

PUBLIC INTEREST

LEGAL FOUNDATION

PILF Applauds U.S. Supreme Court's Enjoining Hawaiian Race-Based Election

Court stops tabulation of constitutionally-suspect election

(Alexandria, VA) – November 30. On Friday, Justice Kennedy temporarily blocked the tabulation and certification of ballots cast in a constitutionally-suspect publicly funded election in Hawaii. With voting ending today, the election seeks to determine leadership in a nativist Hawaiian political entity. Only one race may vote. Last week, the Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) filed a brief supporting the challengers' request for emergency relief.

PILF believes that the government-run voter registration roll limited to one race violates the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. A federal district court rejected the request for emergency relief and let the election proceed. Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to impose emergency relief to stop the tabulation of ballots. PILF joined the effort to stop the race-based election at the Supreme Court.

The [brief](#), seeking emergency action filed on behalf of the American Civil Rights Union, tells the Court that, for a second time, Hawaii is conducting a racially exclusionary election. The first time, in a case called *Rice v. Cayetano*, a similar election was finished before the courts had sufficient time to block it. Once the previous case reached the Supreme Court, it annihilated Hawaii's justifications for having racially exclusive rolls and elections and declared that such ancestry tests violated the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution. But because the election had already taken place, it was too late for complete review.

"We are grateful that Justice Kennedy imposed an injunction preventing the racially exclusive election from completing," said J. Christian Adams, President of PILF. "As we reminded the Court, Hawaii evaded full review of this issue once before and, now, it should not happen again."

The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) is a 501(c)(3) public interest law firm dedicated to election integrity. PILF exists to assist states and other in aiding the cause of election integrity and fighting against lawlessness in American elections. Drawing on numerous experts in the field, PILF protects the right to vote and preserves the Constitutional framework of American elections.

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Court filings can be found here: <http://publicinterestlegal.org/cases/akina-v-hawaii/>
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