



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

January 24, 2012

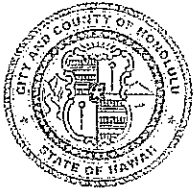
Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755. The purpose of this bill is to provide for online voter registration.

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, this bill appropriates \$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.

Additionally, the bill makes minor housekeeping changes to update our voter registration laws to conform to online voter registration, and to remove references obsolete processes and technologies.

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.

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



ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3099
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3800 • FAX: (808) 768-3835

BERNICE K.N. MAU
City Clerk

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1755
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.**

Committee on Judiciary
Rm. 325
January 24, 2012

Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

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

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 HB 545 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 1755,
Relating to Voter Registration

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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

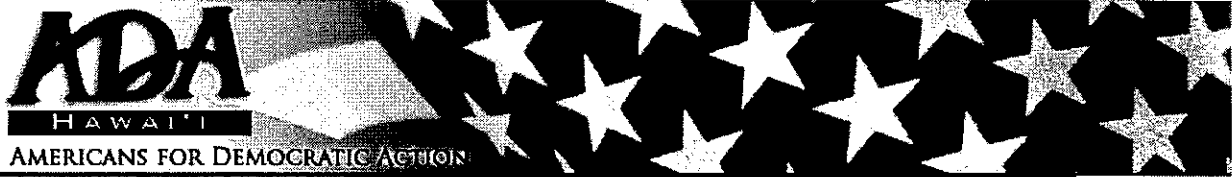
The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that 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
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
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E: office@acluhawaii.org
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January 23, 2012

TO: Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1755 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii supports electronic voter registration. Making it easier to register 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 the potential for fraud appears to be no greater than mail-in voter registration.

We urge your support for HB 1755.



House JUD Committee
Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

Tuesday 1/24/12 at 2:00PM in Room 325
HB 1755 – Voter Registration

TESTIMONY
Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1755. This bill allows for the establishment of online voter registration, and appropriates 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 930,624 eligible voters in Hawaii, but only 690,748 registered voters. This leaves an estimated 239,876 potential voters -- 26% of those eligible -- who were not registered at the time of the 2010 General Election.ⁱ Online voter registration can make participation in our democratic process more accessible and convenient.

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

Two questions and suggestions:

- In Section 1 of the bill, it reads: “*the county clerk may permit...*” Does the bill require the establishment of an online voter registration system, or only permit it? We would ask the legislature to work towards requiring an online voter registration system for all eligible voters throughout Hawaii as soon as possible.

(continued on next page ...)

- In Section 5 of the bill, it provides funds in FY 2012-2013 for the planning and design of the system. By what date would the system be completed and ready for use by the new prospective voters? We would urge the legislature to ensure the system can be ready for use by the 2014 elections.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

ⁱ Voter turnout data from: http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2010G.html,
<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.

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 12:52 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: fmnhawaii@gmail.com

Testimony for JUD 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Francis Nakamoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fmnhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/23/2012

Comments:

HB 1755 will encourage more people to exercise their franchise to vote. This measure is particularly important at a time when other states are moving in the opposite direction and enacting laws that discourage, deter and, in some cases, deprive citizens their right to vote. Republican and Tea Party legislators in over a dozen states have imposed restrictions on voting by requiring photo identification and other IDs many people either don't have or are dissuaded from obtaining due to inconvenience or cost, even though they have legally voted in the past for decades, particularly the elderly. Other schemes to discourage early voting will have drastic impact on voter participation since many cannot take time off from work. Hawaii can be a shining example of democracy and enlightenment by passing HB1755 and fosters greater, not less, voter involvement.

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 6:05 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com

Testimony for JUD 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jane Yamashiro

Organization: Individual

E-mail: janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com

Submitted on: 1/23/2012

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 1755. In the age of technology where people are able to vote online the possibility of encouraging more citizens to become involved in the democratic process is mandatory. Please pass HB 1755.

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 8:39 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: paul.mckimmy@gmail.com

Testimony for JUD 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Paul McKimmy

Organization: Individual

E-mail: paul.mckimmy@gmail.com

Submitted on: 1/23/2012

Comments:

It's high time we modernize voter registration and reduce barriers to voting

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 9:08 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: anniekamiya@mac.com

Testimony for JUD 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Kamiya
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anniekamiya@mac.com
Submitted on: 1/23/2012

Comments:

I fully support this bill be made into law! Let Hawaii modernize voter registration for the 21st century and reduce barriers to voting. My husband and I have voted via absentee ballot for years, and would have missed crucial opportunities to vote if this was not an option. Establishing an online voter registration, and appropriating the funds to create and implement the system, should be a high priority for our legislature and Hawaii. It allows all of us to participate more equally in our democracy.

Support HB 1755, Judiciary Committee 1/24/2012, 2 p.m.

Support HB 1755, Judiciary Committee 1/24/2012, 2 p.m.

ndavlantes@aol.com [ndavlantes@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 1:05 PM

To: JUDtestimony

With so many states on the mainland doing their best to limit voter registration with a variety of Voter I.D. laws, Hawaii should lead the way in encouraging registration by making it possible to register electronically.

Voter participation here is dismally low, and if making it easier to register can boost that percentage, particularly among younger eligible voters, it is certainly worth doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Nancy Davlantes
45-571 Awanene Place, Apt. A
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**Re: HB1755 - Voter Registration
Testimony in support**

January 23, 2012

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of HB1755. This bill will help to increase the number of our local citizens who vote. By removing archaic barriers to registration, it will permit more participation in democracy.

Since we have the lowest voter turnout in the country, this will be a helpful tool to improve.

Mahalo,

**Laurie Baron
Honolulu**

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB1755 on 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:48 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: precis@lava.net

Testimony for JUD 1/24/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: R. Elton Johnson, III

Organization: Individual

E-mail: precis@lava.net

Submitted on: 1/24/2012

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I support HB 1755 in its current form. Online voter registration will encourage public involvement in local elections, and is eminently feasible. I hope that the decision makers on the Committee on Judiciary will support this bill. Thank you.