



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 545, HD 1  
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

**March 1, 2011**

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 545, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for online voter registration.

The Office of Elections takes no position on this bill. Voter registration is the responsibility of the county clerk. HRS § 11-11. We would like to note that a voter's signature is necessary to validate and confirm a voter's identity when requesting an absentee mail ballot and returning a voted absentee mail ballot.

Additionally, an appropriation needs to be made to develop a secure system to provide for online voter registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 545, HD 1.

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](http://www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk)

**TESTIMONY OF**

**JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**ON HOUSE BILL NO. 545, HD 1**

**RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

**March 1, 2011**

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 545, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for online voter registration.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui, expresses strong reservations concerning this measure. Voter registration is the responsibility of the county clerk (HRS §11-11). Currently a voter's signature is necessary to validate and confirm a voter's identity when requesting an absentee mail ballot and returning a voted absentee mail ballot.

Additionally, an appropriation needs to be made to develop a secure system to provide for online voter registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 545, HD1.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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January 29, 2011

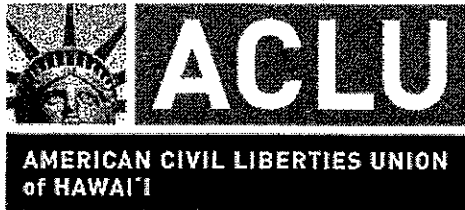
TO: Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii  
Barbara Polk, Legislative Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 545 HD 1 RELATED TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii supports electronic voter registration. This is one of the several procedures the legislature is considering this year that may have the potential to increase voter participation. Especially for younger people, the use of the computer as a means of doing business is now the norm. Many no longer have printers (which would be necessary to print out mail-in voter registration forms). Electronic voter registration greatly streamlines the process, while the potential for fraud appears to be no greater than mail-in voter registration.

We urge your support for HB 545.



Committee: Committee on Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 12:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 325  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 545, HD1,  
Relating to Voter Registration

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.B. 545, HD1, Relating to Voter Registration.

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 voter registration is a very positive step forward and will go far towards ensuring the integrity of Hawaii's electoral system and increasing voter access and turnout. Further, online voter registration 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 96801  
T: 808.522-5900  
F: 808.522-5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)



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

**House FIN Committee**  
**Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee**

**Wednesday 3/1/11 at 12:00 PM in Room 308**  
**HB 545 HD 1– Online Voter Registration**

**TESTIMONY**

**Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii**

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 545 HD 1**, which would establish a system of online voter registration.

**This is an important measure to modernize the voter registration process.** Our current voter registration method is archaic and burdensome, and unnecessarily excludes many eligible voters from participating in our democracy. In 2001, the National Election Commission chaired by Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford concluded: “The registration laws in force throughout the United States are among the world’s most demanding ... [and are] one reason why voter turnout in the United States is near the bottom of the developed world.”

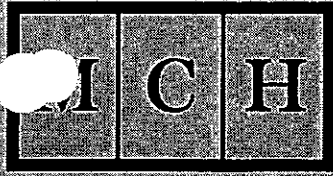
**Modernizing voter registration is especially necessary in Hawaii, which has been consistently at or near the bottom of all 50 states in voter turnout.** The numbers from the 2010 General Election show that there are 930,624 eligible voters in Hawaii, but only 690,748 registered voters. This leaves an estimated 239,876 potential voters (26% of those eligible) who were not registered at the time of the 2010 General Election.<sup>1</sup>

**The concept of online voter registration is especially relevant for younger citizens, who are among the least likely to vote.** For the generation who grew up with the Internet, doing anything via paper “hard copy” is considered old-fashioned and serves as a reminder that our government is not keeping up with the times.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: [http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout\\_2010G.html](http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2010G.html),  
<http://hawaii.gov/elections/results/2010/general/files/histatewide.pdf>



# Media Council of Hawai'i *Since 1970*

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**U Win Tin**

February 28, 2011

House FIN Committee

Testimony in favor of HB545

**To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair, and Members of the Finance Committee**

Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 12 PM, room 308

Testimony in favor of HB545 – Relating to voter registration.

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

While this bill doesn't fall directly in the purview of the Media Council Hawai'i (MCH), it does relate to good government and as such is a matter of concern to MCH and the general public.

As you are aware, Hawaii has one of the worst records regarding voter turnout among the 50 states. By providing for online voter registration, HB 545 will help reverse this trend by making it easier for eligible voters to register. Further it will certainly appeal to younger voters for whom the online transactions are the norm. We need to bring the public back to the polls. HB545 is a step in the right direction. We urge its passage. Thank you.

Chris Conybeare  
President

Re: **Supporting HB545 HD1 – Online Voter Registration**

House Finance Committee

Hearing date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Hearing time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Rm. 308

**Will not be present at hearing**

**Two (2) copies, including original, to room 306**

**Page 1 of 1**

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February 27, 2011

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
Members of the Finance Committee

Fm: Carmille Lim  
carmille.lim@gmail.com

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit my testimony in **support of HB545 HD1**.

