



**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 321, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 19, 2013

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 321, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide a process for voter registration on election day at polling places.

The Office of Elections is in support of election day voter registration as it provides qualified individuals the opportunity to register and vote on election day at their designated polling places based on their current residence address.

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. 321, HD 1 would allow a person to register and vote on election day.

In previous discussions regarding "election day registration," the issue of voter fraud has always been a concern. Hawaii's voting system has built-in checks and balances to prevent voter fraud from occurring. For example, any registered voter, 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 that 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.

The right to challenge a voter's registration safeguards the integrity of the election process by ensuring that only qualified individuals are allowed to register and vote. Voters that are challenged have the fundamental right to appeal to the Board of Registration and subsequently to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. HRS §§ 11-26 & 11-51.

Testimony for HB 321, HD 1
March 19, 2013
Page 2

We would ask that the bill clarify that an individual can only vote in the voting precinct corresponding to where they legally reside, as opposed to any polling place within the county, as the contests that a voter is eligible to vote on will differ, depending on the specific boundaries of the precinct associated with the polling place. HRS §§ 11-11 & 11-12.

As such, we would recommend that subsection (a) in Section 1 be changed from "appearing in person at a polling place for the county in which the individual maintains residence" to "appearing in person at the polling place associated with the individual's legal residence." Administratively this would require individuals to call the Office of Elections or the county clerk's office to determine the proper polling place, associated with their legal residence, they would go to on election day to register and vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 321, HD 1.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 20
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-306
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

STANLEY CHANG

Councilmember - District IV
Phone: (808) 768-5004
Fax: (808) 768-5000
council@hawaii.gov
www.honolulu.gov/council/d4

March 15, 2013
TESTIMONY OF STANLEY CHANG
COUNCILMEMBER FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
On
H.B. No. 321, HD1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS
Tuesday, March 19, 2013
10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 321, HD1 Relating to Elections as a Councilmember for the City and County of Honolulu.

The purpose of this H.B. 321, HD1 is to make it easier for the public to register for and vote in elections. By providing a process for voter registration on Election Day at the polling places, this Bill could potentially increase voter turnout.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your favorable passage of H.B. 321, HD1 Relating to Elections and thank the Committee for allowing me to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Stanley Chang
Councilmember - District IV



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) 768-3835

Comments on HB321 HD1
Relating to Elections.

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 19, 2013
Rm. 016, 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Hee and members of the Committee:

We provide the following comments on HB321 HD1 which proposes to authorize election day voter registration (EDR).

Unlike other States that appear to be enacting stricter laws governing access to the ballot, Hawaii can be very proud of its legislative record of never backtracking and providing increased accessibility to the ballot box. Enacting policies such as voter registration by mail, agency based registration (motor voter), no-excuses absentee voting, permanent vote by mail, and online voter registration appear to provide numerous opportunities for interested persons to participate if they so choose.

While the prospect of universally enfranchising any eligible person through EDR appears progressive and unobjectionable in an age where instant access to services is increasingly expected, we remind the Committee that a voter registration deadline continues to serve several noteworthy purposes.

The most notable purpose of the deadline is to establish a reasonable level of "certainty" for election planning and resource allocation. This certainty also benefits other stakeholders in their "get out the vote" campaign efforts, ensures that precinct officials are not unexpectedly overwhelmed, and allows voters to have a more or less predictable voting experience (in terms of expected wait times/lines, etc.).

Secondly, while there is debate as to where the proper balance should be struck, a voter registration deadline also serves the purpose of providing a layer of integrity by limiting the number of last minute additions to the general register.

With regard to recent House amendments to the bill, we note that mandated involvement by County Clerks involves both startup and ongoing costs, especially for the City and County of Honolulu.

On Oahu, the State Office of Elections is exclusively responsible for recruitment/training/deployment of precinct officials and polling place operations. If the Office of the City Clerk will be responsible for election day registration services, we estimate the initial startup and cost for a primary and general election would be in excess of \$145,000.

