



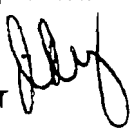
**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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**DWAYNE D. YOSHINA**  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senator David Ige, Chair  
Committee On Intergovernmental Affairs

**FROM:** Dwayne D. Yoshina,   
Chief Election Officer

**DATE:** February 10, 2006

**RE:** **RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS – SB 2560 INSTANT  
RUNOFF VOTING - COUNTY ELECTIONS**

We take this opportunity to answer questions posed during the January 9<sup>th</sup> hearing regarding Senate Bill No. 2560.

1. *Where is Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) used?*

Internationally, IRV is used in Ireland to select its president and in Australia to elect members of its House of Representatives.

In the United States; Ferndale, Michigan and Burlington, Vermont have recently amended their county charters to use IRV. The City of San Francisco uses IRV for its local elections.

2. *Explain which county races could be applicable for Instant Runoff Voting.*

The measure states that IRV would provide in "all county elections in which no primary election is held." Not having drafted SB 2560, we can only surmise that this term describes the current, nonpartisan voting method applicable to all county races.

Technically, all county races are "Nonpartisan Special Elections" held in conjunction with the Primary Elections. Although county races are held

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with the Primary Election, this special election does not serve as a means to select nominees to represent a political party in the General Election. Currently, primaries are held for only Federal and State elective offices.

To reiterate, the Office of Elections holds no position regarding Instant Runoff Voting. Our concerns are technical. Should such a voting system be implemented in this State, thought and consideration must be paid towards the hardware, software, and voter education required to support it.

For more information regarding IRV, you may go to [www.instantoff.com/faq.asp](http://www.instantoff.com/faq.asp). This website includes a helpful primer as well as an interactive demonstration.

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