- from a member of Indivisible Hawai'i

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:54:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 1552.

The people should have a say in who will be the next Chief Election Officer. Please let us participate in who we want to lead an honest election.

Mahalo,

Linda

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:15:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair and Committee.

I'm in opposition of HB1552.

The public has made clear their dissatisfaction and distrust of a non public elected Hawaii chief election officer and the Hawaii election system. We must allow the public to have a say in the elective process of our chief election officer to avoid continued distrust and must avoid using someone who already holds a position of power with affiliations that present a conflict of interest to hold this position.

I strongly oppose HB1552 for those reasons.

Mahalo Chair and Committee.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:23:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Moku	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1552. We need an accountable, fair, transparent and trustworthy structured system. Corruption has been brought to light, light will overcome the dark, and we need to end the dark corruption!!

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:34:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against the attorney general taking any position than what's is his present position. I strongly oppose this bill

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:47:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**In order to ensure a secure election, the AG should serve as the interim Chief Election Officer in case of vacancy in the position of Chief Election Officer.**

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:52:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Helen Shirts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill. I am a member of Indivisible.

**HB-1552**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:03:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brandy-Alia Serikaku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I oppose HB1552. Having the AG step in to serve any other role is a conflict of interest, and given the history of corruption with the election committee, Scott Nago and the State I would not trust the AG's decision nor support it. They are all corrupt and this is another way to keep the people and justice out of the election process.

Sincerely a kanaka maoli,

Brandy-Alia Serikaku