



Testimony on SB560 HD2 Relating to Elections
By Rob Richie, FairVote Action President, March 31, 2021

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke and the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express FairVote Action's support for SB560 HD2 regarding ranked choice voting (RCV) in certain vacancy elections. This bill would mean that, in a crowded field to fill a vacancy, a representative winner will be selected without the risk of vote-splitting. With SB560 HD2, voters are able to participate in one decisive election. Given the bill's narrow scope, it would be straightforward to implement with Hawaii's current voting equipment, and the affected contests are focused on specific instances in Hawaii's elections where RCV will increase assurance of a representative outcome.

FairVote Action is a national nonpartisan organization that educates and advocates for electoral system reforms that improve democracy in our elections. We work closely with FairVote, our 501-c-3 partner organization at FairVote.org, which I have led as executive director and now president and CEO since 1992. We are seen as a leading national resource on ranked choice voting (RCV).

In recent years, RCV has made major progress. Just in the past 12 months:

- 1) Five Democratic presidential primaries and caucuses relied on RCV ballots, including the Hawaii Democratic primary, with remarkably high (over 99.8%) rates of valid ballots and a large majority of voters using rankings. Three Republican state conventions used RCV for key contests as well.
- 2) Maine and Alaska have adopted RCV for all future presidential elections, and Maine used it successfully in November 2020;
- 3) All six cities voting on RCV passed it, by an average victory margin over 20%.
- 4) Several new cities starting using RCV, including New York City for four city council vacancy elections this spring and its primaries in June; [exit surveys](#) after the first two special elections are very encouraging for voter reaction to their new system.

SB560 HD2 would improve elections by upholding the principles of majority rule and representative democracy. The bill would ensure that elections are won with majorities without the need for costly runoff elections. In RCV elections, voters each have one vote, but earn the right to have a backup to their voice. To vote, voters rank candidates in order of choice: they pick their first choice and have the option to pick backup preferences second, third and so on. All first choices are counted. If a candidate

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receives more than half of the first choices, they win, just like any other election. If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who picked that candidate as 'number 1' will have their votes count for their next choice. The process continues until two candidates remain. Winners with RCV will always have a majority of the vote when matched head-to-head against their final opponent. These winners usually win the most first choices as well. When a candidate initially in second place wins, RCV has prevented an unrepresentative outcome due to the majority splitting the vote.

RCV's simplicity, representative outcomes, and positive experience for voters have made it increasingly popular. Recommended by Robert's Rules of Order and used in hundreds of association elections, RCV is fully constitutional and has been universally upheld in federal court, including in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and in federal district court in Maine in 2018 and 2020. RCV is already used in one state and 21 cities, and will be used in the next election in another state and at least eight more cities.

In 2018, Maine became the first state to adopt RCV for use at the state and federal level, including in the seven-candidate Democratic primary and four-candidate Republican primary for governor in June and in the U.S. Senate and two U.S. House elections in November. (See results of one race on final page.) Despite RCV being introduced to voters without any government money for voter education, Maine voters responded well to the system. More votes were cast in the Democratic primary than any in state history, and voter turnout also increased in November. The percentage of Maine voters who skipped the RCV races for US Senate and U.S. House in 2018 and 2020 has dropped sharply from recent elections for those offices without RCV. Voter error was miniscule: more than 99.8% cast valid ballots. A Bangor Daily News exit survey in 2018 found that over 60% of voters want to keep RCV and a majority to extend it to governor; a huge majority of voters reported it was easy to vote with RCV.

This first use in Maine mirrors what we have seen elsewhere. As implementation of RCV becomes straightforward and candidates adjust to the new rules, RCV consistently works well and keeps growing in popularity. Among examples: 1) in San Francisco in June 2018, more city voters chose to cast an RCV ballot for mayor than a non-RCV ballot for governor and U.S. Senator; 2) in Santa Fe's first use of RCV in March 2018, voter turnout was sharply up from its comparably contested mayoral election in 2014, 99.9% cast valid ballots, more than three in five voters ranked all five candidates, and RCV results were released on election night; 3) in Minneapolis, a comprehensive city staff report on the 2017 election provided a range of evidence on how well voters are using RCV and that fewer than one in five voters would prefer not voting with RCV.