In projecting a cost for an EDR scheme we identify the major cost elements to be the following:

- Two (2) stipended voter registration officials assigned to each of the 140 polling locations;
- an associated call center support operation (50 phone operators);
- copy machines at polling sites for retaining records of identification documents submitted; and
- associated staffing for recruitment/training of these officials.

With regard to technical operation of the EDR scheme in the bill, we are not certain if the following was intended. However, we highlight that allowing an election day registrant to provide a "self-subscribing affidavit of residency" (page 3, line 8) as acceptable "proof" of one's residence appears contrary to requiring supporting documents issued by a third party. Other EDR schemes instead recognize "corroboration" of the registrant's residence (by another person) in addition to the self-subscribing affirmation.

Finally, if it is the intent of the EDR scheme to immediately allow casting a ballot following registration, it should be noted that a cast ballot cannot be retrieved (nor election results amended) if that ballot was issued either fraudulently (albeit unlikely) or perhaps erroneously (i.e. without proper authorization/documentation, in the wrong precinct, or if not in adherence to established procedure).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment.

JEFFREY T. KUWADA
County Clerk



LANCE TAGUCHI
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 JEFFREY T. KUWADA

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 321, HD 1

RELATING TO ELECTIONS

MARCH 19, 2013

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 321, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide a process for voter registration on election day at the polling places.

The Office of the County Clerk (Clerk's Office), County of Maui, expresses the following grave concerns. Currently, the Clerk's Office recruits up to 839 election day volunteers to operate 34 polling places, spread throughout Maui County, and the control and counting centers in Wailuku. House Bill No. 321, HD 1 makes it mandatory on the counties to provide a "registration clerk" at every polling place in the respective counties on election day.

Pursuant to this proposed requirement, Maui County will have to recruit and train at least 40 additional personnel to staff the 34 polling places and to provide the control center computer support necessary to register individuals on Election Day.

In order for the envisioned system to work, we believe there must be a computer connection at each polling place, statewide. The polling place voter registration computers must be connected to the real-time statewide voter registration system (SVRS). These connections presently do not exist.

Operators of the polling place voter registration computers must be well trained relative to the provisions of Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii Administrative Rules, and Federal law applicable to voter registration. Currently, the cadre of such highly trained individuals, i.e., election clerks, is limited and can

be found only in election day control centers, not in polling places.

The Bill will result in additional cost to the counties. There is no appropriation included in the Bill for additional personnel and equipment.

Currently, the SVRS is a real-time system containing confidential information (names, residence addresses, social security numbers, dates of birth) of all registered voters. In the several offices of the City/County Clerks, election clerks who deal with voter registration information are under the constant supervision of seasoned election administrators. Certain data entry errors resulting in error messages can only be corrected with the authorization of the most senior election administrator. The supervision of "registration clerks" in remote polling places on election day presents a very challenging scenario, one which has the potential of undermining the accuracy of the SVRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 321, HD 1.

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
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 321, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 19, 2013

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 321, HD 1. This Bill provides a process for voter registration on Election Day at polling places.

We take no position on the Bill but offer some thoughts on proposed provisions and their impacts to our office and operations, and to voters, candidates and other election stakeholders.

Implementing an Election Day registration (EDR) 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 EDR process for most voters is fairly straightforward, situations involving questionable voter residency and related issues frequently occur, and are sometimes quite difficult to resolve. Since poll workers (or registration clerks) are essentially volunteers, we are hesitant to allow them to address such complex and potentially contentious issues.

Additionally, the Bill will likely increase operating costs for both the State and Counties. "Registration clerks" will require fairly intensive training on the various statutes and administrative rules governing voter registration and residency, and would likely require related support documents and/or equipment to properly fulfill their responsibilities. Provisions requiring the mailing of a registration confirmation notice to each Election Day registrant would be solely a County expense since County Clerks are statutorily responsible for voter registration. An extensive voter education campaign would also be necessary to ensure all election stakeholders are aware of the upcoming changes.

