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EDITORIAL | LETTERS

Letters: PAC attack ads distort candidates' records; Townhouse owners get bad break from DPP; Wildlife encounters can trigger long-term trauma

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Free and fair elections are the hallmark of great democracies. The open, rigorous exchange of ideas and approaches between candidates and campaigns, when truthful and transparent, makes for better decision-making by voters. But that's not what's happening now in the races for lieutenant governor and for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional seat.

Nearly \$2 million has been spent against candidates Sylvia Luke and Jill Tokuda by political action committees who are using half-truths and misrepresentations to further questionable objectives.

We've reached an all-time low in Hawaii politics and it must stop.

The attacks on Luke come from Be Change Now, the Hawaii Carpenters Union's political action arm. We take no issue with the political activism. But when that action devolves to maligning an individual's character with ugly, unfounded claims of wrongdoing, we cannot remain silent. Sadly, this makes all of us in the labor movement suspect.

The campaign against Tokuda involves groups from outside Hawaii. They have spent a staggering \$1 million to distort her record.

The one sure way to stop these distasteful, alarming, unacceptable behaviors is for all of us to cast our votes based on facts, records of achievement and political discourse that is constructive and transparent.

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