



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
AND
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

November 3, 2015

Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on the voter convenience reforms.

On-Line Voter Registration (OLVR)

After several months of testing by the counties and the state, the OLVR was launched on August 3, 2015. We, Maui County, received over 200 new and updated voter registration transactions to date.

Election Day Registration at Early Vote Sites

We are working on guidelines for Election Day Registration at our Early Voting sites. Simply stated, if a person is not registered to vote and appears at our early voting site, we will review the application and ask for an I.D. We plan to follow the list of I.D.'s from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA):

- a. A current and valid photo I.D. (such as a driver's license, state I.D., etc.); or
- b. A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the person's name and address.

If the person does not have any of the HAVA I.D.s, we are considering verifying the person's name, date of birth, and social security number against the Hawaii State Driver's license and state identification database or the Social Security Administration's database.

Motor Voter Registration

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993 established the motor-voter program. We receive approximately 38,000 paper Motor Voter forms a year. Approximately 4,500 are processed manually as voter registration forms (both new and re-registrations) and the other 33,500 are declinations.

We would like to see this process become electronic by having the DMV transfer the forms to our Statewide Voter Registration System, perhaps similarly to the On-Line Voter Registration process.

All Mail Elections

We support all mail elections for the following reasons:

1. An all mail election should increase voter turnout because each registered voter will receive a ballot.
2. Approximately 25% of our registered voters were mailed a ballot in 2014 and we expect that number will go up each year.
3. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes or tropical storms, are becoming more frequent during our peak election season. We charter planes to deliver ballots to Molokai, Lanai, and Hana the night before each election and to collect the ballots on election night. The planes will not fly under such weather conditions.

In an all-mail election each voter will be mailed a ballot several weeks prior to each election, which will include a postage paid return envelope.

4. Each year it becomes increasingly more difficult to recruit and train election day workers. The demands and responsibilities on election day workers continues to increase which makes it increasingly more difficult to attract and retain qualified workers.
5. More of our polling place facilities are unable to accommodate our storage needs between the Primary and General Election. Which means more time and money is needed to collect and deliver the equipment before the General Election.

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Electronic Transmission of Ballots

We would like to see the electronic transmission of ballots for all voters who requested and did not receive their mailed ballot within five (5) days of an election, or if a voter requires a replacement ballot within five days of an election, provided for in law. Currently only Uniformed and Overseas Citizens can receive a ballot by electronic transmission (facsimile transmission or internet). This will benefit all voters in the case of natural disasters and other circumstances.

Automatic Voter Registration

We handle thousands of paper motor voter forms annually from the DMV and if these forms can be transmitted electronically to our statewide voter registration system, similarly like the OLVR, then it would be a tremendous benefit to have an automatic voter registration law in place.

We know there are many other aspects that need to be considered and we will be researching the process and engaging in discussions with the state and counties as we move forward.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on voter convenience reforms.