

**HB1613,HD1**

**Testimony**



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
[www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections)

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1613, HD 1  
RELATING TO VOTING**

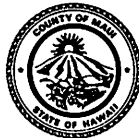
**March 28, 2011**

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1613, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for the application to register to vote to include a space to request a permanent absentee ballot. Additionally, the bill provides that a voter may request an absentee or permanent absentee ballot at any time but not later than 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day prior to an election.

Given that the bill would require the creation of a new form, the Office of Elections requests that it include appropriation language in the amount of \$57,000. This amount would cover the design, minority language translations required by federal law, and printing costs associated with the new form.

Printing costs associated with the request for \$57,000 could be defrayed if the bill is amended to provide that the new forms be made available not later than January 1, 2014. This would permit the county clerks and the Office of Elections to deplete the current stock of forms that they are utilizing thus reducing the cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1613, HD 1.



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk](http://www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk)

TESTIMONY OF

JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1613, HD 1

RELATING TO VOTING

March 28, 2011

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1613, HD1. The bill requires that an application to register to vote include a request for permanent absentee ballot. Additionally, the bill provides that a voter may request an absentee or permanent absentee ballot at any time but not later than 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day prior to an election.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui ("Clerk's Office") provides the following comment.

The bill will require the creation of a new form. The Clerk's Office is not in a position to presently estimate the cost of creating the new form. The cost will include, but not be limited to, design of the new form, translation of the form into minority languages required by federal law, and printing costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1613, HD 1.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 28, 2011, 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 016  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 1613, HD1,  
Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 1613, HD1, Relating to Voting, which requires an application to register to vote in person or by mail-in to include a request for permanent absentee ballot.

The ACLU of Hawaii applauds this Committee for hearing this bill and recognizing the importance of ensuring that all Hawaii’s citizens are able to vote by reducing the barriers to voter registration. Improving access to permanent absentee ballot applications is a very positive step forward: permanent absentee voting will go far towards ensuring the integrity of Hawaii’s electoral system and increasing voter access and turnout. Further, permanent absentee voting is an efficient and economical electoral system that has seen great success in a number of states.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple  
Staff Attorney  
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96801  
T: 808.522-5900  
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E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
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# Hawai‘i Alliance for Retired Americans

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans  
c/o AFSCME • 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

*AFT Hawaii Retirees  
HGEA Retirees  
HSTA – Retired  
ILWU Retirees  
Kokua Council  
Machinists Union Retirees  
UPW Retirees  
ADA/Hawaii  
Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition*

(Submitted by email to: [JDLEstimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLEstimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov) March 25, 2011)

Statement of Al Hamai, President, in support of HB1613, HD1,  
Relating to Permanent Absentee Voting

## **Hearing Of Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee**

**March 28, 2011, 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 016**

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members  
of the Committee,

The purpose of this bill is to require that the form for an application for voting include a request for a permanent absentee ballot, and also to expand the short window period that a citizen may apply for a permanent absentee ballot. That period is too short and restrictive.

Back in 2008 you and the other members of our state Legislature voted, overriding a veto by Governor Lingle, to authorize permanent absentee voting, a very forward-looking effort to encourage greater voting by making voting easier for seniors and other citizens. Consequently, more and more citizens are taking advantage of this law, as attested by the increasing number of absentee votes cast. Yet our election turnout is still low and approval of HB1613, HD1 will make it much easier for our citizens, who have not done so, to register for permanent absentee voting.

We need to make it easier for citizens to register for permanent absentee voting by including on the application for voting, language where an applicant may indicate that he wants to also apply for

HARA Support of HB1613, HD1, to Senate JDL Committee, 3/28/11  
Page 2 of 2 pages

permanent absentee voting, making it a simpler process. And if approved, could eliminate or reduce the paperwork by staff in the voter application process.

The state Elections Office and the various counties have attractive websites on voting and include the forms for Voter Registration, Absentee Voting and Permanent Absentee Voting that can be downloaded on-line. These forms are easily accessible.

It is our understanding that akamai staff of the Elections Office and their counterparts in the counties are willing to work with interested parties to find a way to make the changes proposed in HB1613, HD1, without asking for additional funding to implement the form changes. That willingness is very commendable, and clearly in the public interest, demonstrating the efforts of the Elections Office and the County Elections offices to encourage greater voter participation.

We concur with the purpose of HB1613, HD1, which seeks to make the application for permanent absentee voting a much easier process, and which could encourage more of our electorate to vote in the comfort of their homes.

We urge your Committee to approve this bill.

Mahalo.

*HARA is a strong voice for Hawaii's retirees and seniors; a diverse community-based organization with national roots; a grassroots organizer, educator, and communicator; and a trusted source of information for decision-makers.*

Chair Senator Clayton Hee  
Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**Testimony of Anthony Marzi**

3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
Conference Room 016

**IN SUPPORT**

OF

**House Bill 1613 HD1 - Relating to Voting**

Chair Clayton Hee and members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee, I am writing to support HB 1613 HD1. This bill makes the voting process more convenient, flexible, and accessible, specifically by:

- Removing the time limit on requesting the absentee ballot, but not later than 4:30 PM on the seventh day before the election
- Adding the check box for a permanent absentee ballot

Passage of this bill will increase voter turn-out and participation.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Anthony Marzi

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ralphbrydges@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphbrydges@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1613 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 9:06:44 AM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB1613

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ralph Brydges  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ralphbrydges@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphbrydges@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:  
Please support this measure to encourage increased voter participation.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [johnaerwin@yahoo.com](mailto:johnaerwin@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1613 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 10:38:31 AM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB1613

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John A Ervin  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [johnaerwin@yahoo.com](mailto:johnaerwin@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:  
I urge you to support this measure.  
Mahalo

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sarawitt12@gmail.com](mailto:sarawitt12@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1613 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 4:01:56 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB1613

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: sherrian witt  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: sarawitt12@gmail.com  
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

I am in support of this measure to allow a citizen to sign up for a permanent absentee ballot when registering to vote by filling out a voters registration.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jelhart@hotmail.com](mailto:jelhart@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1613 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:33:30 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB1613

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jennifer Lienhart Tsuji  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jelhart@hotmail.com](mailto:jelhart@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [greenhi3@yahoo.com](mailto:greenhi3@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1613 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 12:44:14 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB1613

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Phil Barnes  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [greenhi3@yahoo.com](mailto:greenhi3@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

I urge you to support this important bill. The cost of the measure is nominal as the check box will just be added at the next printing of the Wikiwiki Voter Registration Guide. Allowing voters to sign up for permanent absentee ballots at any time will encourage a higher percentage of the islands voters to participate in our state and federal elections by voting.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ronnieking155@gmail.com](mailto:ronnieking155@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1613 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 3:59:32 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB1613

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ronnie L. King  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ronnieking155@gmail.com](mailto:ronnieking155@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

I fully support the Bill/Measure 1613. I believe that people should be able to vote a permanent absentee ballot (PAB). The current method for some is not an option, is too complicated, and impossible to accomplish.