



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

April 2, 2012

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

House Concurrent Resolution 161/House Resolution 125 – Requesting the Lieutenant Governor to Convene a Voter Participation Task Force on Voter Registration and Voter Turnout in Hawaii

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) takes no position on House Concurrent Resolution 161/House Resolution 125, but provides comments.

The Hawaii State Data Book provided an estimate that in 2011 there were 1,070,206 adults (ages 18 and older) or 77.8% of the population. Of that number, there are approximately 20% or 214,041 people with disabilities. This is a significant voting pool that would warrant representation on the task force. DCAB worked closely with the Office of Elections under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure accessibility of polling places statewide. If a task force were convened, the Disability and Communication Access Board would be willing to participate as a member to provide feedback that would represent the interest of voters with disabilities.

We ask the Committee to amend the resolutions to add two representatives to the task force: one from DCAB and the second a voter with a disability. These two representatives will provide a balanced perspective to the Committee related to how to increase participation of voters with disabilities in the next election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director