

**RICKY R. WATANABE**  
County Clerk

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Deputy County Clerk

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# LATE TESTIMONY

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

TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE  
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755  
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

January 24, 2012

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

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

**RICKY R. WATANABE**  
County Clerk

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](http://www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk)

**LATE TESTIMONY**

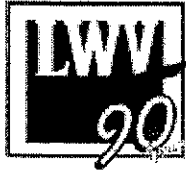
TESTIMONY OF  
JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755  
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION  
JANUARY 24, 2012

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

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui, believes that access to a database of signature image files, such as the State motor vehicle files, is crucial to the success of online voter registration. Presently, the counties do not have access to the State motor vehicle database of signature image files.

Given the technological and security challenges associated with planning and designing such a system, we support the appropriation of \$500,00 for fiscal year 2012-2013. We also recognize that additional funding will be necessary for the implementation of online voter registration.

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



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

*League of Women Voters of Hawaii*

# LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII  
TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Supporting HB1755  
Hearing: Tuesday, January 24, 2012  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 325

January 22, 2012

House Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

RE: HB1755, Online Voter Registration

Dear Chair Keith Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the House Committee:

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. 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.

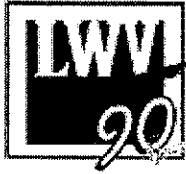
There are currently 12 states that have implemented online voter registration, and we hope that Hawai'i will soon follow. **The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports this bill for the following 4 reasons:**

<sup>1</sup> 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-bipartisan-support-online-voter-registration>

<sup>2</sup> Ponoroff. "Voter Registration in a Digital Age." Brennan Center for Justice. July 13, 2010.  
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**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 registered “offline.”<sup>3</sup>
- Registration rates among 18-24 year-old citizens rose from 28 to 53 percent after Arizona introduced online and automated registration.<sup>2</sup>

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.

*The League of Women Voters of Hawaii humbly asks for you to support this bill, too.*

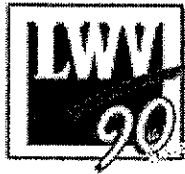
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# LATE TESTIMONY

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Supporting HB1755

Hearing: Tuesday, January 24, 2012

2:00 p.m.

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Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

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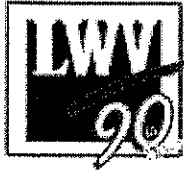
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