House Bill No. 321, HD 1
Testimony of Ricky R. Watanabe
Page 2

Finally, under current law, once the voter registration deadline passes, the "universe" of voters participating in a given election remains relatively static. With EDR, this will no longer be the case and all election stakeholders, particularly candidates, need to be comfortable with the fact that there could be significant increases in the number of voters added to the voter rolls on Election Day.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 321, HD 1.



RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 10:05 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support to H.B. 321, H.D.1, Relating to Elections

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support to H.B. 321, H.D.1, which provides a process for voter to register to vote on election day at polling places.

H.B. 321, H.D.1 seeks to ensure that all Hawaii’s people are able to exercise their fundamental right to vote by reducing the barriers that make it harder to cast a ballot. The people who would be most affected are students, anyone who moves near election time, younger/new/infrequent voters, or simply busy working folks. We should be in the business of encouraging participation in our democracy, not turning people away from the polls who would otherwise be eligible to vote.

In 2012, Hawaii had the lowest voter turnout rate in the country with only sixty two percent of registered voters casting their ballots.¹ Election day registration has been shown to increase voter turnout by 10-12%, which means that H.B. 321, H.D.1 will go far towards increasing voter access and voter turnout and making sure that all Hawaii’s people are able to exercise their right to vote. At least ten other states, plus the District of Columbia, have adopted same day voter registration laws to increase public participation. Additionally, fourteen states have proposed legislation to allow same day registration this year.² Please pass same day voter registration and boost Hawaii’s voter turnout.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

¹ Hawaii General 2012 State of Hawaii Summary Report, *available* at <http://hawaii.gov/elections/results/2012/general/elections/results/2012/general/files/histatewide.pdf>.

² *National Conference of State Legislatures*, <http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/elections/same-day-registration.aspx> (last visited February 20, 2013).

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808-522.5900
F: 808-522.5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Labor
March 19, 2013
Page 2 of 2

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney and Legislative Program Director
ACLU of Hawaii

The American Civil Liberties Union ("ACLU") is our nation's guardian of liberty – working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522.5900
F: 808.522.5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair and Sen. Maile S. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 10:05 a.m., Conference Room 016

H.B. 321, HD1 Relating to Elections

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Vice-President, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports House Bill 321 that provides a process for voter registration on Election Day at polling places (this is sometimes called "election day registration" or "same day registration").

Why are there so many people in Hawaii not registered to vote? Today, approximately 270 thousand residents of Hawaii who are eligible to vote are still not registered to vote. This represents almost 28% of eligible persons.¹

The League of Women Voters does not fully understand why Hawaii residents are not registering to vote. Some of the people who are eligible choose not to vote or have let their registrations lapse; others might want to vote, but are very busy, haven't bothered to register or don't know how to register. In Hawaii we can even register to vote by mail, and elections officials are committed to registering voters. But this measure would open up our registration process further, where the current options present a barrier to unregistered but eligible voters.

We think lack of registration is probably the leading reason for Hawaii's consistently low voting rate. In the 2012 Hawaii general elections, the voting rate for all eligible persons of voting age was only 44.5% percent, while the voting rate for people who were registered to vote was considerably higher at 61.9%, showing that registration is key to turnout.²

¹ Source: Number of eligible voters is from City and County Data released in November 2012; estimated number of voting eligible population is from U.S. Elections Project, 2012 general election figures.

² Hawaii Office of Elections Factsheet - FSVS505H Rev. 01/08/13



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

Eight states plus the District of Columbia presently offer same-day registration (SDR), allowing any qualified resident of the state to go to the polls on Election Day, register that day, and then vote. Another two states--California and Connecticut--have enacted same-day registration but have not yet implemented it.³ These states are taking steps to ensure that eligible voters are not turned away because of errors in their registrations or failure to register before Election Day.

