

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN  
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P. O. Box 339  
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February 6, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1797, H.D.1 - RELATING TO VOTING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 06, 2014, 9:30 am  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 1797, H.D.1, is to require the Department of Education to provide high school seniors with voter registration information prior to graduation; and to require the Department of Human Services to provide young adults in the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program with information on voter registration, and to authorize both departments to assist with voter registration.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the H.B. 1797 to encourage voting among young adults. As it relates to the DHS, this bill states that the purpose of the bill is to provide young adults in the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program with information on voter registration and to authorize the DHS to assist with voter registration.

The proposed language in Section 3 of H.B. 1797, H.D.1., does not specifically identify that young adults in the Voluntary Foster Care Program will be the young adults who will be provided with voter registration information and assistance. We respectfully offer for consideration that the proposed language for chapter 346 be amended to specifically state that young adults in the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program will be provided voter registration information and assistance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/06/2014

**Committee:** House Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1797,HD1 (HSCR68-14) RELATING TO VOTING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to provide seniors at every public school with voter registration information prior to graduation. Requires the department of human services to provide young adults who are in the young adult voluntary foster care program with information on voter registration and authorizes the department to assist young adults with registering to vote.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the proposed language in Section 2 of HB 1797 HD1.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
[www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections)

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1797, HD 1

RELATING TO VOTING

February 6, 2014

Chair Carroll and members of the House Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1797, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Education to provide public school seniors with voter registration information prior to graduation and to similarly require the Department of Human Services to provide such information to young adults in the young adult voluntary foster care program.

We consider having these opportunities to be able to easily register to vote to be an important part of ensuring that all qualified residents are able to exercise their right to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1797, HD 1.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Daryl Selman, President  
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director  
Aloha House  
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
Bay Clinic, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blueprint for Change  
Bobby Benson Center  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Child and Family Service  
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii  
Courage House Hawaii  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.  
Family Programs Hawaii  
Family Support Hawaii  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Hawaii Behavioral Health  
Hawaii Student Television  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition  
Hina Mauka Teen Care  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kaanalike  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Hurt Too  
Kokua Kalihii Valley  
Life Foundation  
Marimed Foundation  
Maui Youth and Family Services  
Palama Settlement  
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
REAL  
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.  
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.  
Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
Susannah Wesley Community Center  
The Catalyst Group  
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii  
Waikiki Health Center  
Women Helping Women  
YWCA of Kauai

February 3, 2014

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

## **Testimony in Support of HB 1797 HD 1 Relating to Voting**

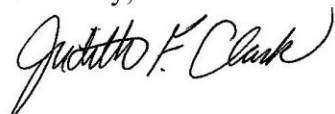
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1797 HD 1 Relating to Voting.

Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country. In the past few elections, only about 40% of the state's registered voters have participated in the primary election. And that's only about 36% of all the people in Hawaii who are eligible to vote, registered or not. We do better in the general election, but turnout has still been in the 50 percent range in non-presidential years and a bit above 60 percent in presidential election year.

Providing high school students and youth in foster care with encouragement and assistance with voter registration, in settings where they feel comfortable, will help young people form the habit of voting and increase their participation in the election process.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**kobayashi1-Joni**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 12:57 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1797 on Feb 6, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1797**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HUS on Feb 6, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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