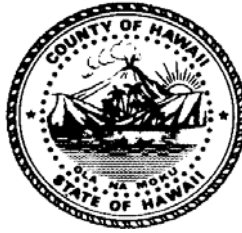


KENNETH G. GOODENOW
County Clerk



RODNEY OSHIRO
Deputy County Clerk

County of Hawai'i
Office of the County Clerk
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Telephone: (808) 961-8255
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August 12, 2010

Honorable Edmund Haituka and Members of the
County of Hawai'i Charter Commission
c/o Hawai'i County Council
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Dear Chairman Haituka and Commission Members:

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Ballot Language Summary for CA-7

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The August 10, 2010 Memorandum from Education Ad Hoc Committee Chair Jarman proposes the following summary for CA-7:

The public can vote to remove an elected official from office ("recall"). To put a recall to a vote, a recall petition must have a minimum number of valid signatures. This proposal would lower the number of signatures required on a recall petition.

Presently, the requirement is 25% of all registered voters in the county or district, depending on office. This proposal changes the requirement to 25% of valid votes cast for the office in the last general election.

This proposal would also require petition signers to give the last four digits of their social security number and the day and month of their birth in addition to their residence address and their signature. Furthermore, the county will have more time -- 30 days instead of 20 days -- to verify signatures.

After reviewing transcripts of the June 25, 2010 meeting, it is my understanding that CA-7 Draft 2 was amended with the proposal contained in Communication 257 from Charter Attorney Levi Hookano as follows:

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Section 12-1.1. Recall Procedure.

(a) A petition demanding recall of an official elected at-large, or by voters of the entire county, as the case may be, shall be signed by qualified voters equal to or greater than twenty-five percent of the total valid votes cast for the office subject to the recall petition in the last [general] election.

(b) A petition demanding recall of a district council member shall be signed by qualified voters equal to or greater than twenty-five percent of the total valid votes cast for the district office subject to the recall petition [in the district] in the last [general] election.

I therefore recommend that the word "general" be deleted in the second paragraph of the proposed summary. Also, I believe the first sentence of the second paragraph is not entirely correct, as the current signature requirement is 25% of the total number of persons who registered in the last general election, not those currently registered to vote.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 961-8271.

Yours, very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Goodenow", with a stylized flourish at the end.

KENNETH G. GOODENOW