

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD 2, SD 1
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

March 28, 2012

Chair Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 2, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for online voter registration and to make various housekeeping changes to our voter registration laws.

In order to provide another opportunity for the registration of eligible voters, the present bill authorizes applicants to register electronically. This will require the creation of an online voter registration system. Given the technological issues associated with planning and designing such a system, we request that the bill appropriate \$500,000 for fiscal year 2012-2013 for that purpose. The possible need for additional funding for the implementation of the system will be addressed after the planning and design stage.

The bill makes minor housekeeping changes to update our voter registration laws to delete references to antiquated or obsolete processes and technologies. Additionally, the bill removes the requirement to maintain a separate voter registration list for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as now all registered voters are eligible to vote for those seats. Further, the Chief Election Officer and county clerks are required to consider and report to the Legislature regarding the feasibility of using the last four digits of the social security number instead of the full social security number for voter registration and record keeping purposes.

Finally, the bill removes the requirement to post a list of all registered voters in each precinct at the polling place. Voters have expressed privacy concerns in the past as the list is required to include the voter's residence

address, unless a voter has gone through the process of obtaining confidential status to have the information removed.

In order to ensure access to the necessary government databases and the expertise associated with those databases, which would be necessary for the planning, design, and implementation of the online voter registration system, we would ask that the Committee consider amending the bill to include the following subsection at the end of Section 1.

“(f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the examiners of drivers, the attorney general, and any other agency or official, which issues government identification or maintains databases that in the opinion of election officials can be utilized to confirm a prospective voter’s identity, verify the accuracy of the information provided on applications for voter registration, or otherwise ensure the continuing integrity of the voter registration rolls, shall provide to election officials real time access to those databases.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 2, SD 1.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

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JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk

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**ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101
LIHU'E, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF
JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION
March 28, 2012

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD2, SD1. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the acceptance of electronic applications to register to vote and to provide the funding required to develop an online voter registration system.

The bill will establish a convenient means for individuals to register to vote which will expedite the voter registration process for both registrants and election officials. Additionally, an online voter registration system will modernize registration methods and perhaps encourage younger eligible voters to register.

House Bill No. 1755, HD2, SD1 also includes minor housekeeping changes to update our voter registration laws to conform to online voter registration, and remove references to obsolete processes and technologies.

Lastly, the bill addresses voter privacy concerns by removing the requirement to post a list of registered voters in each precinct at the polling place.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD2, SD1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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TESTIMONY OF

JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD 2, SD 1

RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

MARCH 28, 2012

Chair Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 2, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for online voter registration and housekeeping changes to current voter registration laws.

House Bill No. 1755, HD 2, SD 1 will allow eligible individuals the opportunity to register to vote electronically. This will require the creation of an online voter registration system. There will be technological issues associated with planning and designing such a system, we request that the bill appropriate \$500,000 for the fiscal year 2012-2013 for that purpose.

We respectfully request that the Committee add a provision requiring government agencies and officials that issue government identification or maintain databases containing personal information to provide to election officials information that can be used to confirm a prospective registered voter's identity and verify the accuracy of information provided in applications for voter registration. It is imperative that election officials have real time access to such information.

We favor the removal of the requirement calling for the posting of a list of all registered voters in each precinct at the polling place. Registered voters have in the past expressed concern that the list includes their residence address.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 2, SD 1.



County of Hawai'i

Office of the County Clerk

JAMAE K. K. KAWAUCHI

County Clerk

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8255 • Fax (808) 961-8912

March 23, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: H.B. 1755, HD2, SD1, A Bill for an Act Relating to Voter Registration

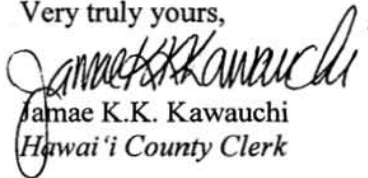
Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of H.B. 1755, HD2, SD1, which relates to authorizing the acceptance of electronic applications to register to vote.

This Act allows the Office of Elections to encourage and establishes voting and participation in the electoral process via electronic applications to register to vote. The application to register to vote electronically brings forward the new electronic/youth generation to voting, in lieu of the traditional application by mail or in person.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Hawai'i supports House Bill 1755, HD2, SD1.

Very truly yours,


Jamae K.K. Kawauchi
Hawai'i County Clerk

From: [Bev. Keever](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1755 HD 2 SD 1
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 11:09:11 PM
Importance: High

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support HB 1755 HD2 SD1.

Online voter registration is urgently needed to enable more of Hawaii's citizens more readily to register to vote.

Reducing barriers to voting is urgently needed in Hawaii, which has one of the nation's lowest voter participation rates.

Mahalo for considering this supporting testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Ann Deepe Keever, Ph.D
Professor Emerita
School of Communications
University of Hawaii at Manoa

From: [Brodie Lockard](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB1755 HD2 SD1 - Online Voter Registration YES!
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 9:04:12 PM

Dear Committee Members--

I strongly support HB1755. Online Voter Registration is long overdue. Studies show that online registration saves money in the long run by reducing costs of processing paper registration forms.

Brodie Lockard
Kailua

From: [Paul McKimmy](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for HB1755 HD2 SD1
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 7:36:17 PM

I am a strong supporter for online voter registration, please act to make this happen.

Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:30:00 AM HB1755

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Francis Nakamoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fmnhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Please support HB1755 HD2 SDS1, Online Voter Registration.

This bill allows for the establishment of online voter registration. At a time in our Nation's history when Republican-dominated state legislatures are systematically disenfranchising voters with restrictions that make voting more difficult, if not impossible, Hawaii can show the country that we stand for expanding voting rights. With our voter participation among the lowest among all states, we need to make exercising our right to vote easier and more convenient while preserving protections against voter fraud. HB1755 does this and sends a message to regressive state governments that Hawaii is a leader in making encouraging, not obstructing, the right to vote.

Let's put Hawaii on the map as an enlightened, progressive state that cherishes and encourages voting and hopefully reverse the history of lackluster voter