

JUDtestimony

From: Carolyn.L.Roldan@hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 1:13 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony for House Bill No. 1613
Attachments: HB 1613 (2011).pdf

Testifier: Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer
Office of Elections

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

Date/Time: Thursday, February 10, 2011

Measure: HB No. 1613 Relating to Voting



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

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

February 10, 2011

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1613. The purpose of this bill is to provide for the application to register to vote to 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.

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.

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

JUDtestimony

From: Shirley Magarifuji [Shirley.Magarifuji@mauicounty.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 4:56 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony for House Bill No. 1613
Attachments: HB 1613 (2011).pdf

Testifier: Jeffrey T. Kuwada, County Clerk
County of Maui

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

Date: February 10, 2011

Measure: HB 1613 Relating to Voting

JEFFREY T. KUWADA
County Clerk



LANCE TAGUCHI
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

TESTIMONY OF

JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1613

RELATING TO VOTING

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1613. 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.

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 5:16 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: dgluck@acluhawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB1613 on 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: 2.10.11.pdf

Testimony for JUD 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM HB1613

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Gluck
Organization: ACLU of Hawaii
Address: P.O. Box 3410 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 522-5900
E-mail: dgluck@acluhawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:



Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 1613,
Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.B. 1613, 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 (and 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,

Daniel M. Gluck
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
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JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 11:08 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: albeeman@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1613 on 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: Testimony HB1613 JUD.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM HB1613

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Albert E Beeman
Organization: Individual
Address: 908 Kumukoa St. Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: 808-895-1813
E-mail: albeeman@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

Please get rid of these roadblocks to voting by Permanent Absentee Ballot and thus increase voter participation!

Albert E Beeman
Hilo

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 1:00 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: nlove@commoncausehawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB1613 on 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: CCHI JUD 2-10-11 HB1613 perman absentee.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM HB1613

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Nikki Love
Organization: Common Cause Hawaii
Address:
Phone: 275-6275
E-mail: nlove@commoncausehawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:



*P.O. Box 22703 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96823 • (808) 275-6275
Web: www.commoncausehawaii.org • Email: info@commoncausehawaii.org*

**House JUD Committee
Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads**

**Thursday 2/10/11 at 2:00 PM in Room 325
HB 1613 – Voting / Permanent Absentee Ballots**

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1613, which requires an application to register to vote to include a request for permanent absentee ballot and eases the time limitations on requesting an absentee or permanent absentee ballot.

These changes would make it easier for voters to choose permanent absentee voting. Given the persistent low voter participation in our state, we support this bill and other efforts to make voting more convenient for the public.

Please note that as more people choose to vote via absentee ballots, we must continue to ensure the integrity of voting by mail. National Common Cause prepared a report in 2008 titled, “What We Know About Vote By Mail Elections and How To Conduct Them Well.” We would be happy to provide a copy to interested legislators. It is also available online at <http://www.commoncause.org/elections>.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.