

JEFFREY T. KUWADA
County Clerk



LANCE TAGUCHI
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

TESTIMONY OF

JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

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 housekeeping changes to current voter registration laws.

House Bill No. 1755, HD 2 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.



BERNICE K.N. MAU
City Clerk

ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3099
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1755 HD2
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

Committee on Judiciary & Labor
March 13, 2012
10:15 a.m. Rm. 015

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the City Clerk is in qualified support of HB 1755 HD2, which would allow the establishment of an online voter registration system and make corresponding technical amendments to the voter registration election laws.

Online voter registration has the opportunity to provide additional accessibility and convenience for Hawaii registrants. It also has the potential to reduce the number of manual data entry transactions performed by election officials each year. However, it is important to note that with online voter registration systems, the online transaction is only approved if the applicant's personal information can be matched against an existing government identification database. This data matching reduces the potential of fraudulent transactions occurring.

Our support for this measure is contingent upon the availability of financial resources to design, implement, and maintain the online system. Although the Legislature passed online voter registration in HB545 during the last session (which was ultimately vetoed by the Governor for lack of funding), we believe that HB 1755 provides the necessary flexibility to allow designing the system in a cost effective manner.

This measure also requests a study of eliminating the use of social security numbers as personal information submitted by applicants. While studying the implications of this policy change is prudent, we anticipate being unable to meet the reporting requirement deadline (due to the delayed State reapportionment plan and implementation of the 2012 elections). To be useful, the study would undoubtedly require including the cost implications of system design modifications. We suggest that the study be included as part of the planning/design of the online voter registration system.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

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Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

10:15 A.M. Conf. Rm. 016

HB1755, HD2 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

TESTIMONY

Carmille Lim, Voter Services Chair, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Aloha, my name is Carmille Lim, board member and Voter Services Chair of the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of our members throughout Hawai'i.

On behalf of the League, I am respectfully submitting my testimony in support of HB1755, HD2.. This bill would establish an online system for electronic voter registration, which would allow eligible voters to register entirely online instead of using hard-copy paper forms. If implemented, we can expect to see a decrease in monies spent on paper forms and an increase in voter registration and turnout.

There are currently 12 states that have implemented online voter registration, and we hope that Hawai'i will soon follow. The League of Women Voters supports this bill for the following 4 reasons:

1 . Online voter registration is cost-effective and saves states millions of dollars each year:

- In recent years, states like California, Louisiana, Indiana, and Colorado have Implemented the reform to great success – and this has also resulted in significant savings. For example: in Maricopa County, Arizona, processing an online voter registration now costs the state 3 cents, compared to 83 cents for each paper registration. Due to its popularity, online registration has helped reduce printing costs by 75% in the county. Washington State has also experienced a similar cost reduction at both the state and county level. Washington's Secretary of State's office (Washington's Secretary of State serves as the state's chief elections officer) reports saving 25 cents per online application, while counties have saved anywhere from 50 cents to \$2 with each application¹

¹ Anonymous. "Cost Savings Win Bipartisan Support for Online Voter Registration." Progressive States Network. March 3, 2011. <http://www.progressivestates.org/news/dispatch/cost-savings-win-bipartisansupport-online-voter-registration>



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- Additionally, it cost Arizona less than \$130,000 and Washington state \$279,000 to implement both online voter registration *and* automated voter registration at DMVs.²

2. Streamlines the registration process for election officials:

- Online voter registration ensures that citizens' information goes directly to election officials, thus reducing the number of people who have to handle a registration application. This greatly reduces the chances for human and data entry errors.
- Allowing Hawai'i residents to register to vote *or* update their registrations online would likely reduce the number of provisional ballots cast at the polls, which can prove costly and time-consuming to process.

3. Would likely increase the accuracy of voter lists:

- Again, online voter registration would significantly reduce the data entry work county officials must do to process new registrations.
- Hawai'i already has an electronic record of the signature for most people with a Hawai'i state driver's license or state-issued ID card. So by transferring electronic data between the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Office of Elections, we can allow people to register to vote online without the delays and errors that can occur when mailing in a handwritten paper form which then has to be entered by hand into a registration database.