States that allow same day registration have consistently led the nation in voter participation. The evidence demonstrates that same day registration leads to increased voter turnout. In the six Same Day Registration (SDR) states that had SDR prior to 2006 and North Dakota (which has no voter registration), turnout is 10 percent to 17 percent higher than the national average. Minnesota estimates that Election Day registrations account for five percent to ten percent of voter turnout.⁴

Experts have also projected substantial voter turnout increases in states that are considering adopting SDR, including Hawaii. 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.⁵

And speaking of changing residences, we point out that it is a tremendous challenge for our County Clerks to keep voter registration records current. A major reason is our residents move **frequently**.⁶ Accurate voter registration rolls are an important defense against voter fraud, and last year the legislature enacted a law that will make a statewide electronic registration database available by 2016. This database should greatly help to identify individuals who are eligible to

³ National Conference of State Legislatures, February 19, 2013.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Alvarez, R. Michael and Jonathan Nagler, "ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION IN HAWAII," Demos, February 16, 2011.

⁶ Over a three-year period, 2005-2007, 163,000 people moved into Hawaii and 190,000 moved out, according to the Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends. This figure about frequency of moving doesn't include the number of residents who are moving within Hawaii, but it does illustrate the challenge facing our County Clerks.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

vote, but have moved within Hawaii. Election Day registration would provide another occasion for our election officials to update registration records for accuracy when voters move and/or change their name.

In Hawaii, the deadline to register for elections is one month before each election. The League of Women Voters does not think this date is arbitrary, because it allows sufficient time for the hard-working County elections officials to receive and process manual voter registration affidavits and re-registration affidavits in time for Election Day. But does the thirty-day deadline still make sense, particularly when Hawaii will have a statewide online voter registration database by 2016?

In spite of diligent efforts on the part of elections officials, inevitably some voters are left without recourse when faced with registration problems on Election Day that threaten their right to vote. While we do not believe it will ever be possible to eliminate all human error, the Election Day registration proposed in HB 321 can be an important fail-safe against the unintentional disenfranchisement that can result from administrative error or voter confusion in the registration process. Poll workers do report to the League that inaccurate rolls take their toll on Election Day. Poor registration data can slow down the check-in process and lengthen voter lines (and raise tempers).

Since voter registration and absentee voting are currently delegated to County elections officials, there will be additional cost to the Counties for implementing this measure. About one-third of respondents to an elections official survey reported the workload impact as modest or marginal, and the incremental cost of SDR as minimal.⁷

We think the costs to implement SDR could be mitigated in a couple of ways. One is to reduce the demand for SDR in the first place. In April of each election year, voters are mailed a "Voter Notification and Address Confirmation Postcard" (the yellow card) to confirm that they are

⁷ "Election Day Registration: a Ground-Level View: What Local Officials have Learned about Letting Americans Register and Vote on the Same Day," *Demos*, February 6, 2013.



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

properly registered to vote. This card might be modified to include a request for an absentee ballot and a permanent absentee voter application form. This would be convenient for voters who wished to vote absentee, would reduce the number of people wanting to update their registration at the last minute, and could therefore reduce the cost of implementing SDR.

The League would also support gradual introduction of same day registration. State and County Elections officials need time to plan this change. We think the measure can be implemented sooner than 2100 as specified in the bill, but support waiting until 2016. We also support County officials having the planning time, infrastructure and staffing they need to properly implement SDR. Why not have same day registration limited to early (absentee walk in) sites in 2016, and only available in every polling place in 2018?

Safeguards to prevent fraud must be adopted along with SDR, and we are pleased to see these are proposed in Section 1 of this measure:

- A signed affidavit from the voter affirming they are qualified to vote, will not vote at any other polling place for that election, and will not cast an absentee ballot for that election;
- Requiring proof of residence showing current address, and to verify the address, a second document that contains the name and address of the individual.

We also note that an amendment will be required to Section 1, (2) of the bill regarding proof of residence for individuals who do not have a street address, requiring verification of their physical residence using tax map keys and other public records.

