



**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. 621
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

January 24, 2012

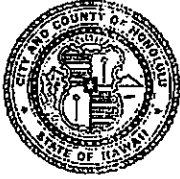
Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill No. 621. The purpose of this bill is to provide that voter registration applicants only provide the last four digits of their social security number on the application for voter registration affidavit.

The use of the Social Security numbers in elections in Hawaii is authorized by the Privacy Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-579, which provides that jurisdictions prior to January 1, 1975, which maintained a system of records and which required the provision of Social Security numbers by state law, are permitted to continue utilizing such systems.

The Office of Elections notes the Social Security number is a unique identifier associated with the voter, while the use of the last four digits is not a unique identifier and the use of the full Social Security number is an integral part of ensuring and maintaining the integrity of the statewide voter registration system. This includes the ability of the statewide voter registration system to cross check records against other government databases that utilize the full Social Security number as a unique identifier.

Finally, the Social Security number is used for internal government purposes only, similar to other agencies, and is not displayed on any materials which are available to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill No. 621.



BERNICE K.N. MAU
City Clerk

ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3099
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3800 • FAX: (808) 768-3855

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 621 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Committee on Judiciary

Rm. 325

February 1, 2011

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Office of the City Clerk opposes the provisions of HB 621 that would eliminate the use of a social security number as an informational element within the Hawaii's election laws.

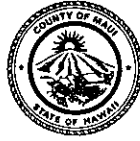
While we understand the issue of identity theft and the discomfort that disclosing a social security number may cause some, this measure will have an immediate and adverse effect upon the integrity of the State's voter registration rolls.

For your information, Hawaii's election statutes are covered under an exemption within the federal Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §552 that allows the use of the social security number because Hawaii has statutorily (and continuously) required the information for its voter registration system of records prior to January 1, 1975.

In addition to the increased possibility of persons being registered in multiple districts, and the chance of requesting multiple absentee ballots, the measure would also necessitate the complete re-programming of the voter registration system and the collection/establishment of additional key identifiers (namely a drivers license number) along with a combination of other pieces of information (i.e. date of birth, last four digits of SSN) to facilitate the same processes.

An online verification and matching process/protocol with the drivers license database and the civil identification database would also need to be established (at a believed to be significant cost for networking and modification of those systems as well).

As the custodians of the voter rolls, the County Clerks take the responsibility for securing the information entrusted in their care very seriously. It is our belief that the elections process continues to justify the use of the information to uphold public confidence in the elections process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

ON HOUSE BILL 621

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 on House Bill No. 621. This measure, if passed, will require only the last four digits of the person's social security number on a voter registration affidavit.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui, opposes House Bill No. 621.

Due to an exemption contained within the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §552, Hawaii is authorized to require persons registering to vote to provide their full nine-digit social security number.

Use of the nine-digit social security number as a unique identifier helps to preserve the integrity of each county's voter registration rolls by preventing multiple voter registration records for the same person.



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 Opposition to H.B. 621,
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. 621, relating to Voter Registration.

This bill will help to ensure voter privacy by requiring only the last four digits of a voter's social security number on registration applications. Hawaii citizens should not be forced to give up their private information and face the risk of database breaches in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote, particularly when less-intrusive means are available.

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

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