

HB 1755, HD2



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
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**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD 2
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

March 13, 2012

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 2. 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.”

Additionally, we would ask the Committee when deciding on an effective date for this bill in Section 8 to clarify that the effective date for purposes of the appropriation in Section 6 would be upon approval and that the remaining sections would take effect on November 8, 2016.

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

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TESTIMONY OF
JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAʻI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD2
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION
March 13, 2012

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

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

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk



HAWAII

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March 12, 2012

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Members of the Sentate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1755 HD 2 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii supports electronic voter registration. Making it easier for citizens to register to vote is an important step toward increasing 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 experience elsewhere suggests that the potential for fraud is no greater than for mail-in voter registration.

We urge your support for HB 1755 HD2.