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Scholarly research about older elections is encouraging as well. In 2013 and 2014 for example, the Rutgers-Eagleton poll conducted a study examining the experiences of voters in RCV and non-RCV cities in seven cities, including four in California. 84% of voters reported understanding RCV; indeed, more voters understood RCV thoroughly than they did plurality voting (limited to one preference). More voters also understood RCV than California's top two runoff system. Majorities of voters across all seven cities supported keeping their RCV system.

The issue of RCV has come before the legislature in Hawaii in previous years. However, the evidence has never been so strong that voters like and use RCV well and the roadmap to implementing RCV smoothly and efficiently, as detailed by the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center at RCVResources.org. RCV is an elegant, intuitive solution to the problems seen in crowded vacancy elections. It is proven in practice, with more communities interested in its benefits each year.

Importantly, Hawaii election officials seem ready to implement the provisions of SB560 HD 2. The bill addresses the specific problem of fair outcomes in vacancy elections. Several winners of vacancy elections in the past decade have won with well under half the votes cast. Limiting voters to one choice in crowded election fields in fact can be seen as a literal form of voter suppression. Consider that in high-profile races with RCV, nearly nine in ten voters will indicate at least a second choice as a backup -- like in the recent mayoral elections in Santa Fe and San Francisco and in the Democratic primary for governor in Maine, where more than three times as many voters chose to rank at least six of the seven candidates as chose to rank only one. Yet Maine's old rules and Hawaii's current plurality system forces everyone to be limited to one preference.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and please don't hesitate to contact me at rr@fairvoteaction.org or (301) 270-4616 if you have any questions.

See links to:

- Report [RCV in 2020 presidential primaries, including in Hawaii](#)
- Summary of [scholarly analysis of ranked choice voting](#)
- Link to the [final report](#) of the New York City charter commission that passed RCV 13-1 before voters in November 2019 supported it with 73% of the vote

Attached: Sample RCV ballot and election outcome from Maine elections in 2018



Ranked Choice Voting Ballot: Maine Democratic 2018 Primary for Governor

Here is the ballot used in Maine for its Democratic primary election in the governor in 2018 that resulted in the nomination of Janet Mills. Turnout hit an all-time high, and more than three times as many voters chose to rank at least six candidates as only one.

Governor	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice	7th Choice	8th Choice
Cote, Adam Roland Sanford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dion, Donna J. Biddeford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dion, Mark N. Portland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eves, Mark W. North Berwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mills, Janet T. Farmington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russell, Diane Marie Portland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweet, Elizabeth A. Hallowell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RCV Election Example: *Maine Congressional Elections, 2018*

Maine, 2nd U.S. House District Ranked choice Voting Election, November 2018			
Candidate	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Jared Golden Democrat	45.5%	46.2%	50.5%
	128,999 votes	130,182 votes	139,231 votes
Bruce Poliquin Republican	46.4%	47.1%	49.5%
	131,631 votes	132,505 votes	136,326 votes
Tiffany Bond Independent	5.7%	6.7%	<i>Defeated</i>
	16,260 votes	18,831 votes	
Will Hoar Independent	2.4%	<i>Defeated</i>	
	6,753 votes		



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

March 30, 2021

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
RE: Testimony in support of SB560 HD2

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) **supports** SB560 HD2, which would implement Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for special federal elections and special elections of vacant county council seats.

While we know this measure is intended to test RCV, we wholeheartedly endorse amending this bill to broaden the range of electoral situations in which RCV would be utilized.

RCV is simply a different method for tallying votes in a democratic election. RCV uses multiple rounds of tallying to weed out candidates without broad support, resulting in an elected candidate that is closest to what the majority of voters want.

With RCV, voters can rank candidates in order of preference. This ranking means that voters won't have to worry about "wasting" their vote on a candidate who may be more appealing, but has a low chance of winning—especially in a crowded race. If your favorite candidate has limited support, your vote will still count for your next choice.

This has the added benefit of giving candidates more incentive to run campaigns based on their values, encouraging diversity. It also encourages candidates to engage with the supporters of other candidates who might then rank them as their second or third choice—which can be critical to winning. In this way, the candidate who emerges victorious is guaranteed to have the broadest possible support every time.

We know RCV works because it's been successfully used in some other jurisdictions for a long time. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i successfully used RCV in its most recent Presidential Preference Poll. YPDA has used RCV for our board elections for several years now as well.

For more information, and some fun videos—one of which YPDA produced—visit fairvote.org/hawaiircv2020

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron
Board President & Secretary, 2020–2021
action@ypdahawaii.org



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com | @LWVHawaii on Facebook

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 1:30 p.m. Via Videoconference, Room 308
SB 560, HD 2 RELATING TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

This bill would establish ranked choice voting for special federal elections and special elections of vacant county council seats. The League offers comments only on this measure.

