

**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 FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2590, H.D. 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

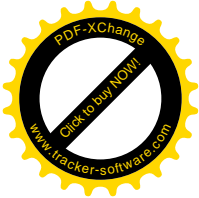
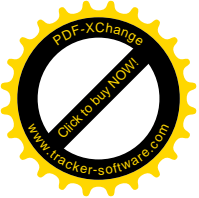
February 19, 2014

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2590, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for opportunities to register and vote at an absentee polling place or on election day.

The Office of Elections is in support of this bill, as any qualified member of the public wishing to vote should be able to register and vote. Presently, if a citizen does not register by the voter registration deadline, which is the thirtieth day prior to the election, that person cannot vote in that election. House Bill No. 2590, HD 1 would allow a person to register and vote on election day or at an absentee polling place.

In previous discussions regarding election day registration, the issue of voter fraud has been raised. In response, it has been noted by election officials that our laws provide that any person rightfully in the polling place on election day, may challenge the right of a person to be, or to remain registered as a voter in any precinct, on the bases that: (1) the voter is not the person he/she claims to be; or (2) the voter is not a resident and therefore not entitled to vote in that precinct. HRS § 11-25(b).

The decision can then be appealed to the relevant Board of Registration, whose decision can subsequently be appealed to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. HRS §§ 11-26 & 11-51. Given this appeal process, the voter at the polling place is permitted to vote a challenged ballot, which is placed in a sealed



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envelope, to be subsequently counted or rejected depending on the resolution of the matter.

The implementation of election day registration varies significantly depending on the jurisdiction and the level of control that election officials wish to control over the integrity of the voter registration rolls. Additionally, it is impacted by the manner in which polling place operations and voter registration responsibilities are handled in a particular state.

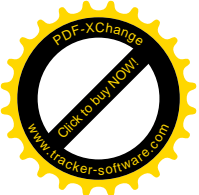
In the State of Hawaii, the counties are statutorily responsible for voter registration and absentee voting. HRS §§ 11-11 & 15-5. As for the operations of polling places and the counting of ballots, the Office of Elections is responsible for those duties. This is different from other states in which the counties also operate the polling places. As for voter registration, the state is also centralized in that it has been utilizing a statewide voter registration system, since the 1980s, that ties all the county voter registration rolls together to ensure that the rolls are as accurate as possible (i.e. a voter is not able to appear registered in more than one county and there are statewide procedures for updating the voter registration rolls).

This ability to centralize operations is due, in part, to the straight forward organization of our state, in which there are four counties for election purposes, supporting 232 precincts, as compared to a mainland jurisdiction, such as Minnesota, an election day registration state, that has 87 counties and 856 precincts.

Any shift toward election day voter registration and absentee polling place registration, will require the ability to access the statewide voter registration system on a real time basis, in order to ensure the integrity of the voter registration rolls.

Currently there are nine jurisdictions that have election day registration. Of these nine there are some jurisdictional differences in how they approach the matter. The main jurisdictional difference is that most of these jurisdictions philosophically permit individuals to register to vote and actually cast their ballot, before the voter registration information is updated to whatever voter registration system they have, as this typically cannot occur until after the election.

In those jurisdictions, they can only prosecute an individual on the back end, if it is determined that the person was not entitled to vote (i.e. voter was in the wrong polling place, the person consciously chose to vote at more than one polling place, in flagrant disregard of the law, or some other reason). Notice of



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such an issue can occur when a voter registration confirmation card, which is typically sent to an election day registrant after the election, is returned as undeliverable to the address provided.

On the other side of the spectrum are the states of Montana and Maine, which exercise tight control over their voter registration rolls, by limiting election day registration to the county election office or a location designated by the election administrator.

The present bill would have the State of Hawaii allow individuals to register to vote and vote at all polling places across the state as opposed to a few select locations. Consistent with an election official's responsibility to ensure the integrity of the voter registration rolls, all counties have expressed that the statewide voter registration system must be accessed, checked, and updated before an individual can be registered and allowed to vote.

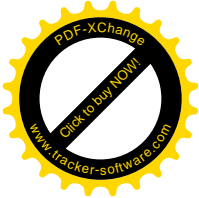
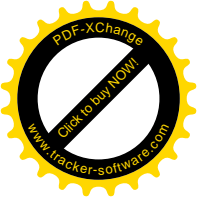
The result of this is essentially the difficult situation of trying to allow as much access as possible to register to vote, as occurs in seven mainland jurisdictions, while attempting to exercise the level of control that two jurisdictions can only accomplish by limiting voter registration to select locations that are available to register to vote, and that the rest of the country controls through having a voter registration deadline in advance of the election.

With that in mind, we recommend various changes to our election laws to help in ensuring the orderly administration of election day voter registration and absentee polling place registration. Related to those administrative changes, we recommend a significant ongoing commitment to provide the necessary funding to implement the program.

For ease of reference, our comments will track the various sections of the bill.

In Section 1 of the bill, as it relates to which polling places that an individual will be permitted to register to vote and vote and what documentation will be required, we have a few administrative comments.

This section makes reference to "proof of residence" being required as opposed to "proof of identity." We wish to clarify that while most of the items referenced in subsection (b)(2) are similar to what is required in the Help America Vote Act, for those who register to vote by mail, those items in that law are meant to help establish the identity of the applicant as opposed to their residence.



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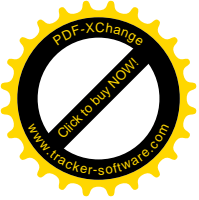
There are no proof of identity or residency requirements under HAVA for voters who register to vote in person. Such matters are left to the states to decide.

