

Smaller-town values rise to top

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Today is the last in a weeklong series of endorsements on state Legislature races. We reviewed candidates' backgrounds, civil rights positions, community involvement and ideas to propel the state forward. Incumbency was a factor, but not a rubber stamp. In a toss-up between the Democrat or Republican, we favored the loyal-opposition Republican.

» For last week's endorsements - governor, Congress and school board - see www.staradvertiser.com, Editorials section. For more on all candidates and the election, click on the website's "VOTE 2010" icon.

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» To view candidates on video, see www.olelo.org/whatson_vote_cif.htm.

The Star-Advertiser completes its legislative endorsement series today with a look around the most rural piece of an otherwise urbanized island. It starts with the farmland-turned-subdivisions of Ewa and curves around the Waianae Coast through the North Shore communities - where the "keep the country, country" mantra still resounds.

» 47th District (Kaneohe-Kahaluu-Laie): Democratic freshman incumbent **Jessica Wooley** is the Star-Advertiser's choice. Republican challenger Richard Fale, recently elected chairman of the Koolauloa Neighborhood Board, is building a record but is far outmatched by that of his competitor. Wooley's sponsorship of bills that make it easier to remove hazards on private property, advance the progress of the Kahana living park and promote cultivation of taro shows a responsiveness to community concerns that often become overwhelmed by the legislative process.