



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HB 59, HD1 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION RELATING TO RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 2, 2010
2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

Testifier: Jean Aoki, LWV

Chair Karamatsu, Vice chair Ito, members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 59, HD1, which proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to require at least a one-year residence in a district for candidates to run for office to represent that district in the Legislature .

It was maybe a decade ago that we successfully urged an amendment to the State Constitution which required residency in a district prior to filing for office as opposed to the provision which only required residency in the district by the General Election. This bill goes one better by requiring more familiarity with the district one wishes to represent.

We believe that it is a responsibility as well as a distinct honor to represent people of a district in the Legislature, and people deserve someone representing them who they feel knows the district and understands its people and the issues confronting them . I believe that it is understood that problems that arise in this regard when the district lines change with redistricting after the 2010 Census will not punish an incumbent who is thrown into a new district because of population movement.

We ask for your support of HB 59, and we thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this amendment.

IRONWORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

February 1, 2010

Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representative
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Karamatsu and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Re: Support for HB59HD1 – Relating to Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution
Relating to Residency Requirements for Members of the Legislature

We wish to offer our support of HB 59 HD1, Relating to Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution Relating to Residency Requirements for Members of the Legislature

We believe that this bill will ensure that the residents of an area will be represented by a person who knows and understands the issues of their location. Additionally, we would like to be represented by residents that live, shop and resides in their area. Not someone who only cares for themselves and not the people. As we seen in recent media articles the residents are upset at people who are not members of their community. We hope that you and your committee understand the needs of the people.

We support this very important measure. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Arnold Wong /s/