The League respectfully suggests that in addition to the safeguards enumerated in the measure, your Committee should specify that fraud associated with SDR is subject to the election fraud provisions of Chapter 15, Hawaii Revised Statutes. As reported in a survey of elections officials in states that already provide SDR, the great majority of respondents rated fraud protection



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

measures sufficient to protect the integrity of elections. This was the opinion in both large and small jurisdictions.⁸

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii encourages all people who are eligible to vote to register and to cast an informed vote in all elections. We believe that government should make registration and re-registration easy, while assuring that the basic requirements of citizenship, age, and residency are met.

We are encouraged that last year Hawaii enacted a law to provide for online voter registration by 2016, but we think HB 321 would also encourage registration and voting. This measure would establish one-stop voting where a person would be permitted to register to vote and immediately vote on Election Day or at any time prior to Election Day when ballots may be cast.

Hawaii's democracy needs an upgrade, and there's no better place to start than with our voter registration processes and records. We urge you to pass HB321. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

⁸ Ibid.



Democracy Under the Rule of Law is Based on Public Access

March 18, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: H.B. 321, HD 1, Relating to Elections
Hearing on Tuesday, 03/19/13 at 10:05 AM, Rm. 16

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee members:

Thank you for hearing H.B. 321, and thank you for the opportunity to testify. We strongly **support** this measure. Same-day voting would improve voter access to our election process.

Sincerely,

R. Elton Johnson, III
Open Law Alliance



Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro

Tuesday 03/19/2013 at 10:05AM in Room 016
HB321 HD1– Relating to Elections

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

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB321 HD1. This bill would establish a process that would enable eligible voters to register to vote (and thus, vote) on Election Day.

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 Election Day registration is one step we can take to modernize our voting system.

“Election Day Registration” (EDR) has proven successful in nine other states, and the District of Columbia, for many years: Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have had EDR since the early 1970s; Wyoming, New Hampshire, and Idaho have had EDR laws since the early 1990s; Montana, Iowa, and North Carolina approved their EDR laws in 2006 and 2007. And as of 2007, 23 states have considered EDR.⁽¹⁾

Prior to 2006, six states that have implemented Election Day Registration saw an increase in voter turnout: approximately 10-17 percent higher than the national average.⁽²⁾

A 2008 Hawaii-focused EDR study by California Institute of Technology and New York University – commissioned by Demos, a multi-issue policy development and advocacy firm -- used statistics from Hawaii’s 2004 elections and concluded the following results for EDR in Hawaii:

- Overall turnout in Hawaii could increase by 5.7 percent;
- Turnout among those aged 18 to 25 could increase by 9.9 percent;
- Turnout among the poorest citizens could increase by 5.7 percent;
- Turnout among the wealthiest citizens could increase by 3.3 percent.⁽³⁾

As a state with the lowest voter turnout in the nation, we must take action to encourage citizen participation in the voting process.

Knowing that this is a leap in how we currently run elections, we'd like to share some findings which address some EDR concerns.

A 2007 study conducted by Demos addressed four key concerns relevant to EDR: administrative load, associated/additional expenses, possible confusion at the polls, and voter fraud. The study concluded the following:

- **Is EDR a burden to administer?**

"About one-third of the respondents characterized the workload impact as modest or marginal.... A number of officials brought up compensating benefits. While EDR creates more work on Election Day itself, about half the survey respondents suggested that it had reduced or eliminated the familiar pattern (in non-EDR states) of a pre-deadline surge of registrations."

- **Does it make elections more expensive?**

"Most of the respondents described the incremental cost of EDR as minimal... But the overall effect, a number of respondents indicated, was not to add work or expense, but merely to shift the cost burden from one time and place to another."

Participants also noted that EDR was a cost-saving move because more money was spent on election "judges" (i.e., those registering voters on election day) at the polls, and less money on in-house staff or temporary workers at the election office(s).'

- **Does it cause confusion at the polls?**

Election Day Registration makes things harder for election workers but easier for voters—that was the overall judgment of a number of respondents.

