

Aloha Legislators,

Please support HB 1755 HD2 SD1 to make voter registration more easily available to residents of Hawaii by setting aside the funds and establishing a system that allows for a modernized online voter registration application. The fact that Hawaii is among the lowest voter registration rates of the country, approximately 59%, compared to the national average of 71%, (2008 U.S. Census Bureau), fails the principals democracy. Hawaii being among the states with the lowest voter turn-out rates at approximately 52% compared to the national average of 65%, (2008 U.S. Census Bureau), needs to decrease the amount barriers for the average citizen to register to vote and desperately increase registration convenience.

HB 1755 HD2 SD1 creates an optional and more convenient application that requires the applicant to provide the same information as the current system of registration and is principally similar in content. The option also includes making registration increasingly efficient by exempting a citizen from having to physically deliver paperwork that currently exists within the governments database. Furthermore, studies show that online registration saves money in the long run by reducing costs of paper registration forms.

Voting is the pillar of which the United States democracy stands. It is crucial that the State of Hawaii increase its democratic participation so that all of Hawaii's citizens are fairly represented. Voter registration is the first step to increasing political engagement and allowing for the establishment of modernized online option to register is an obvious answer. Please support Hawaii's increased participation in America's democratic process and vote to pass HB 1755 HD2 SD1.

Thank for your time,
[Signed your name,
your address
you number]

From: [Laure Dillon](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB1755 HD2, SD1 - Online Voter Registration SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:31:07 AM

HB 1775 HD2, SDI -- Online Voter Registration -- SUPPORT

Hearing Date: Wednesday, 3-28-12, Room 211, 9:30 am

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

Any action you can take to **increase voting** and to **decrease barriers to voting needs to be supported** and passed into law.

I ask your support of this bill which will modernize voter registration and make it easier for the public to vote. With Hawaii's low voter turnout, this is important. I believe young people will be more likely to become voters if they can use a method that is familiar to them such as Online Voter Registration

It is also my understanding that Online Voter Registration is a cost-saving measure so that is an additional benefit.

Mahalo for your attention to my request in **SUPPORT OF HB 1775 HD2, SDI -- Online Voter Registration.**

Laure Dillon
Honolulu



Committee: Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 1755, H.D.2, S.D.1
Relating to Voter Registration

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 1755, H.D.2, S.D.1, 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. Reducing the barriers to voter registration is a positive step towards ensuring the integrity of Hawaii’s electoral system and increasing voter access and turnout. 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

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From: ndavlantes@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: HB1755 HD2 SC1
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:02:29 PM

Testimony in support of HB 1755; hearing 3/28/12, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

Given Hawaii's dismal voter turnout, and given the need to modernize our registration process, there is nothing in this bill not to like.

Barriers to voting must be reduced and one of the ways to do this is online voter registration, which will make registering more convenient and at the same time save the state money in the long run by reducing costs of processing paper registration forms.

Please vote to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Nancy Davlantes
Kaneohe



**Senate WAM Committee
Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani**

**Wednesday 3/28/12 at 9:30AM in Room 211
HB1755 HD2 SD1 – Voter Registration**

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1755 HD2 SD1. This bill allows for the establishment of online voter registration, and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to create and implement the system.

We support this effort to modernize voter registration for the 21st century and reduce barriers to voting. Hawaii has been consistently at or near the bottom of all 50 states in voter turnout, and every effort should be made to encourage eligible citizens to participate. The numbers from the 2010 General Election show that there are an estimated 961,213 eligible voters in Hawaii, but only 690,748 registered voters.¹ This leaves an estimated 270,465 potential voters -- 28% of those eligible -- who were not registered at the time of the 2010 General Election. Online voter registration can make participation in our democratic process more accessible and convenient. Furthermore, an online system could be used for existing voters to update their registration after moving residences.

Online voter registration can also provide greater accuracy in the voter rolls and save significant money in the long term, by streamlining the process and reducing the burden of data entry. A study by the Pew Center on the States showed that in Arizona, it costs an average of three cents to process an online application compared to an average of 83 cents per paper application; in Washington, the state saves 25 cents per online application

(continued on next page...)

and counties save between 50 cents and \$2.00 per online application compared to paper forms.ⁱⁱ

We ask the WAM Committee to find the necessary funds to implement online voter registration. Last year we researched the costs of implementation in other states, and found that startup costs ranged from \$120,000 to \$245,000 in Oregon, Colorado, and Maryland.

We urge the Committee to move this measure forward, and include an effective date that ensures that the system can be ready for use by the 2014 elections, if at all possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

ⁱ Voter turnout data from: http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2010G.html (information updated 12/28/11), <http://hawaii.gov/elections/results/2010/general/files/histatewide.pdf>

ⁱⁱ “Online Voter Registration: Case Studies in Arizona and Washington” (Pew Center on the States, 2010), http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/report_detail.aspx?id=58215.

March 27, 2012

Re: HB 1755, HD2, SD 1, Relating to Voter Registration
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Decision Making
March 28, 2012, 9:30 AM, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Ways and Means Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 1755, HD2, SD1.

I strongly **support** this bill.

Online voter registration in Hawai'i is long overdue, and it will soon pay for itself many times over. Arizona, for example, which pioneered online voter registration about a decade ago now, has realized hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings each year, not only by reducing unnecessary paper handling and data entry, but also by automating review for most registrations.

Online voter registration will help to improve Hawai'i voter turnout, and thus strengthen our democracy in a time when it is under extraordinary threat by unrestricted campaign spending from artificial "persons," pursuant to the *Citizens United v. FEC*, 130 S.Ct. 876 (2010) decision and related decisions by the United States Supreme Court.

Please pass HB 1755, with an effective date as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

R. Elton Johnson, III