To the extent, as a matter of policy, the Legislature seeks to require some type of proof before allowing someone to register to vote on election day, other than a self-affirming affidavit, we would recommend that subsection (b)(2) be reworded to say "Proof of identity, which shall include:" and that the items be replaced with "a current and valid photo identification," "a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter," which are found in HAVA, Section 303(b)(2), for individuals who register to vote by mail.

Additionally, as there may be individuals such as the homeless or others, who may not have such identification, we would recommend language that says "a signed document on letterhead, verifying the identity of the individual by an administrator, or the administrator's designee of a nursing home, homeless shelter, or any other entity that is registered with, receives funds, or is otherwise formally associated with the federal, state, county, or city government." Further, we would recommend that "verification of the identity of the individual, by a registered voter properly in the polling place" also be included, as that procedure is recognized in certain states. Finally, language that provides that "any other verification of identity approved of by the county clerk or chief election officer," would cover any other matters that might arise, related to the implementation of legal decisions concerning identification at the polls, which is a controversial topic.

Consistent with the provisions of HAVA, which provide for the issuance of a provisional ballot to a voter who claims to be properly registered, but whose name cannot be found in the voter registration rolls, we would recommend that the bill should be amended to clarify that all applicants whose registration application is denied, will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot, as that term is used under HAVA (i.e. "(f) All applicants whose application to register to vote on election day or at an absentee polling place are declined will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot, as that term is used under the Help America Vote Act, subject to the applicant providing the necessary proof of identity to the county clerk, or chief election officer in a state only or federal only special election, within 2 calendar days of the election.")

We wish to explain why "proof of residency," as the bill refers to might have more issues in term of implementation as opposed to "proof of identity." Residency is determined by the broad rules stated in HRS § 11-13. Generally speaking, the statement of residency on the voter registration application is taken



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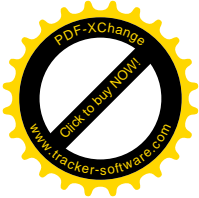
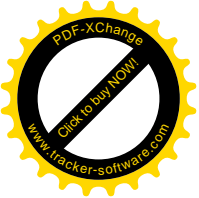
as prima facie evidence of residency unless there is a challenge to the ability of the person to be a registered voter. HRS § 11-15(b). It is then litigated as a question of fact through the voter registration challenge process in HRS §§ 11-25, 11-26, and 11-51.

The documents stated in subsection (b)(2) do not necessarily resolve such disputes, as individuals can have their driver's license, state identification card, bank statement, utility bill, and so forth, display a post office box or similar non-resident address. Many individuals on the neighbor islands live in areas that have non-standard addresses and may use post office boxes to receive their mail. Additionally, even those with standard resident addresses may for their own reason choose a different mailing address. Finally, as some types of documents, such as a driver's license, do not have to be renewed for several years, there is a possibility that the address on the license is not current.

Under these circumstances, the previously stated items that help to establish identity may not resolve residency questions. It would be difficult to explain to a voter that despite their presentation of a driver license or state identification card with a post office box address that we cannot permit them to register to vote, even though if they had registered to vote by mail, under HAVA, they would have been permitted.

Specifically, election officials would have taken his application, as prima facie evidence that all statements in his registration application were correct, including residency. Only if his or her registration was challenged by another voter, could residency be disputed. Even then, the voter would have had the opportunity to vote a challenged ballot and the right to a formal process, through which the challenger would need to prove that the voter was not in fact residing at the place he claimed was his residence. In the situation of a voter with a non-standard residence address, who has a post office box address on their driver license, they would have time to get a copy of property records or similar documents that would have their actual physical address, such as a tax map key number.

If it is determined that "proof of residency" should remain in the bill, in its present form, then the bill should be amended to clarify that all applicants whose registration application is denied, will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot, as that term is used under HAVA (i.e. "(f) all applicants whose application to register to vote on election day are declined will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot, as that term is used under the Help America Vote Act, subject to the applicant providing the necessary proof of residency documentation to the county clerk, or



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chief election officer in a state only or federal only special election, within 2 calendar days of the election”).

We have no proposed changes to Section 2 of the bill

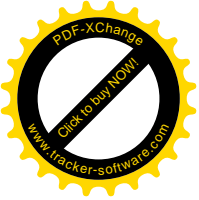
In regard to Section 3 of the bill, related to absentee polling places, we would recommend that HRS § 15-7(b) be amended to state the following:

The absentee polling places established at the office of the respective clerks shall be open no later than ten working days before election day, ~~and all Saturdays falling within that time period~~, or as soon thereafter as ballots are available; provided that ~~[all absentee polling places shall be open on the same date statewide, as determined by the chief election officer]~~ the day immediately prior to an election, absentee polling places may not be open and that day will not be considered a working day. For purposes of this section, a working day includes Saturday. Absentee polling places established at other locations may follow a different schedule.

This would address the previously stated concern that there may be administrative or logistical issues why certain locations could not handle voter registration, in addition to absentee voting, or that there may be issues regarding the particularly availability of the site. As it relates to the day immediately prior to the election, staff is focused on preparations for election day and there needs to be an accounting of who has already voted by absentee ballot, so as to be able to update the election day poll books to reflect who has already voted and as such will not be permitted to vote on election day.

As Section 3 of the bill, includes the same language regarding “proof of identity” found in Section 1 of the bill, we recommend the same previously mentioned changes.

For Section 4 of the bill, we recommend that the reference to the utilization of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds be removed, as it is inconsistent with federal law that provides the funds are to be used for limited purposes that comply with the mandates of HAVA and are consistent with the state’s HAVA plan. Additionally, the determination to expend funds, to the extent such expenditures could be authorized under HAVA, would need to be administratively made by the Chief Election Officer.



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As the Office of Elections supports election day registration, it intends, to the extent permitted by HAVA, its state plan, and the availability of limited funds, to make specific expenditures that will support election day registration.

