

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

DANNY A. MATEO
County Clerk



JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 15
RELATED TO ELECTIONS
MARCH 3, 2015

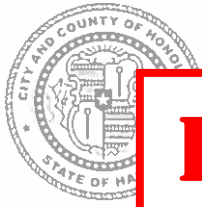
Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 15. The purpose of this bill is to create a statewide standard for the distribution of absentee ballots.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui, would like to provide comments on the proposed bill.

We recommend that the time frame to mail out absentee ballots be left to the discretion of the clerks to allow us flexibility due to the limited number of vendors that are capable of handling our specifications (there are only 1 – 2 vendors in Hawaii that have been able to accommodate us). Please keep in mind that a vendor can only process one county at a time. This ensures that ballots and envelopes for each county are kept separate.

Currently we mail out our absentee ballots 3-4 weeks prior to an election depending on scheduling at the selected vendor. After our envelope and ballot inserting process is completed, the vendor delivers our envelopes containing ballots to the post office. We prefer to have our ballots mailed upon completion rather than have them stored in the vendor's warehouse waiting for all counties to be completed for uniform mailing.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No. 15.



LATE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077
TELEPHONE:(808)768-3810 • FAX:(808)768-3835

GLEN TAKAHASHI
ACTING CITY CLERK

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

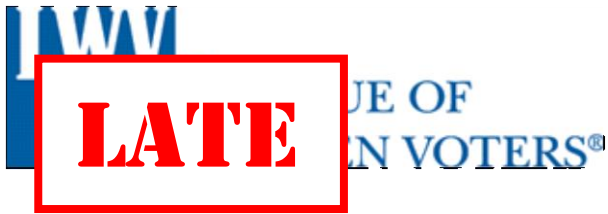
TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI
ACTING CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 15
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
March 2, 2015

Chair Rhoads and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No.15. The purpose of this bill is to standardize the distribution of absentee ballots. We feel mailing absentee ballots no earlier than twenty-one days before the election provides a reasonable amount of time for voters to receive their ballot and return it for counting. Also, voters statewide can anticipate receiving their absentee ballot at similar times.

In regards to absentee ballot requests received on the last day specified, mailing these absentee ballot packets within twenty-four hours is in accord with our current practices. Again, we feel the proposed bill is reasonable and will help standardize receipt of absentee mail ballots.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No.15.



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 3, 2015; 1:03 p.m. Room 325
HB 15 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 15, which creates a single state standard for delivering absentee ballots to voters.

Apparently there are differences among counties in how soon before an election an absentee ballot can be mailed to a voter, and (on the last day for entertaining such requests) how promptly a clerk must respond to a request. This bill would require that absentee ballots be mailed no sooner than 21 days before Election Day. Since many of these absentee ballots will be mailed outside of Hawaii, allowing three weeks seems sufficient.

The League fully expects Hawaii will adopt statewide voting by mail in the near future, and it appears that HB 124 and SB 287 are emerging as the prominent bills endorsing this change. Why not have the same 21-day standard for all-mail elections as well? SB 287 requires that ballots be mailed out 14-18 days before Election Day, and SB124 requires mail outs 18-22 days before election. Either of these schedules is acceptable, and it is a good idea to have a single standard statewide. We do understand it should be clear what the standard is for absentee ballots and what the standard is for all-mail ballots.

Regarding the last day of the request period, it does make sense to us to set a twenty-four hour time limit for response to a mail out request. Otherwise, there could be confusion about whether a voter is entitled to a ballot. As a practical matter there must be a clear limit to the end of the request period.