



**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 HOUSE BILL NO. 2099  
RELATING TO VACANCIES

March 17, 2026

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2099. This bill clarifies and updates timelines related to a state senate vacancy to ensure compliance with federal and state election requirements.

This bill aligns vacancy processes with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and its state counterpart, which require ballots to be transmitted to military and overseas voters at least 45 days prior to an election (52 USC § 20302; HRS § 15D-9). Meeting this requirement involves significant preparation, including ballot design, proofing, printing, and programming voting systems to ensure accuracy. This bill also accounts for challenges and objections that may arise after candidate filing deadlines or primary election results, further impacting the timeline for producing the ballot.

Our election laws for the regularly scheduled contests account for these factors, however, state senate vacancy elections do not. For example, under HRS § 17-3, a vacancy in the state senate may trigger an election in as few as 50 days, leaving insufficient time for ballot preparation and transmission. While it may seem that only the ballots associated with the state senate seat are impacted, in actuality, it is the programming of the entire election database to ensure ballots statewide are created to be counted accurately. The bill addresses this issue by aligning provisions to existing requirements and processes to ensure compliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2099.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 9:55 am  
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2099 - RELATING TO VACANCIES.**

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, Senator Hashimoto for my district, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews. I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui and an attorney licensed in Hawaii for over 25 years. I write to you today in **support of HB 2099**, Relating to Vacancies, which amends the processes for addressing party candidate and state senator vacancies

I respectfully request that you vote in **support of HB 1716, HD1.**

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD  
Wailuku, Maui