HB545 HD1 would establish an online system for electronic voter registration, which would allow eligible voters to register entirely online instead of using hard-copy paper forms. This is an important step in making voter registration more modern and accessible. If implemented, we can expect to see an increase in voter registration and turnout<sup>1</sup>, and a decrease in monies spent on paper forms<sup>1</sup>.

A study done by the Brennan Center for Justice reports three major benefits from online voter registration:

1. **"Paperless voter registration is cost-effective and saves states millions of dollars each year**
2. **Paperless voter registration is more accurate and reliable than paper forms**
3. **Paperless voter registration increases registration rates."**<sup>1</sup>

Arizona was the first state to implement Online Voter Registration in 2003, and reported an improvement in voter turnout -- greatest among **young voters**. In 2008, voters under 34 years old who registered online turned out at 93 percent compared to a 73 percent turnout rate for younger voters who registered "offline."<sup>2</sup>

By adopting an online voter registration system, and allowing citizens the ability to cast ballots through a secure online voting system, we can not only save printing, postage and paper costs and utilize staff resources more wisely, but we can help increase Hawai'i's low voter turnout.

Please pass HB545 HD1. Mahalo for your time.

<sup>1</sup> Ponoroff. "Voter Registration in a Digital Age." Brennan Center for Justice. July 13, 2010.

[http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter\\_registration\\_in\\_a\\_digital\\_age/](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter_registration_in_a_digital_age/)

<sup>2</sup> Barreto, Glaser, Mac Donald, Collingwood, Pedraza, Pump. "Online Voter Registration Systems in Arizona and Washington: Evaluating Usage, Public Confidence and Implementation Process." Wiser Institute of the Study of Ethnicity and Race & Election Administration Research Center. April 10, 2010.

[http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewcenteronthestatesorg/Initiatives/MVW/online\\_voter\\_reg.pdf?n=2908](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewcenteronthestatesorg/Initiatives/MVW/online_voter_reg.pdf?n=2908)

**HEARING OF THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 1**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Room 308**

**To: House Committee on Finance**

**Chair Marcus Oshiro and Vice Chair Marilyn Lee**

From: Annie Koh

Voter outreach coordinator and Kanu Hawaii member

Re: Online Voter Registration bill (HB 545)

In Strong Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

**I strongly support HB 545** based on my experiences as a former voter outreach coordinator with the League of Young Voters and as a volunteer pollworker in Hawaii's November 2, 2010 General Election.

Online voter registration is a critical tool to help modernize voter registration in Hawaii and increase civic participation by our youngest and most mobile voters.

Our Pacific Rim neighbors in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon), our friends in the Midwest (Indiana, Kansas), and our fellow nature lovers in the deserts and mountains of the American Southwest (Utah, Arizona, and Colorado) have all instituted online voter registration.

With Hawaii's voting rates near the bottom of the barrel nationwide, can we really afford to keep our voter registration system in the 20th century?

Let us institute online voter registration and make our civic duty accessible in a format that fits the times.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Annie Koh  
1650 Kanunu St. #610  
Honolulu, HI 96814

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Sunday, February 27, 2011 8:47 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** clk@quixnet.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB545 on 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM HB545

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carolyn Knoll  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [clk@quixnet.net](mailto:clk@quixnet.net)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

**Comments:**

YEA!!! Electronic registration is a step in the right direction. It will make it more convenient for citizens to get into the system and will most definitely increase our voter turnout which is a critical issue for a thriving democracy.

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2011 2:30 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** palmtree7@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB545 on 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM HB545

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: janice palma-glennie  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [palmtree7@earthlink.net](mailto:palmtree7@earthlink.net)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

**Comments:**

HB 545 is long overdue and would establish a system for electronic voter registration, allowing eligible voters to register entirely online instead of using hard-copy paper forms. This is an important step in modernizing voter registration and making it more convenient for citizens to get into the system.

Please vote "yes" on this important legislation which will increase the participation of citizens in the democratic process.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ndavlantes@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB545 on 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM HB545

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ndavlantes@aol.com](mailto:ndavlantes@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

### Comments:

Today's world is an increasingly online one, and establishing a system for electronic voter registration, allowing eligible voters to register entirely online instead of using hard-copy paper forms, would undoubtedly increase the number of registered voters and thus voter participation. Voter registration must be made more convenient for citizens to get into the system. Voter participation here is nothing to be proud of and anything that can be done to increase turnout at the polls must be initiated.

Nancy Davlantes  
Kaneohe

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 2:06 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB545 on 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM HB545

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dorothy I. Cornell  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com](mailto:HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 5:22 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bentut@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB545 on 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM HB545

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ben Trevino  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [bentut@gmail.com](mailto:bentut@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments: