



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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TESTIMONY OF
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER SCOTT T. NAGO
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
STATE OF HAWAII
REGARDING THE U.S. ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM

The State of Hawaii, Office of Elections worked with the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission Field Services Program (FSP) to conduct hash testing of the voting equipment used for the 2024 Elections. We had a positive experience, and they provided support and assistance to develop and implement a hash testing program.

As part of the implementation, FSP observed the hash testing conducted by our office from July 25, 2024, to July 30, 2024, which corresponded with the beginning of our use of the system for our primary election. The FSP staff were unobtrusive and did not interfere with our operations. They were also able to observe the start-up of our counting center operations for our 2024 Primary Election. As part of their review, FSP issued a report detailing the processes and providing recommendations. We believe the review had other benefits that other jurisdictions may wish to consider in deciding whether to request a field review.

First, these types of programs allow you to directly interact with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, as opposed to simply relying on one's receipt of guidelines, bulletins, or other associated ways in which information is disseminated. It brings these various items to life in a way that these items alone cannot convey.

Second, networking or building relationships outside of one's state with others in the election world is important for the purposes of election professionals growing in their knowledge and knowing that there are those out there that they can reach out to as a resource. Meeting with representatives of the EAC is an opportunity that many election

officials never have an opportunity to do. When you meet with an EAC representative over an extended period of time, it reconfirms that sense of being part of a larger whole of election professionals working toward the same common end. In some ways, it is like getting the benefits of attending a conference, but with the convenience of not needing to leave your state to attend.

Third, while our elections are secure, many have to deal with inquiries from the public from those who do not trust the voting system or the voting system vendors. These types of people sometimes acknowledge that there are rigorous requirements associated with certifying a voting system, but they might think this only reflects a moment in time and that bad actors could compromise the voting system subsequently. As such, a program like the FSP in which the federal government comes in and reviews the system to ensure it is compliant is beneficial to attempt to allay those concerns and to show that election officials are vigilant about such matters as well as bring transparency to the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission Field Services Program.