

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2011

RE: H.B. No. 545
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 545, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish an online voter registration system that is available on the website of the Office of Elections.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, Americans for Democratic Action Hawai'i, The League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Common Cause Hawaii, and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Elections and the Office of the County Clerk of the County of Maui.

Your Committee finds that this measure represents an important step in ensuring that all of Hawaii's citizens are able to vote by reducing the barriers to voter registration. Improving access to voter registration will increase voter turnout, particularly for younger voters who are among those least likely to vote. Further, online voter registration is an efficient and economical electoral system that has seen great success in a number of states. In these difficult economic times, it is incumbent upon the State to do more with less, and your Committee believes that encouraging voter turnout while decreasing the cost to register voters is an excellent strategy to meet this goal.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Mandating that the Department of the Attorney General, Examiner of Drivers for each county, county clerks, and Office of Elections cooperate to modify their respective applicable computer systems, develop and implement new computer software, or otherwise develop a method by which the Office of Elections may verify the information in the voter registration affidavits described in section 1 of this measure and may obtain an electronic copy of each applicant's signature;
- (2) Providing that no state or county agency shall charge the Office of Elections any fees or costs related to compliance with the Office of Elections to implement the online voter registration system; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 545, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 545, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



CLAYTON HEE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDL

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB545, HD1	Committee Referral: JDL	Date: 3/15/11		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
HEE, Clayton (C)	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile (VC)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes