

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2117, SD 1  
RELATING TO ABSENTEE BALLOTS

February 11, 2016

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2117, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the electronic transmission and return of absentee ballots by voters within five days of an election.

This bill addresses situations in which a voter has not received a ballot, needs a replacement ballot, or otherwise is not able to return their ballot to election officials by the close of polls. Under the current law, HRS § 15-5(b), beginning with the fifth day prior to an election, the only voters that are covered in such a situation are military and overseas voters, who are covered by the protections of chapter 15D, HRS (i.e., the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act). This bill allows all voters, such as voters who are on the mainland due to a family emergency, or someone at college who has spoiled their ballot, to electronically transmit and return a ballot within five days of an election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2117, SD 1.

DANNY A. MATEO  
County Clerk



JOSIAH K. NISHITA  
Deputy County Clerk

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
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TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO  
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2117, SD 1  
RELATING TO ABSENTEE BALLOTS

February 11, 2016

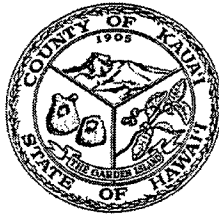
Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2117, SD 1. This bill allows a voter to receive an absentee ballot by electronic transmission and return of the absentee ballot within five days of an election.

This bill will allow ballots to be electronically transmitted to and returned by voters within five days of an election. This will benefit not only the military and overseas voters who are already able to do so, but regular voters who may be away and spoiled their ballot or called away on a family emergency and are unable to receive or return a ballot by mail by the close of polls on election day.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2117, SD 1.

**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
County Clerk

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**SCOTT K. SATO**  
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**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
**COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I**  
**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**ON SENATE BILL NO. 2117, SD 1**  
**RELATING TO ABSENTEE BALLOTS**  
**February 11, 2016**

Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2117, SD 1. This Bill proposes allowing a permanent absentee ballot voter to receive ballots at an alternate address for elections within an election cycle. Additionally, the Bill would allow for the electronic transmission of absentee ballots for voters who have either not received or require a replacement ballot within five (5) days of an elections.

Currently, statutes governing the permanent absentee ballot (PAB) voting process are silent regarding PAB voters who need to have ballots temporarily mailed to an alternate address different from that contained in the voter's file. Though County election officials have developed an administrative work-around to address this situation, this Bill will clarify and codify the established practices.

The Bill also defines "electronic transmission" and authorizes blank (unvoted) or voted ballots to be transmitted electronically to and from absentee mail voters who have not received a ballot or need a replacement ballot within five (5) days of an election. Allowing for the electronic transmission of ballots provides a practical and expeditious means for casting a ballot and is consistent with our overall efforts to maximize voter participation.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2117, SD 1.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa".

**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i