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LATE TESTIMONY

ELECTIONS DIVISION
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TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 621
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

January 24, 2012

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 621. The purpose of this bill is to change voter registration requirements to include only the last four digits of a person's social security number on a voter registration application.

The state of Hawai'i has statutorily (and continuously) required the use of social security numbers for voter registration purposes and is covered by an exemption within the Federal Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §552.

While this bill attempts to address identity theft concerns, we wish to note that it will have an immediate and adverse impact on the integrity of the State's voter registration rolls since social security numbers are used to prevent duplicate and fraudulent voter registration records.

We also note that though a voter's social security number is collected, it is only used to ensure the integrity of voter data and is never displayed or released to the public.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 621.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

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TESTIMONY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII
TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Supporting, with amendments, HB621 - Social Security Number and Voter Registration Requirement

Hearing: Tuesday, January 24, 2012

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325

January 23, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

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

RE: HB621 - Social Security Number and Voter Registration

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

Aloha, my name is Carmille Lim, 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.

HB 621 changes the voter registration requirement to include only the last four digits of the person's social security number on application to register affidavit.

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the privacy of an individual, especially if it affects that person's ability to vote. **We support this bill** as a way to protect our citizen's privacy, in the event that their affidavit is lost or misplaced.

Having done pre-registration and registration drives in high schools, college campuses, public housing areas and shopping centers in Hawai'i and in California, I have experienced firsthand when students and adults decline to register to vote not because they were not interested – but because (1) students' parents would not allow them to list their entire social security number on the affidavits; (2) people felt insecure giving their SSN to a stranger.

In addition to supporting this bill, the League of Women Voters of Hawaii requests that the committee consider allowing a citizen to submit their Hawai'i State Driver's License number in lieu of the last 4 digits of one's social security card, and proposes the following amendment:

(2) [~~Secial~~] The last four digits of the person's social security number; or the person's Hawaii State Driver's License Number

This amendment would emulate policies that are already in place in other state – Washington and Wisconsin, in particular.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 621, with the above amendments.