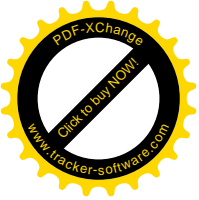
However, a preliminary review of HAVA, the state implementation plan, and audit decisions by the Inspector General of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), reflect that it is not clear that significant funds can be earmarked, by the Chief Election Officer, for the proposed voter registration activities.

The state implementation plan, consistent with the grant of HAVA funds, allocated money primarily toward voting machines, voter education programs, precinct official recruitment campaigns, precinct official training, and the development and maintenance of a statewide voter registration system.

As it relates to the availability of HAVA funds, we would note that the EAC has reminded all states that there should not be the expectation of additional funds in the future, as any such appropriations would be subject to congressional approval. Over 90% of the HAVA funds received by the Office of Elections were received in 2003 and 2004, shortly after the enactment of HAVA in 2002. Since that time, Congress has appropriated significantly smaller amounts of funds in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. The most recent appropriation in 2011 for Hawaii was \$6,454. With this in mind, we have no expectation of any significant funds, if any, coming from Congress in the near future.

The bulk of the money has been spent on the migration to the new voting systems required by HAVA, including the direct recording electronic voting machines (DREs) required for disability access under HAVA. What remains is a balance of approximately \$6,815,921. The majority of these funds have been earmarked for the development of a new statewide voter registration system, including an online voter registration system, to replace our current mainframe system, operated by the City and County of Honolulu, which has been in operation since the 1980s. We expect to issue an RFP in the month of March and to award a contract before the end of the fiscal year.

Having said that, we expect that within the requirements of HAVA, we will continue to make use of any remaining HAVA funds toward voter education programs, precinct official recruitment campaigns, and precinct official training. These programs, campaigns, and training, would be modified to include a component regarding same day voter registration.



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Resolution over whether HAVA funds could be used for anything, beyond these categories of expenditures explicitly authorized by HAVA, would require a request to the EAC for an advisory opinion. However, the EAC has informed us that it cannot provide advisory opinions, as it currently lacks a quorum of its commission, due to vacancies in its membership not being filled.

However, the implementation of this bill will not rest on whether limited federal funds can be used for what will become an ongoing operational expense. Instead, an ongoing commitment in general funding will be necessary to allow election day registration and absentee polling place registration to exist.

With this in mind, we turn to Section 5 of the bill, which appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to be expended by the Office of Elections to permit the counties to implement this bill. As the implementation of election day registration will be an ongoing expense, we would note that the present appropriation should be an ongoing commitment to properly fund the successful implementation of election day registration.

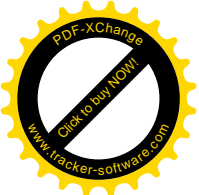
Given that the bill only proposes an appropriation in fiscal year 2014-2015 and the implementation of absentee polling place registration does not begin until 2016 and election day registration does not start until 2018, it is difficult to state what funding would be required for fiscal year 2014-2015.

As it is our understanding that the committee wishes to know what the future fiscal impact would be on the State of Hawaii, if this bill were to pass, we have attempted to outline in the attached budget what is required for the implementation of absentee polling place registration in 2016 and the implementation of absentee polling place and election day registration in 2018.

The implementation costs are primarily driven by the need to ensure that election officials are able to access, check, and update the statewide voter registration system before individual can be registered and allowed to vote. This is different than other jurisdictions, as previously noted, who do not take such steps to ensure the integrity of the voter registration rolls.

There are two main ways to accomplish this interaction with the statewide voter registration system that has been expressed by the counties. The different approaches are based on the logistical issues that each county faces.

Given the amount of polling places in the City and County of Honolulu, it has previously stated its approach would be the following:



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- Two (2) stipend voter registration officials assigned to each of the 132 polling locations
- An associated call center support operation (50 telephone operators, each with a computer terminal for access to the statewide voter registration system);
- An all-in-one printer/copier machines at polling sites; and
- Associated staffing for recruitment and training of these officials.

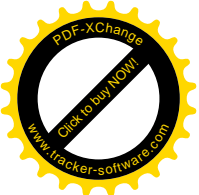
The County of Hawaii with 41 polling places, the County of Maui with 34 polling places, and the County of Kauai with 15 polling places, appear to desire to interact with the statewide voter registration system directly in the polling place. This would mean the following:

- A stipended election official who has received extensive training on voter registration issues will be assigned to each of the 90 polling places. This individual will be paid separate stipends for a day of training, a day of work on election day, and a day to debrief with the counties on voter registration applications that were submitted.;
- Access to the statewide voter registration system through a computer at each polling place would be required, along with any setting up and testing of computer equipment prior to election day at every polling place, with relevant upgrades made to the polling place to permit internet access.
- An all-in-one printer/copier machines at polling sites; and
- Associated staffing for recruitment and training of these officials.

The attached budget outlines the cost of implementing these models for election day registration, based on our understanding of the models that the counties have been discussing. However, we defer to the specific budget estimates and models that the counties may submit to the committee in their testimony.

We have no comments on Section 6 of the bill.

As for Section 7 of the bill regarding the effective date, we would recommend that the sunset language relating to HRS § 15-7 be removed, as the



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changes envisioned by the bill in HRS § 15-7 need to remain in place after December 31, 2017.

However, given that the successful ongoing implementation of absentee polling place and election day registration is contingent on appropriate funding and staffing, we would recommend that the bill sunset on December 31, 2018, in order to permit further discussion about the program moving forward.

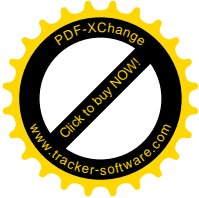
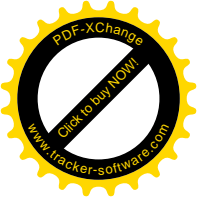
This would permit the counties to have the necessary discussion with the Legislature as to whether it will fund this expansion of voter registration and the Legislature can review the implementation of the program in 2016 and 2018, to determine how it wishes to proceed.

While it is our expectation that the program will be successful, if properly funded and staffed, we do not wish to create a situation in which, the counties due to a lack of funding, have to restrict how many polling places can be opened that have a registration clerk.

Specifically, if the counties cannot provide a registration clerk and statewide voter registration access at a polling place, due to budgetary constraints, then the polling place will not be permitted to open, and polling place consolidations will need to occur.

A reduction in polling places would create an unnecessary burden on voters who will have to travel longer distances and deal with longer lines. However, this would need to be balanced against the remaining polling places being able to provide the opportunity to vote to individuals who were not able to register by the current voter registration deadline of thirty days prior to the election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2590, H.D. 1.



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

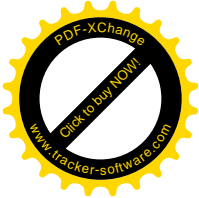
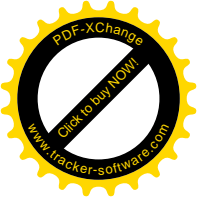
1 SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

4 " §11- Late Registration. (a) Notwithstanding the
5 closing of the general county register pursuant to section 11-24,
6 an individual who is eligible to vote but is not registered to
7 vote may register by appearing in person:

8 (1) Prior to the day of the election, at any absentee
9 polling place established pursuant to section 15-7 in
10 the county associated with the person's residence.

11 (2) On the day of the election, at the polling place
12 associated with the individual's legal residence.

13 (b) The county clerk shall designate a registration clerk,
14 who may be an election official, at each of the absentee polling
15 places in the county, established pursuant to section 15-7, prior
16 to the day of the election and at each of the polling places in
17 the county on the day of the election. The registration clerk



H.B. NO.

1 shall process registration applications for individuals not
2 registered to vote and shall require each individual to submit:

3 (1) A signed affidavit in accordance with section 11-15,
4 which shall include an affirmation of qualification to vote and a
5 statement acknowledging that the individual:

6 (A) Has not voted and will not vote at any other
7 polling place for that election; and

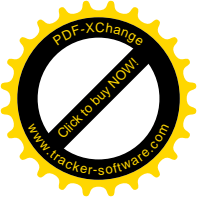
8 (B) Has not cast or will not cast any absentee ballot
9 pursuant to chapter 15 for that election; and

10 (2) Proof of identity, which shall include:

11 (A) A current and valid photo identification;

12 (B) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
13 government check, paycheck, or other government
14 document that shows the name and address of the
15 voter;

16 (C) A signed document on letterhead, verifying the
17 identity of the individual by an administrator, or
18 the administrator's designee, of a nursing home,
19 homeless shelter, or any other entity that is
20 registered with, receives funds, or is otherwise
21 formally associated with the federal, state, county
22 or city government;



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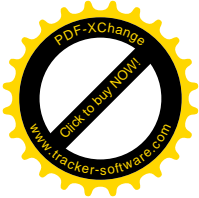
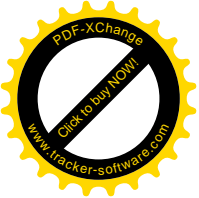
1 (D) Verification of the identity of the individual, by
2 a registered voter properly in the polling place;
3 or

4 (E) Any other verification of identity approved of by
5 the county clerk or Chief Election Officer.

6 (c) Registration may be challenged in accordance with
7 section 11-25.

8 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a), late registration
9 pursuant to this section may also be used by an individual who is
10 registered to vote but whose name cannot be found on the precinct
11 list for the polling place corresponding to the individual's
12 address.

13 (e) The clerk of each county shall add individuals who
14 properly register under this section to the respective general
15 county register. Within thirty days of registration at the
16 polling place, the county clerk shall mail to the individual a
17 notice that shall include the individual's name, address,
18 district and precinct, and date of registration. A notice mailed
19 pursuant to this subsection shall serve as prima facie evidence
20 that the individual is a registered voter as of the date of
21 registration.

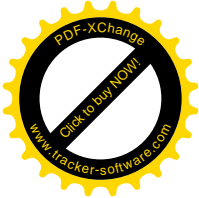
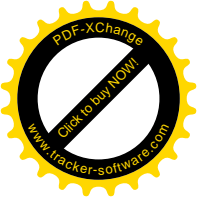


H.B. NO.

1 (f) All applicants whose application to register to vote on
2 election day or at an absentee polling place is declined will be
3 permitted to vote a provisional ballot, as that term is used
4 under the Help America Vote Act, subject to the applicant
5 providing the necessary proof of identity to the county clerk, or
6 chief election officer, in a state only or federal only special
7 election, within 3 calendar days of the date of the election."

8 SECTION 2. Section 11-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amended subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

10 "~~(a) [Challenging prior to election day.]~~ Any registered
11 voter may challenge the right of a person to be or to remain
12 registered as a voter in any precinct for any cause not
13 previously decided by the board of registration or the supreme
14 court in respect to the same person; provided that in an election
15 of members of the board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian
16 affairs the voter making the challenge must be registered to vote
17 in that election. The challenge shall be in writing, setting
18 forth the grounds upon which it is based, and be signed by the
19 person making the challenge. The challenge shall be delivered to
20 the clerk who shall forthwith serve notice thereof on the person
21 challenged. The clerk shall, as soon as possible, investigate
22 and rule on the challenge.

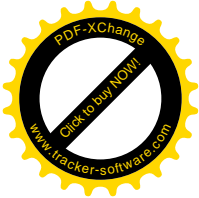
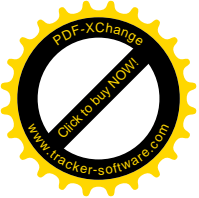


H.B. NO.

1 (b) [~~Challenging on election day.~~] Any voter rightfully in
2 the polling place, including absentee polling places established
3 pursuant to section 15-7, may challenge the right to vote of any
4 person who comes to the precinct officials for voting purposes.
5 The challenge shall be on the grounds that the voter is not the
6 person the voter alleges to be, or that the voter is not entitled
7 to vote in that precinct; provided that only in an election of
8 members of the board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian
9 affairs, a person registered to vote in that election may also
10 challenge on the grounds that the voter is not Hawaiian. No
11 other or further challenge shall be allowed. Any person thus
12 challenged shall first be given the opportunity to make the
13 relevant correction pursuant to section 11-21. The challenge
14 shall be considered and decided immediately by the precinct
15 officials and the ruling shall be announced. "

16 SECTION 3. Section 15-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "**§15-7 Absentee polling place[.]; registration at absentee**
19 **polling place.** (a) Absentee polling places shall be established
20 at the office of the respective clerks, and may be established at
21 such other sites as may be designated by the clerk under the
22 provisions prescribed in the rules adopted by the chief election



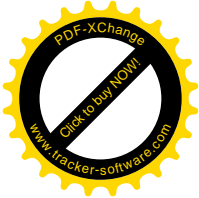
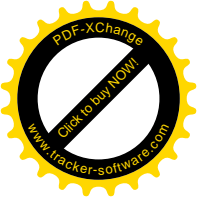
H.B. NO.

1 officer. Section 11-21 relating to changes and transfers of
2 registration shall apply to the absentee polling place as though
3 it were the precinct at which a person's name properly appears on
4 the list of registered voters.

5 (b) The absentee polling places established at the office
6 of the respective county clerks shall be open no later than ten
7 working days before election day[, and all Saturdays falling
8 ~~within that time period~~], or as soon thereafter as ballots are
9 available; provided that [all absentee polling places shall be
10 open on the same date statewide, as determined by the chief
11 election officer.]the day immediately prior to an election,
12 absentee polling places may not be open and that day will not be
13 considered a working day. For purposes of this section, a
14 working day includes Saturday. Absentee polling places
15 established at other locations may follow a different schedule.

16 (c) An individual who is eligible to vote but is not
17 registered to vote may register by appearing in person at the
18 absentee polling place for the county in which the individual
19 maintains residence.

20 (d) The county clerk shall designate a registration clerk,
21 who may be an election official, at each of the absentee polling
22 places established in the county. The registration clerk shall



H.B. NO.

1 process registration applications for individuals not registered
2 to vote and shall require each individual to submit:

3 (1) A signed affidavit in accordance with section 11-15,
4 which shall include an affirmation of qualification to vote and a
5 statement acknowledging that the individual:

6 (A) Has not voted and will not vote at any other
7 polling place for that election; and

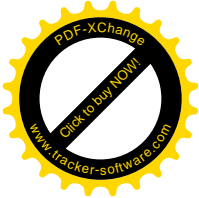
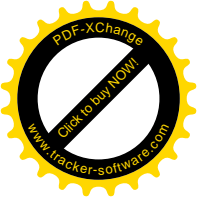
8 (B) Has not cast or will not cast any absentee ballot
9 pursuant to chapter 15 for that election; and

10 (2) Proof of identity, which shall include:

11 (A) A current and valid photo identification;

12 (B) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
13 government check, paycheck, or other government
14 document that shows the name and address of the
15 voter;

16 (C) A signed document on letterhead, verifying the
17 identity of the individual by an administrator, or
18 the administrator's designee, of a nursing home,
19 homeless shelter, or any other entity that is
20 registered with, receives funds, or is otherwise
21 formally associated with the federal, state, county
22 or city government;



H.B. NO.

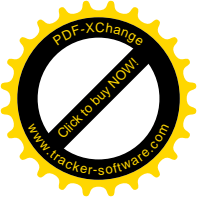
1 (D) Verification of the identity of the individual, by
2 a registered voter properly in the polling place;
3 or

4 (E) Any other verification of identity approved of by
5 the county clerk or Chief Election Officer.

6 (e) Registration may be challenged in accordance with
7 section 11-25.

8 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (c), late registration
9 pursuant to this section may also be used by an individual who is
10 registered to vote but whose name cannot be found on the precinct
11 list for the polling place corresponding to the individual's
12 address.

13 (g) The clerk of each county shall add individuals who
14 properly register under this section to the respective general
15 county register. Within thirty days of registration at the
16 polling place, the county clerk shall mail to the individual a
17 notice that shall include the individual's name, address,
18 district and precinct, and date of registration. A notice mailed
19 pursuant to this subsection shall serve as prima facie evidence
20 that the individual is a registered voter as of the date of
21 registration.



H.B. NO.

1 (h) All applicants whose application to register to vote on
2 at an absentee polling place is declined will be permitted to
3 vote a provisional ballot, as that term is used under the Help
4 America Vote Act, subject to the applicant providing the
5 necessary proof of identity to the county clerk, or chief
6 election officer, in a state only or federal only special
7 election, within 3 calendar days of the date of the election."

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$_____ to implement
10 this act.

11 The sums appropriate shall be expended by the office of
12 elections for the purposes of this Act.

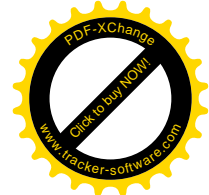
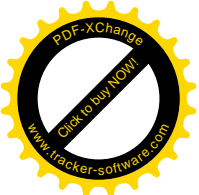
13 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory materials is underscored.

