

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 11:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: nlove@commoncausehawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1195 on 2/7/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: CCHI JDL 2-7-11 SB1195 Con Am votes.doc

Testimony for JDL 2/7/2011 10:00:00 AM SB1195

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nikki Love
Organization: Common Cause Hawaii
Address:
Phone: 275-6275
E-mail: nlove@commoncausehawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:



Hawaii

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMON CAUSE

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**Senate JDL Committee
Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro**

**Monday 2/7/11 at 10:00 AM in Room 016
SB 1195 – Constitutional Amendments**

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii opposes SB 1195, which proposes to disregard blank votes and overvotes in determining whether a proposed constitutional amendment has been ratified by the electorate.

This bill would make it easier to change the constitution. We believe any changes to the constitution should be done carefully, and there does not seem to be a pressing need to make it easier to ratify constitutional amendments. Instead, those advocating for any future constitutional amendments should make a persuasive case to the public to show up informed and ready to vote.

Disregarding the blank votes and overvotes would change the incentives involved in the public education process. When blank votes and overvotes essentially count as a “no,” the proponents of an amendment have a strong incentive to educate the public on their position and encourage the public to cast a “yes” vote. On the other hand, if blank votes and overvotes are disregarded in the tallying, then the proponents would have a lower threshold to reach and therefore would have less incentive to work hard to inform the voters. Given the existing low levels of voter participation, we do not think it is a good idea to change these incentives toward the direction of less education and less mobilization.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: Mike Takahashi (ConAgra Foods) [Mike.Takahashi@conagrafoods.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 6:27 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 1195

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1195

Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB 1195, a measure which proposes a constitutional amendment that would prohibit the counting of blank votes and over votes in determining whether a proposed constitutional amendment has been ratified.

The bill would clarify what most residents of Hawaii consider to be common sense in that only Yes and No votes properly cast would count towards deciding these important matters. I respectfully ask this committee to pass SB 1195.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mike Takahashi
808 638 8208

From: Sheila [pactols001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 4:35 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 1195

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1195

Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB 1195, a measure which proposes a constitutional amendment that would prohibit the counting of blank votes and over votes in determining whether a proposed constitutional amendment has been ratified.

The bill would clarify what most residents of Hawaii consider to be common sense in that only Yes and No votes properly cast would count towards deciding these important matters.

I respectfully ask this committee to pass SB 1195.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sheila Ann Pactol
67-183 Kanoulu St, Waialua, HI 96791