

## FINTestimony

---

**From:** jason leue [jasonleue1@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 30, 2008 1:26 PM

**To:** FINTestimony

**Subject:** Jason Supporting SB 966

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: Jason Leue YO! Hawaii

Supporting SB966

DATE: Monday, March 31, 2008

TIME: 3:30 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

I am writing in support of SB966.

I am unreservedly in favor of bill SB966 which would lower the age a person can run for Governor from 30 to 25. I personally think it should be 18 like California, but 25 will be a great start.

I think people need to get involved in a democratic process as early as possible. Youth is attracted to, inspired by, lead by other youth. Young people are interested in – young athletes, young actors, young musicians etc. They care much more about what their peers think than anyone else.

To get the youth excited we need a young leader, and to get a young leader we need to give them the opportunity to run for Governor. We need to send a message to the youth that politics isn't something just for their parents, I think that's what we're telling the young adults right now with our age limitation 30 to run for Governor.

We need young leaders to show the young people that getting involved in their community is not just important but possible.

I was at the Waianae Culture Centre about a month ago. I took my family there. Another group was scheduled with us to participate in the activities. It was a social studies class from U of H. There was about 30 students with a professor from U of H with us. It was a very nice experience. At the end of the activities Butch our host for the Culture Center asked what they thought about the experience. There was

a consistent theme that ran through all of these comments. That consistent theme was that they could understand that society was going in the wrong direction but they all felt powerless to do anything. This is a good example of what's going on right now. The youth do not feel like they can do anything because they're just one person or they're too young. They have no live examples of a young person making a difference.

They need a leader not just courageous and strong but young! They need to be shown that they can do something for their community even though they are under 30. If I would have met Ruben years ago I would have started this campaign years ago. YO! Hawaii is showing the youth you can make a difference now! Just by passing this bill SB 966 and giving the Youth some positive publicity you'll see the excitement you'll bring for the colleges and high schools. They're is so much potential. Please allow us to show you. Please give us a chance, please pass Bill SB 966.

**To: Representative Marcos R. Oshiro, Chair**  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: AJ White, Youth Outreach! Hawaii

Date: 3-31-2008

Subject: **Support Bill SB 966**

I would like to thank the committee for letting me testify.

My name is AJ White, and I support bill SB 966.

It is unfortunate that there are many outstanding, qualified, experienced candidates under 30, who are being kept from offering themselves to the people to serve as Governor, because of the current arbitrary age restrictions.

There are 15 other states in the US where you can be 25 and younger to be eligible to run for this position, with California's age requirement being as low as 18.

With voter participation being so low in Hawaii, especially among the age group of 18-24, I feel this will have a positive effect to get young people involved in the political process.

Thank you,

Sincerely

AJ White

## **FINTestimony**

---

**From:** Rasika Leue [rasikaleue@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2008 9:11 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** Supporting SB966

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: Rasika Leue YO! Hawaii

Supporting SB966

DATE: Monday, March 31, 2008

TIME: 3:30 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

I am writing in support of SB966.

This bill would introduce legislation t change the age requirement to run for Governor/Lt Governor from age 30 to age 25.

Just by their presence, young elected leaders can serve as role models and inspirations to other young people. They show us all a broader view of ourselves and what is possible.

Young adult civic engagement, from voting to running for office, is highly important to our state and our nation. Our state has one of the lowest voting turnouts in the nation, and our young adult voter turnout is even lower.

We must do more than just encourage our young people to get involved in the democratic process we must interest them to do so.

3/31/2008

When I as younger, my view on golf was that it was one the most boring sports and that it was for old retired people, certainly not something that my friends and I would be interested in doing or watching. Yet, when Tiger Woods came on the scene, I found myself watching and even thinking about playing golf!

Similarly, young people these days seem to have the view that politics is something that only their parents would be interested in. We want to get them interested.

