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LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 621 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Committee on Judiciary

Rm. 325

February 1, 2011

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Office of the City Clerk opposes the provisions of HB 621 that would eliminate the use of a social security number as an informational element within the Hawaii's election laws.

While we understand the issue of identity theft and the discomfort that disclosing a social security number may cause some, this measure will have an immediate and adverse effect upon the integrity of the State's voter registration rolls.

For your information, Hawaii's election statutes are covered under an exemption within the federal Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §552 that allows the use of the social security number because Hawaii has statutorily (and continuously) required the information for its voter registration system of records prior to January 1, 1975.

In addition to the increased possibility of persons being registered in multiple districts, and the chance of requesting multiple absentee ballots, the measure would also necessitate the complete re-programming of the voter registration system and the collection/establishment of additional key identifiers (namely a drivers license number) along with a combination of other pieces of information (i.e. date of birth, last four digits of SSN) to facilitate the same processes.

An online verification and matching process/protocol with the drivers license database and the civil identification database would also need to be established (at a believed to be significant cost for networking and modification of those systems as well).

As the custodians of the voter rolls, the County Clerks take the responsibility for securing the information entrusted in their care very seriously. It is our belief that the elections process continues to justify the use of the information to uphold public confidence in the elections process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.