The bill proposes that Hawaii introduce ranked choice voting for special Federal elections and for special elections of vacant county council seats, not regular primary elections, or regular general elections. The limited scope of this bill is appropriate.

The ranked choice method allows voters to choose their candidates in order of preference, by marking candidates as their first, second, third, and subsequent choices, followed by tabulation of votes in rounds, with the lowest-ranked candidates eliminated in each round until there is a candidate who receives the majority of the votes (more than 50%) in a final round and is declared the winner.

The League remains keenly interested in proportional voting in which the number of seats held by members of a political party in a legislative body (such as a special Federal Election or the Hawaii County Council) is determined directly by the number of votes candidates receive in an election. Ranked Choice Voting has the potential for producing a better representative result supporting this objective - one where the winner actually receives the majority of votes.

However, our experience with voter education, including our recent efforts with Vote by Mail, informs us that adoption of Ranked Choice Voting must be accompanied by a comprehensive, well-funded program of public voter education. Adoption of Ranked Choice Voting as outlined in this bill without such educational efforts risks voter confusion which would far outweigh the benefit.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com | @LWVHawaii on Facebook

The League is aware of the use of Ranked Choice Voting by the Hawaii Democratic Party in its 2020 Presidential Primary¹, the adoption of it for state and federal races in Alaska last fall,² the adoption of it for Presidential and U.S. Senate seats in Maine's 2020 elections³ and a rise in its use in municipal elections throughout the country.⁴ In the past four years Hawaii legislators have also introduced similar proposals to change our electoral system for certain races. We note that there were seven parties represented in Hawaii's general election and think ranked choice voting would probably help our emerging parties gain a foothold.

We urge additional planning of an experiment in ranked choice voting. We are not certain which Hawaii races would constitute a good experiment. Obviously, it is appropriate for races where there are many political candidates, but this method may not be a good match for elections where the voter chooses two candidates from among a larger slate of candidates, with the top two vote-getters the winners (such as our Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) elections). Another remaining question is whether the current provisions of Hawaii's Constitution (and the provisions of Hawaii County's charter as relevant) already permit ranked choice voting, or whether a Constitutional amendment (or County charter amendment) would be necessary. Another consideration is cost⁵

The passage of Voting by Mail took more than eight years and by necessity included a state-funded education and awareness program - one we were happy to help develop. The continued advocacy and experimentation with Ranked Choice Voting is its own education program - but nothing can replace a voter education program supported by state government. Should Ranked Choice Voting be adopted for use in elections run by the state or county, we must apply lessons from Vote by Mail and educate, educate, educate. Our voters deserve to know how their vote will be counted should the legislature change the method of tabulation, and why such a change was made. Only through such efforts can those benefits be realized.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

1. Shikina, Rob. "Joe Biden Wins Hawaii Democratic Presidential Primary With 63% of Ranked-Choice Votes". *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, 23 May 2020. <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/23/breaking-news/joe-biden-wins-hawaii-democratic-presidential-primary-with-63-of-ranked-choice-votes/>, accessed 19 February 2021.

2. Bohrer, Becky, "Alaska Voters Narrowly Approve Initiative Changing Elections". Associated Press. <https://apnews.com/article/election-2020-alaska-legislature-state-elections-general-elections-387ba5f6b3ab79bb841bc5c29c8bceee>, accessed 19 February 2021. Of note, Alaska now joins Maine as the second state to adopt RCV at this level of elections.

³ <https://apnews.com/article/election-2020-senate-elections-voting-maine-united-states-355f2859cf5dabf25bb0bb953f9c66bd>

⁴ "Ranked Choice Voting". National Conference of State Legislatures. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/ranked-choice-voting636934215.aspx>, accessed 19 February 2021.

⁵ See, for example <https://www.rcvbloomington.org/news/does-ranked-choice-voting-cost-more>.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 2:49:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports SB560, ranked choice voting. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 6:22:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

The Green Party of Hawai'i is steadfast in our support of SB560, and would like to ask the Finance committee members for a Yes vote on SB560.

SB560 , Ranked Choice Voting in special federal elections and special elections of vacant county council seats is an easy transition to Ranked Choice Voting for all elections. We would love to see Hawai'i join with the 30 jurisdictions that have already adopted some form of Ranked Choice Voting . The two best reasons for adopting Ranked choice voting is the money that will be saved by doing away with Primary elections and the voter confidence it will instill in people once they learn how easy Ranked Choice Voting will be for all peoples.