15 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014;
16 provided that:

17 (1) Section 3 of this Act shall take effect on January 1,
18 2016; and

19 (2) Section 1 of this Act shall take effect on January 1,
20 2018; and

21 (3) Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall be repealed on
22 December 31, 2018, and sections 11-25 and 15-7, Hawaii

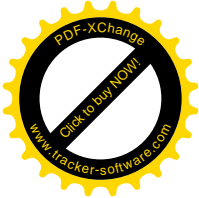
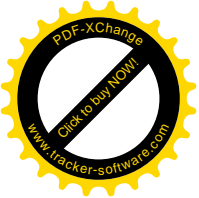


H.B. NO.

1 Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form in
2 which they read on the day immediately prior to the
3 effective date of this Act.

4

5 INTRODUCED BY: _____



Item	Cost
284 Election Officials (City & County of Honolulu)	\$99,400
50 Telephone Operators (City and County of Honolulu)	\$17,500
90 Election Officials (Neighbor Island Counties)	\$94,500
140 Computers	\$56,000
140 Software Licenses	\$35,000
140 Cable/DSL Modem	\$7,000
140 Technical Support to Install, Monitor, and Troubleshoot SVRS Connection	\$70,000
140 Copiers/Printers	\$28,000
TOTAL	\$407,400

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800
TTY: (808) 241-5116



JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
Deputy County Clerk

Facsimile: (808) 241-6207
E-mail: elections@kauai.gov

ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101
LĪHUʻE, KAUAʻI, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAʻI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2590, H.D. 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 19, 2014

Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2590, H.D. 1. This Bill would allow voter registration at absentee polling places beginning in 2016 and late voter registration on Election Day at polling places beginning in 2018.

We support the intent of the Bill but have concerns regarding some of its provisions and offer some thoughts on its impact to our office and operations, and to voters and other election stakeholders.

Implementing a late registration process is much more complicated than it appears. To simply allow someone to register and vote on the same day is easy, the real issue is to ensure that the established process is not overly burdensome for voters and poll workers, yet is sound enough to ensure the overall integrity of the voting process.

We are particularly concerned with the additional burden being placed on poll workers or the "registration clerk" as noted in the Bill. Though the late registration process for most voters should be fairly straightforward, situations involving questionable voter residency and related issues frequently occur, and are often quite difficult to resolve.

If the Bill is approved as initially drafted, each registration clerk would need fairly extensive training on voter registration laws and administrative rules. Additionally, we would prefer that each polling place be connected to the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) so each registration clerk would also need to be trained to use the SVRS. We understand that equipping each polling place with SVRS access will be costly and logistically difficult but prefer this approach because it will greatly improve a registration clerk's ability to: 1) accurately determine the voting status of each late registrant, and 2) correctly place the individual in the proper voting district and precinct.

Given our proposal for implementing provisions of this Bill in the County of Kaua'i, we anticipate the initial election to cost approximately \$40,000. This amount is for procuring computers, software, and related ancillary equipment; to establish and test network connections to the SVRS at each polling place; for Election Day network support; and for expenses related to registration clerks.

For subsequent election years, we project approximately \$20,000 in recurring expenses to reestablish and test network connections at each polling place; for Election Day network support; and for expenses related to registration clerks.

Offering late registration during early voting could be somewhat simpler since the Counties already have SVRS access and can directly oversee the operations. However, late registrants will generate additional work and require our office to hire two (2) additional temporary staff at a cost of approximately \$20,000.

In closing we wish to note that regardless of where late registration is implemented, there will be additional costs for both the State and Counties which require a sustained funding commitment. Anything less would eventually result in a reallocation of resources to late registration and a corresponding reduction in services elsewhere.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2590, H.D. 1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricky R. Watanabe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

TESTIMONY TO
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 3:00 P.M., Conference Room 308

ON HB 2590 HD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB 2590, HD1 that allows late voter registration for elections beginning in 2016 and polling place voter registration beginning in 2018.

The League promotes voting and elections modernization. We are excited that Act 225 passed in 2012 will permit online voter registration beginning in 2016. We also support this year's "automatic" voter registration through County driver's license and state identification card as described in SB 2380, as long as voters are permitted to "opt out" of registering to vote if they so wish.

Online voter registration and automatic voter registration are very efficient "automated approaches" toward voter registration. We believe these will greatly reduce the demand for in-person registration. Nevertheless, some people do not drive and other people wait until an election is imminent to register to vote.

We believe by 2016, our hard-working County Clerks could devise a system for permitting people to register to vote at absentee polling places. Our understanding is that by 2016, the State Office of Elections will have upgraded their statewide database in accordance with Act 225, making it relatively easy for a clerk to check whether a person is already registered to vote and also to check that a registered voter has not already voted. Other procedures for processing registration applications are already in place.

Regarding late voter registration at polling places, we think 2018 is a realistic date for planning this change, which we wholeheartedly support because of the likely bump up in voter turnout. Prior to 2006, in the six states that permitted voters to register on election day plus North Dakota (which has no voter registration), turnout is 10 percent to 17 percent higher than the national average. Minnesota estimates that registrations that occur on election day account for five to ten percent of voter turnout.

Experts project substantial voter turnout increases in states such as Hawaii that adopt registration at polling places. In a 2011 study, overall turnout here was estimated to go up by 5.3 percent. Turnout among those aged 18 to 25 could increase by 9.2 percent, and turnout for those who have moved in the last six months could increase by 7.3 percent.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

HD1 clarifies the original HB 2590. We support all these revisions. Notably:

- HD 1 clarifies that late voter registration is limited to polling places within the county and ultimately the precinct of the registering persons' residence.
- Funds for implementing this bill need to be appropriated, but expenditures would mostly be expenditures needed to upgrade voter registration rolls for the demands of this century and not uniquely for this project. We support gradual investment in modernizing voter registration.

