

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1480

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 23, 2007

RE: S.B. No. 156  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 156, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to increase voter participation by authorizing a comprehensive election by mail program for all elections.

The Chief Election Officer, Disability and Communication Access Board, and AARP Hawaii supported this bill. The Office of the County Clerk of the County of Hawaii, Office of the County Clerk of the County of Maui, Office of the County Clerk of the County of Kauai, and the Office of the City Clerk of the City and County of Honolulu submitted comments.

Your Committee understands the need to promote increased voter participation in our state. However, your Committee is concerned that the comprehensive vote-by-mail system proposed in this measure may prove too burdensome and complex to implement.

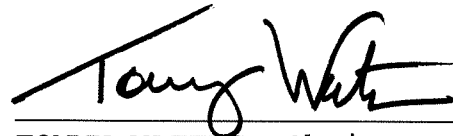


Upon further consideration, your Committee has amended this measure by replacing its contents with the contents of House Bill No. 764, H.D. 1. As amended, this bill allows voters the option of receiving permanent absentee voter status, subject to certain conditions, and also contains safeguards to prevent abuse of this status.

Your Committee notes that allowing permanent absentee voting does not prevent voters who may wish to continue voting at polling places to do so.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 156, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 156, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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TOMMY WATERS, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSCR 1480

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> SB 156, SD2, (SSCR 934)		<b>Date:</b> 3/22/07		
<b>Committee Referral:</b> JUD, FIN		<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.		
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments, for recommitment for further consideration				
JUD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WATERS, Tommy (C)	✓			
2. OSHIRO, Blake K. (VC)	✓			
3. CALDWELL, Kirk				✓
4. EVANS, Cindy	✓			
5. GREEN, Josh, M.D.	✓			
6. ITO, Ken				✓
7. LUKE, Sylvia	✓			
8. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
9. MORITA, Hermina M.				✓
10. SONSON, Alex M.	✓			
11. SOUKI, Joseph M.				✓
12. TSUJI, Clift	✓			
13. YAMANE, Ryan I.	✓			
14. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	✓			
15. MARUMOTO, Barbara C.		✓		
16. PINE, Kymberly Marcos	✓			
17. THIELEN, Cynthia				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	10	1		6
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – HMSO    Duplicate (Pink) – Clerk's Office				