4. Due to its convenience, online voter registration would likely increase voter participation, especially from those of the "younger" generation:

- Completing an online voter registration form makes it easier for many voters to register -- particularly among the "younger" generation and those who spend more time online.
- In 2003, Arizona was the first state to implement Online Voter Registration, and reported an improvement in voter turnout -- greatest among young voters. In 2008, voters under 34 years old who registered online turned out at 93 percent compared to a 73 percent turnout rate for younger voters who

² Ponoroff, "Voter Registration in a Digital Age." Brennan Center for Justice. July 13, 2010.
http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter_registration_in_a_digital_age/



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registered "offline."³

- Registration rates among 18-24 year-old citizens rose from 28 to 53 percent after Arizona introduced online and automated registration.

In these tough times, online voter registration is an important step in making voter registration more modern and cost-effective. We support the online voter registration to register new voters and allow existing voters to update their registrations online.

We have a few specific comments about amendments to the original measure:

In Section 11-24 (c), we note that as a way to protect voter privacy, the preparation of a list of registered voters for use by precinct officials has been deleted, together with a posting of this list at precinct polling places.

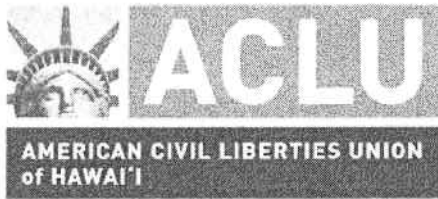
We request that instead, each precinct publish a list of all registered voters in each precinct district, but without the individuals' addresses. We advise that elections officials post a list containing the names of those who reside in that precinct district, at each precinct, in order to eliminate some of the time required for precinct officials to answer questions about one's correct polling place, while saving voters the time it takes to wait in line at an incorrect polling place.

Additionally, we ask that precinct workers assigned to poll books are allowed to keep a list of individuals' names and addresses for their own purpose, or for people to view (by visiting with that worker). This addresses the need to protect voter privacy to some extent, while still allowing for one to verify voter fraud (by vetting the address of someone listed).

The League supports this bill and its intent to encourage an increased number of voter registrations and participation. We understand that the House Finance Committee changed the effective date to July 1, 2030, to facilitate further discussion, but would still encourage the Committee consider changing the effective date to November 8, 2016, as proposed in HB1755 HD1

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii humbly asks you to continue supporting this bill. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

³ Baretto, Glaser, Mac Donald, Collingwood, Pedraza, Pump. "Online Voter Registration Systems in Arizona and Washington: Evaluating Usage, Public Confidence and Implementation Process." Wiser Institute of the Study of Ethnicity and Race & Election Administration Research Center. April 10, 2010.
http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewcenteronthestatesorg/Initiatives/MVW/online_voter_reg.pdf?n=2908



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 1755, HD2,
Relating to Voter Registration

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.B. 1755, HD2, 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

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808.522-5900
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Senate JDL Committee
Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro

Tuesday 3/13/12 at 10:15AM in Room 016
HB1755 HD2 – Voter Registration

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1755 HD2. 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...)

March 12, 2012

Re: HB 1755, H.D. 2, Relating to Voter Registration
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 13, 2012, 10:15 AM, Conference Room 16

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Finance Committee members:

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

I strongly **support** this bill.

Online voter registration in Hawai'i is long overdue, and evidence suggests that 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 voter turnout by making it easier to register. Any such measures that can strengthen our democracy are especially welcome now, when the influence of the ordinary voter is at risk of being overwhelmed by an unrestricted tsunami of private cash thanks to the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, 130 S.Ct. 876 (2010).

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

Sincerely,

R. Elton Johnson, III

hee6 - Dinna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:56 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1755 on 3/13/2012 10:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 3/13/2012 10:15:00 AM HB1755

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

Given Hawaii's abysmal level of voter participation, every effort must be made to reduce barriers to voting and to make participation more accessible and convenient. Studies and results elsewhere show that online voter registration streamlines the process, leads to greater accuracy in voter rolls and saves money in the long term. Please vote to keep this important legislation moving toward passage.

Thank you.

Nancy Davlantes
Kaneohe

hee6 - Dinna

From: Jane Yamashiro [janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support HB1755 HD2

Please support the HB1755 HD2. It would save the state money in the long run and increase the civic engagement of members in this state.

Jane Yamashiro

janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com

808-383-4826

hee6 - Dinna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:48 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: babyjean@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1755 on 3/13/2012 10:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 3/13/2012 10:15:00 AM HB1755

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ronnie Perry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: babyjean@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments: