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Red flag raised on the absentee voting system

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Your Vote Counts. That's what you want to believe. Whether you vote in person or through the mail, you put your faith in the system.

A Kapolei resident we'll call "Pomai" is losing some of that faith... She doesn't want to be the face of controversy in such an intense election. But wants her story told. Pomai says she received two ballots.

"I got my first absentee ballot in the mail the week of October 10th around that time. I took a few days to decide, mailed it in. About a week and a half later I received another ballot in the mail," she said.

With her second ballot in hand, still sealed, she says she's at loss with what do with it.

According to the Office of Elections, the City Clerk is the one who sends and receives absentee ballots. KITV asked the Elections Administrator what Pomai should do with that second ballot.

"Without seeing the evidence or that second ballot or what has happened... I cannot comment. It's hard to say," said Chad Kadota, Elections Administrator.

Apparently, it's even harder to sort out.

Pomai says she mailed her first ballot back in October, but the City Clerk said he never received it.

So what happened to the ballot she mailed in? How did she get two ballots, anyway? And what if she votes on both of them?

"Every ballot that gets sent out, when it's voted and returned, everything gets logged in... So basically, the voter sent in the original ballot it gets marked as received. A second ballot comes in, you know they get their hands on a second ballot by accident or something," said Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer. "When it comes in to be received it's going to be flagged as we already received a ballot from this voter. So, the second ballot will be invalidated."

Pomai's not convinced.

"Where's the fail-safe? Where's the accountability in errors like this happening and preventing it from happening again?" Pomai is still full of questions.

After we told her the clerk never logged her vote, Pomai says she'll fill out her second ballot and send it in, hoping this time, her vote WILL count.

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