



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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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. 545
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

February 1, 2011

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 545. 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 defer to the counties on what may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of 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.



ADA

HAWAII

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January 29, 2011

TO: Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 545 RELATED TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii supports electronic voter registration. This is one of the several procedures the legislature will consider 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 (that 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.