We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



House Finance Committee
Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair Aaron Johanson

Wednesday 02/19/2014 at 03:00PM in Room 308
HB2590 HD1- Relating to Elections
Late Voter Registration

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and members of the Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB2590 HD1. This bill would establish a process that would enable eligible voters to register to vote at absentee polling places in 2016, and allow for late voter registration on election day at polling places in 2018.

Our current voter registration method is archaic and burdensome for citizens, and excludes many eligible voters from participating in our democracy. The current registration system favors those who are highly motivated, very interested in politics early on in the election/campaign season, plan far in advance to ensure that they are registered to vote, and does not allow residents who have moved to vote unless they have re-registered to vote. For others, the voter registration system is a major hurdle. The 30-day registration deadline makes it more difficult for those who are less involved in politics, unfamiliar with the voter registration process and its associated deadlines, or have recently moved residences. We need to stake strides in voting modernization, and create a system that empowers all eligible citizens to vote -- enacting late voter registration, including Election Day Registration, is one step we can take to modernize our voting system.

As a state with the lowest voter turnout in the nation, we must take action to encourage citizen participation in the voting process. Late Registration would help to diffuse confrontations three scenarios that many voter precinct workers and eligible voters have expressed to us:

- 1) When voters' names are missing from registration lists for that particular precinct, they are instructed to commute to a different precinct.
- 2) When eligible voters have moved and did not renew their "voting address" (i.e., re-register to vote), they are not allowed to cast a ballot. Often, they did not know that they had to re-register to vote "just because" they've moved.
- 3) When eligible voters -- and many times would-be-first-time-voters—who have not had a history of participating in politics and government, show up to the polls not realizing that: 1) they need to register to vote prior to voting 2) not knowing what the voting registration deadlines were

In all three scenarios, eligible voters have expressed frustration, a loss of confidence in our voting systems, and a disinterest in attempting to participate in future elections.

We urge the Committee to pass this HB2590 HD1 and ask all the Committee members to champion this and other efforts for improving voter participation in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2590.



Democracy Under the Rule of Law is Based on Public Access

February 18, 2014

House Finance Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: H.B. 2590, H.D. 1, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Finance Committee members:

Thank you for hearing H.B. 2590, H.D. 1, and thank you for the opportunity to testify. We strongly **support** this measure.

This is a central bill. The health of our democracy depends upon voter access to our election process. States that have implemented same-day registration have seen significantly increased voter turnout. The technology is available to modernize the registration process as proposed by H.B. 2590.

Please help Hawai'i join other states that have taken this important step.

Thank you,

R. Elton Johnson, III
Open Law Alliance



HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS

John Bickel, President
Barbara Polk, Vice-President
Fritz Fritschel, Treasurer
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Jim Olson

George Simson
Bart Dame (Alt)
Marsha Schweitzer (Alt)

MAILING ADDRESS

PO. Box23404
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823

February 18, 2014

TO: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Aaron Johanson, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: John Bickel, President
Americans for Democratic Action/Hawai'i

RE: Support and Comments on HB 2590 Relating to Elections

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii supports HB 2533 Every school student in a civics class knows that democracy is about citizen participation. The more we can get citizens to participate in the voting process, the better our democracy. HB 2590 helps to encourage voting. Ray Wolfinger in the book, Who Votes, identifies people who move often as the least likely to vote as they have difficulty registering in time. Late registration would go far to helping these people participate. Please give it your most favorable consideration.

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 3:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/17/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Having lived in a state with same- day voter registration I was witness to the large number of people -- especially young people--registering before casting a vote. Such a process could only be good for Hawaii, whose dismal voting percentage is truly disgraceful.

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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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 9:44 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/17/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly Support.

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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:51 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: janlubin@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM*

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Lubin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 12:07 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM*

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 7:59 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM*

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 1:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM*

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/18/2014
 Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 10:55 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: barbarapolk@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/17/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to support HB2590 which provides ways for individuals to register to vote after the regular registration period has closed. Hawaii has one of the lowest voting rates in the country. We also have an unusually early voter registration period. Many people, especially young people, only become interested in an election close to election day, but by then it's too late to register. Other states have found that providing for late registration has increased voter turnout. Please pass this bill.

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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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 2:58 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fritlang@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2590 on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM

HB2590

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

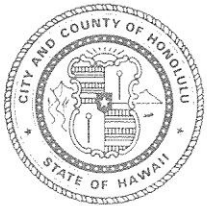
Testimony for FIN on Feb 19, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fritz Fritschel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our form of democratic government encourages citizens to exercise their right to vote. Please do not put extraneous barriers in the way for such a right. Pass progressive voter registration legislation. Fritz Fritschel

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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BERNICE K.N. MAU
CITY CLERK

ELECTIONS

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3800

LATE

Committee on Finance
3:00 p.m. February 19, 2014
HB2590 HD1 Relating to Elections
Written Comments Only

Chair Luke and members of the Committee:

The Office of the City Clerk provides comments on the above measure. Our comments below are limited to an Oahu implementation and we defer to the neighbor island counties on matters that specifically impact them.

We have previously expressed our concerns with "same day" voter registration schemes and our belief that despite the best planning, procedures, and training, servicing an additional unknown quantity of voters will undoubtedly have an impact upon the voting experience for the remainder of voters.

Our main comment with this bill concerns the "registration clerks" (noted in Section 1) that would be recruited, trained, and assigned to polling places by the Offices of the County Clerks.

Statutorily, the Office of Elections is responsible for election day polling place operations. On Oahu, the effort occurs directly, on neighbor islands, it may occur with the assistance of the County Clerks.¹

While the County Clerks are statutorily responsible for voter registration processing, we believe that recruiting, training, and assigning a dedicated volunteer official for each polling place (that reports directly to Office of the Clerk) runs counter to existing statutory responsibilities and the chain of command on election day.