Thank you for having the courage to vote a very important, Yes , on SB560 .

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

The Green Party of Hawai'i

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, April 1, 2021

1:30 PM

Via Video Conference, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 560, HD2
RELATING TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair CULLEN, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 560, HD2, which establishes ranked choice voting (RCV) for special federal elections and special elections of vacant county council seats.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts such as adopting RCV.

RCV is a simple electoral reform that ensures fair and efficient elections. In a traditional election, the candidate with the most votes wins, even if they do not receive a majority of the votes. This means voters often feel disengaged and are left to choose between the “lesser of two evils,” or vote for the candidate they feel has the best chance of winning, rather than supporting their favorite candidates.

RCV promotes positive, inclusive and fair elections, which encourages a diversity of candidates. The Hawaii Democratic Party’s Party-Run Presidential Primary employed RCV in 2020. There are 30 jurisdictions that are using or have adopted some form of RCV. See https://www.fairvote.org/data_on_rcv#research_snapshot.

With RCV, voters rank candidates from favorite to least favorite. On Election Night, first choice votes are counted to determine who voters like the best. If a candidate receives a majority of votes, they win. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest first-choice rankings is eliminated. If your favorite candidate is eliminated, your vote is instantly counted for your next choice. This repeats until one candidate reaches a majority and wins.

In RCV elections, you always get to vote for your favorite candidate, even if they do not have a good chance of winning. If your favorite candidate gets eliminated, then your vote immediately counts for your next choice. You can truly vote your conscience without worrying about wasting your vote. Ranking your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices will never hurt your favorite candidate. It simply amplifies your voice in the process.

Cities that have RCV elections have seen a steady increase in voter turnout. When voters feel their vote will matter, they turn out in greater numbers.

In RCV elections, candidates often need 2nd and 3rd choice votes to win a majority of the vote. As such, they will ask for your first-choice vote, but if another candidate is your favorite, they will also ask for your second and third choices. Candidates are not likely to get your second or third choice vote if they have been engaging in negative “mudslinging” personal attacks against your favorite candidate.

RCV will require voter education to implement successfully. Common Cause Hawaii hopes that the Office of Elections and Clerks' Offices are provided with sufficient public education tools to implement RCV and will work cooperatively with the community to disseminate information about RCV.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 560, HD2, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the committee members to pass SB 560, HD2 out of your Committee. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:18:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this to be passed through legislature.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 5:41:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and Representatives,

I urge your support for SB560 HD2, the Ranked Choice Voting bill. Although this would only allow Ranked Choice Voting in very few elections, it makes sense to see how it works in small settings first. Other states, cities, and organizations are currently using Ranked Choice Voting as a way to obtain a more fair choice for voters. Let's try it out in Hawaii's special elections.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:44:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I support SB 560 HD 2.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 6:25:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Emery	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Make Hawaii a leader in the democratic process. We need this urgently.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 6:47:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosemarie Muller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ranked Choice Voting is a simple electoral reform that ensures fair and efficient elections. It will promote positive, inclusive and fair elections which will give us an adversity of candidates.

Thank you

Rosemarie Muller

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:00:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rank Choice Voting (RCV) is a simple electoral reform that ensures fair and efficient elections. In a traditional election, the candidate with the most votes wins, even if they do not receive a majority of the votes. This means voters often feel disengaged and are left to choose between the “lesser of two evils,” or vote for the candidate they feel has the best chance of winning, rather than supporting their favorite candidates.

RCV promotes positive, inclusive and fair elections, which encourages a diversity of candidates. The Hawaii Democratic Party’s Party-Run Presidential Primary employed RCV in 2020. There are 30 jurisdictions that are using or have adopted some form or RCV.

With RCV, voters rank candidates from favorite to least favorite. On Election Night, first choice votes are counted to determine who voters like the best. If a candidate receives a majority of votes, they win. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest first-choice rankings is eliminated. If your favorite candidate is eliminated, your vote is instantly counted for your next choice. This repeats until one candidate reaches a majority and wins.

In RCV elections, you always get to vote for your favorite candidate, even if they do not have a good chance of winning. If your favorite candidate gets eliminated, then your vote immediately counts for your next choice. You can truly vote your conscience without worrying about wasting your vote. Ranking your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices will never hurt your favorite candidate. It simply amplifies your voice in the process.

RCV will require voter education to implement successfully. We hope that the Office of Elections and Clerks’ Offices are provided with sufficient public education tools to implement RCV and will work cooperatively with the community to disseminate information about RCV.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:32:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE Ranked Choice Voting. Integrity of elections is the most important consideration in ensuring a democratic process. As we saw in the recent Presidential election, when there is a failure to provide integrity there will be concerns about fraud that are difficult to resolve.

Implementing Ranked Choice Voting will just make the voting process more difficult and provide more avenues for fraud. We need to increase voter confidence in the election system. This bill would take us in the opposite direction.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:37:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB560 and HD2 for the following reasons.

- RCV promotes positive, inclusive, and fair elections.
- RCV encourages a diversity of candidates.
- RCV promotes voter participation when voters do not have to choose between their preferred candidate and a candidate perceived as having a better chance of winning.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Afable

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:56:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Ranked Choice Voting. The process is not intuitive but once used becomes understandable. Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:07:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha FIN Committee Members,

I support SB560 HD2 because:

- RCV is a simple electoral reform that ensures fair and efficient elections. In a traditional election, the candidate with the most votes wins, even if they do not receive a majority of the votes. This means voters often feel disengaged and are left to choose between the “lesser of two evils,” or vote for the candidate they feel has the best chance of winning, rather than supporting their favorite candidates.
- RCV promotes positive, inclusive and fair elections, which encourages a diversity of candidates. The Hawaii Democratic Party’s Party-Run Presidential Primary employed RCV in 2020. There are 30 jurisdictions that are using or have adopted some form or RCV. See https://www.fairvote.org/data_on_rcv#research_snapshot.
- With RCV, voters rank candidates from favorite to least favorite. On Election Night, first choice votes are counted to determine who voters like the best. If a candidate receives a majority of votes, they win. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest first-choice rankings is eliminated. If your favorite candidate is eliminated, your vote is instantly counted for your next choice. This repeats until one candidate reaches a majority and wins.
- In RCV elections, you always get to vote for your favorite candidate, even if they do not have a good chance of winning. If your favorite candidate gets eliminated, then your vote immediately counts for your next choice. You can truly vote your conscience without worrying about wasting your vote. Ranking your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices will never hurt your favorite candidate. It simply amplifies your voice in the process.
- RCV will require voter education to implement successfully. We hope that the Office of Elections and Clerks’ Offices are provided with sufficient public education tools to implement RCV and will work cooperatively with the community to disseminate information about RCV.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:39:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I hope the finance Committee will vote yes on ranked choice voting.

While the process may seem somewhat complicated at first glance, it is logical. The voting public is more adaptable than opponents of the process lead us to believe. With adequate voter education, voters will quickly understand and will appreciate the chance to vote for their favorite candidates. They will no longer feel that sometimes their vote has been lost.

It will also encourage voters to study all of the candidates closely.

Jurisdictions where ranked choice voting has become the order of the day show great public support.

Susan Dursin, Captain Cook, HI

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:43:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sam kippen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a member of Common Cause Hawaii and I support SB 560, HD2, which establishes ranked-choice voting for special federal elections and special elections of vacant county council seats. Ranked choice voting promotes positive, inclusive and fair elections, which encourages a diversity of candidates. The Hawaii Democratic Party's Party-Run Presidential Primary employed ranked choice voting in 2020, and 30 jurisdictions that are using or have adopted some form of ranked choice voting. We respectfully urge the committee to pass SB 560, HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:02:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee on Finance,

Please support SB560 HD2.

With RCV, voters rank candidates from favorite to least favorite. On Election Night, first choice votes are counted to determine who voters like the best. If a candidate receives a majority of votes, they win. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest first-choice rankings is eliminated. If your favorite candidate is eliminated, your vote is instantly counted for your next choice. This repeats until one candidate reaches a majority and wins.

In RCV elections, you always get to vote for your favorite candidate, even if they do not have a good chance of winning. If your favorite candidate gets eliminated, then your vote immediately counts for your next choice. You can truly vote your conscience without worrying about wasting your vote. Ranking your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices will never hurt your favorite candidate. It simply amplifies your voice in the process.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB560 HD2.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

LATE

SB-560-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 8:49:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support sb560 for the simple reasons that all candidates are given equal access to the vote,people's choices are more accurately reflected, and voter enthusiasm increases.

Mahalo for your attention.

Laurie on Hawai'i Island