Let us join the 15 other states that have similar constitutions, and give the opportunity to our young adult 25 years older to run for Governor/Lt Governor

**To: Representative Marcos R. Oshiro, Chair**  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: Ruben Perez, Youth Outreach! Hawaii

Date: 3-31-2008

Subject: **Support of SB966**

Hi, my name is Ruben from Youth Outreach Hawaii (YO! Hawaii). I am writing to ask if you will please hear bill SB966.

Ever since I got involved with YO! Hawaii (Youth Outreach Hawaii) and we decided to try and get this bill passed, I have had the opportunity to go out and talk to youth groups and the general public, finding a great response and support from people who would also like to see this bill passed, from all ages and groups.

Candidates should be elected for their character, their values, and the issues they support, not just because of the age they are. Look at the many different candidates for Governor who have questionable backgrounds/experience/agenda, who may get a hundred or so odd votes. Why are they qualified to be on the ballot?

All we are asking for is a chance!

One of the things that makes this nation so great, is the freedom to choose. So please let democracy work, let the people decide.

**So from me, and on behalf of all the people who support this bill, I ask you to please hear bill SB966.**

Sincerely,  
Ruben Perez

**To: Representative Marcos R. Oshiro, Chair**  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: Samadhi Bishop

Date: 3-31-2008

Subject: **Support of SB966**

Hi, my name is Samadhi Bishop I am 18 years old and I am writing in the hopes that you will please hear bill SB966.

I have many friends who are under the age of 30 and are able to go to war, fight for our country and die. And yet just because of their age, they're not eligible to lead as Governor or Lt. Governor. I know that they, myself and others my age are discouraged by this, feeling that our voice doesn't count.

If you want more young people to be involved in politics, (because we are the future of our country), then I think changing the age to run for Lt. Governor and Governor to 25 will aid in encouraging young people to be a part of the future.

**Please support bill SB966**

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Samadhi Bishop

**To: Representative Marcos R. Oshiro, Chair**

Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

*From: Tandis Bishop, Youth Outreach! Hawaii*

*Date: Monday, March 31 2008*

**Subject: Support of SB966**

I support SB966.

The purpose of this bill is to allow 25 year olds to run for Governor and Lt. Governor.

It is important that young adults have the opportunity to be leaders in our community and to make a difference. They can bring many new ideas to solve some of our society's problems, from local issues to even world issues.

Many young adults I know feel they don't count in the decision making of our state and therefore are not motivated to be involved in civic issues.

Changing the age will have a positive psychological effect on young people. People in their 20s will feel inspired that the opportunity is there, they will feel included, that they are a part of something big and have a voice in making a difference in our state. The goal is to get the young adults in our state more involved in their communities and our democratic process, and this bill will help do that.

Let's give young adults 25 years or older the opportunity to run for Governor and Lt. Governor.

I strongly ask you to pass bill SB966.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Tandis Bishop



## FINTestimony

---

**From:** jon kaguyutan [jonkaguyutan@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 30, 2008 11:40 PM

**To:** FINTestimony

**Subject:** Support Bill SB 966

Aloha,

Please hear bill SB966. I feel that this bill will initiate young people to get involved in politics. If this constitutional amendment gets on the ballot, it will make people publicly aware of the option, and may inspire and encourage the younger age groups to vote and actually get involved in politics.

I work in the business world and I know people under the age of 30 that own corporations and are making millions of dollars and are changing the way we do business. The same applies to people in the military or people that are elected officials in other states. They are under the age of 30, but they are making a difference. They have the support and people are voting for them and electing them. So why can't we open the possibilities and make it so that people with great managerial and entrepreneurial skills bring that energy into politics in Hawaii?

So unless you don't want to bring in new ideas, new energy and new skills into politics in Hawaii, you will not vote for this bill. If you do, than you will favor it.

I have some friends that are very passionate about politics and want to make a difference, but they are intimidated because they feel that they need to be older to get involved. They feel that people won't take them seriously if they are of a certain age group. This constitutional amendment will remove any of those intimidations and will encourage them to get involved and make a difference.

So please, hear SB966.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Kaguyutan

---

Hunt for a chance to win a Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder! [Click here to enter](#)