This new requirement would also be a significant fiscal mandate for the counties for recurring expenses such as equipment, payment of volunteer stipends, phone support center costs, and for the full time staff member that would be hired to coordinate the effort.

¹ In 2012, the State Office of Elections rescinded delegation of general election polling place operations from the County of Hawaii, Office of the County Clerk.

At this time, we do not have a firm cost estimate for this 'voter registration official' operational component, but believe it would run in excess of \$190,000 each election cycle. However, this issue could be addressed by removing the following references to assigning registration clerks "*at each of the polling places...*" from page 1, lines 16-17 of the bill.

Alternatively, facilitating the election day registration process might be accomplished by "piggybacking" upon the State Office of Election's existing operations. However, please note that this approach would also be challenging as polling places routinely run at less than the full complement of staff on election day. We defer to the Office of Elections for their specific comment and assessment of the risks associated with this approach.

There is also the cost of roughly \$35,000 for administering the same day registration early voting activities. If the 'sunset' provision for the amendments to Chapter 15 is not intended as a repeal of same day early voting activities after the 2016 elections, then this new mandate would also need to be made a reimbursable expense under HRS §11-184 to address the recurring costs to the counties.

Please note, that while we are providing comments at this time, we would likely oppose the measure if a solution cannot be crafted to address any new fiscal mandates for the City and County of Honolulu.

Finally, while we appreciate the author's effort to seek a funding source for the counties to meet the requirements of this measure, to our knowledge, Help America Vote Act funds may not be utilized for this purpose and an ongoing source of general funds would likely be required.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

DANNY A. MATEO
County Clerk



JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk



TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2590, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

FEBRUARY 19, 2014

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No. 2590, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to allow voters to register at absentee polling places beginning in 2016 and late voter registration on election day at polling places beginning in 2018.

The Office of the County Clerk (Clerk's Office), County of Maui, would like to express the following concerns. This Bill makes it mandatory for the counties to provide a "registration clerk" at every absentee and election day polling place in the respective counties on election day to review and process voter registration affidavits and proof of residence documents. This type of position will require extensive training and knowledge on voter registration issues prior to election day.

If a person is allowed to register and vote on election day, and if that person was erroneously assigned to a polling place and issued a ballot, once a ballot is cast it cannot be retrieved.

In addition to staff, computers and computer connections will need to be established at each of our polling places in order to complete the registration process on election day. This requires setting up and testing computer equipment prior to election day at every polling place.

Our Statewide Voter Registration System is a real-time system that contains confidential information (names, residence addresses, social security numbers, dates of birth) of all registered voters. In the offices of the City/County Clerks, election clerks who deal with voter registration information are under the constant supervision of seasoned election administrators.

The cost to implement this Bill will be approximately \$150,000 - \$200,000 for the additional staff, computers, installation of computer connections, installation of phone lines, and computer software and licenses for Maui County.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill 2590, HD 1.



HB2590 HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
House Committee on Finance

February 19, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2590 HD1, which would allow voters to register at any absentee polling place in the individual's county in days prior to an election or at the polling place in the individual's precinct on election day. Allowing late and election day registration may provide substantial benefits to the people of Hawai'i and contribute to a more engaged populace.

It is well known that Hawai'i has historically suffered from low voter turnout, and HB2590 HD1 would reduce hurdles for voter registration, ultimately resulting in a simpler and more accessible voter registration process. While many states suffer from low voter turnout, in 2008 Hawai'i ranked dead last—50th in the nation for voter participation among those eligible to vote in the presidential election.¹ In response to historical data that reflects that Native Hawaiians are underrepresented amongst the people of Hawai'i who actually make it to the polls, OHA developed the "Hawaiian Voice, Hawaiian Vote: I Mana Ka Leo" campaign to increase Native Hawaiian voter registration, education and turnout. During implementation of this campaign, we found that Hawai'i's voter registration process was unnecessarily complicated and that the State does very little to educate the public on these processes or encourage voter turnout.

In contrast, over the last decade the federal government has initiated several efforts to strengthen voter registration systems and increase access to the polls nationally. Most recently, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) attempted to improve voter registration practices across the nation by providing funding for states to develop statewide, computerized voter registries and requiring states to adopt provisional voting.² Under HB2590 HD1, this HAVA funding would be used to expand Hawai'i's voter registration accessibility options by adding late in-person registration at absentee polling places in the days leading up to elections and election day registration at county polling places.

¹ R. Michael Alvarez & Jonathan Nagler, *Election Day Voter Registration in Hawaii*, DEMOS.ORG (Feb. 16, 2011), http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Elections_Day_Registration_Hawaii.pdf, at 3.

² Help America Vote Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-252, 116 Stat. 1666-1730 (2002).

Research supports that the people of Hawai‘i would likely benefit from the simpler process envisioned by HB2590 HD1. Foremost, the nine states that allow election day voter registration have experienced substantially increased voter participation.³ Also, these states have not found that allowing election day voter registration complicates election administration or leads to increased voter fraud.⁴ Finally, a 2011 study published by Dēmos.org found that election day voter registration would likely lead to a substantial 5.3 percent increase in Hawai‘i voter turnout.⁵ This would be largely due to increased turnout by new voters that have not voted in previous elections and therefore are not familiar with the voter registration process and deadlines (9.2 percent projected increase in turnout), as well as prior voters that have moved and may be unaware that they need to register in their new voting districts (7.3 percent projected increase in turnout).

Given the potential to greatly bolster Hawai‘i’s low voter turnout rate, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** HB2590 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

³ R. Michael Alvarez & Jonathan Nagler, *Election Day Voter Registration in Hawaii*, DĒMOS.ORG, Feb. 2011, at 2.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at 1.