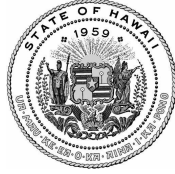


HB545,HD1

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. 545, HD 1  
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

March 15, 2011

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, 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. 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.



**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. 545, HD 1

RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

March 15, 2011

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, 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.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 016  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 545, HD1,  
Relating to Voter Registration

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. 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'i 96801  
T: 808.522-5900  
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March 12, 2011, 2011

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro  
Members of the Senatw Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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.



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

## TESTIMONY ON HB 545, HD1 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 016

Testifier: Jean Aoki, LWV Legislative Committee

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

It is with some reservations that The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 545 which provides for voter registration through an electronic system publicly available on the website of the Office of Elections.

The bill requires registrants to provide enough information, when confirmed, to identify the individuals and to prove the place of residence of each registrant. So that is not the problem. The problem is the requirement for the possession of either a driver's license or a certificate of identification.

It does cost money to acquire a driver's license or a State Identification certificate. If you are getting the driver's license because you intend to drive, or if you need the State I.D. for some other purpose, you can also use it for registering. However, there are people who neither drive, nor need a State I.D. Requiring them to get one of these to register to vote is like imposing a poll tax which was once used as a deliberate means of disenfranchising whole groups of citizens. And in today's polarized political atmosphere nationally, it is not too far-fetched to imagine its use in disguised form. Of course, this problem could be alleviated by the State assuming the costs for the acquisition of these documents.

Since this is only one means of registering to vote, and because of the restrictions on the use of certified citizen registrars which has diminished the once-effective efforts by non-profit organizations to register voters, we feel that any additional means of registering citizens could only help increase voter participation. As long as all of the other avenues are equally available, we feel we can endorse the electronic system of registering voters. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 545.



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

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

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

**Hearing date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2011

**Hearing time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Location:** Rm. 016

**Will not be present at hearing**

**One (1) copies, including original, to room 016**

**Page 1 of 1**

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March 14, 2011

**To:** Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

**Fm:** Carmille Lim  
carmille.lim@gmail.com

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro 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)