

**SB534**



**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 AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 534  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

February 11, 2009

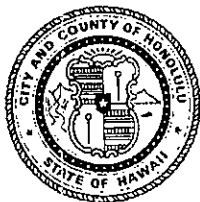
Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 534. The purpose of this bill is to provide opportunities to file for political office in the event of a late filing or withdrawal by candidates.

The Office of Elections takes no position on this bill. The OE observes that the timelines proposed by this bill would have no impact on printing of ballots when compared to the current law. Therefore, we do not foresee any adverse administrative impact with regard to this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 534.

Respectfully Submitted

Kevin B. Cronin



**CITY COUNCIL**  
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February 10, 2009

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Dwight Takamine  
Vice-Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Vice-Chair Takamine:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB534

Thank you for holding a hearing on this important legislation which would provide clarification to our current election laws, particularly in the case of the withdrawal of a candidate just prior to the filing deadline.

While other Bills have been introduced in an attempt to address the various issues that arose during this last election cycle, I believe the language in SB 534 will provide a more comprehensive update to the existing law by automatically extending the filing deadline by five calendar days in the event there is a late withdrawal, creating an uncontested race.

In particular, SB534 addresses a possible "domino effect" should candidates enter races at the last minute. This legislation is designed to minimize the potential for uncontested elections. By moving the filing deadline back a few weeks, this bill also provides even more time for the Office of Elections to perform all required tasks prior to an election.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss the issue further. Please feel free to contact me at 768-5005.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duke Bainum". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Duke Bainum

Councilmember, District V  
Honolulu City Council

DB:jg