- **Does it encourage fraud?**

"The great majority of respondents rated current fraud-prevention measures sufficient to protect the integrity of elections."⁽¹⁾

Especially in light of redistricting and changes in polling places, we must create a voting system that encourages eligible voters to participate in our elections. Election Day 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.

Common Cause Hawaii offers the following comments to address county elections staff logistical and resource concerns: We suggest: 1) only incorporating same-day voter registration and voting only at existing early voting walk-in sites by the 2016 elections; 2) phasing into broader election-day voter

registration and voting in 2018. Additionally, we recommend the implementation of electronic poll books by 2018, in order to further streamline the voting check-in and registration process.

During the proposed 2016-2018 phasing period, we hope to significantly increase permanent absentee voting, and have electronic poll books implemented, in order to reduce polling place costs.

We urge the Committee to pass this bill 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 HB321 HD1, with amendments.

- 1) Demos, Election Day Registration: A Ground Level View. 2007
<http://www.demos.org/publication/election-day-registration-ground-level-view>
- 2) National Conference of State Legislatures: Same Day Voter Registration. Feb. 19, 2013.
<http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/elections/same-day-registration.aspx>
- 3) Demos. Election Day Registration in Hawaii. Nov. 11, 2008
<http://www.demos.org/publication/election-day-voter-registration-hawaii>

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 11:53 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: kat.caphi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

HB321

Submitted on: 3/16/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	No

Comments: Please support this important bill that promotes equality and democracy. As this recent economic report recommends: **STACKED DECK** How the Dominance of Politics by the Affluent & Business Undermines Economic Mobility in America
<http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Demos-Stacked-Deck.pdf> by: David Callahan & J. Mijin Cha Remove Barriers to Registration and Voting Voter registration is a particularly important target for reform, given that almost one of four eligible Americans was not registered to vote in the period leading up to the 2012 elections. In particular, the following should be adopted: Same-Day Registration: Implementing Same Day Voter Registration, which allows eligible individuals to register and vote at the same time, is a proven method to increase participation and turnout among eligible voters. States with Same Day Registration record consistently higher voter turnout and participation than states without it.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 10:44 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM*

HB321

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 6:02 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: meacham.hawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

HB321

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Meacham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: March 17, 2013 Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee SUPPORTING HB 321
Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony. As a long-time poll worker, I can testify that registering someone new will be no more complicated than the hundreds of address changes we have to process every election. In those cases, we call the central control unit to give them the new address after verifying it on the voter's ID, and then they change the entry in the system. Adding a new voter will only require a few extra seconds to enter their name and social security number. A computer connection to the polling place is not necessary, so there is no extra expense. To reduce the possibility of fraud, the voter should be required to have two valid photo IDs with their address. We will also have to train our poll workers in the correct procedure. We can check with the other states that have same-day registration to find out what their procedures and requirements are. Same-day registration will help first-time voters, voters whose precinct or address has changed and voters whose registration has been purged through disuse, hopefully raising our voter participation rate from dead last in the country. Thank you the the opportunity to offer testimony. Larry Meacham 306B Lehua St. Wahiawa, HI 966786

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 12:24 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: smook808@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM*

HB321

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jake Smookler	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 12:15 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: barbarapolk@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

HB321

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

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

Comments: I encourage the committee to pass HB 321 to provide same day voter registration. As time draws near for an election, there is more media coverage and people who previously were not paying attention begin to get involved. This is particularly true of young people. In Hawaii, it is often too late to register to vote. Election day voter registration will help increase voting in Hawaii.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 11:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: stephen@shootingstarsphotography.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

HB321

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Holding	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support any action that will increase 1) the amount of registered voters 2)the amount of registered voters who actually vote & 3)to do any thing that will get young voters active & keep them active in the voting process I stand with Rep. Ing on this matter.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 10:04 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: realmaui@aloha.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM*

HB321

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Sperr	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 6:02 AM
To: JDL Testimony
Cc: bmurphy420@mail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

HB321

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Each voice counts! Not only sameday what about bring back DVR!

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 9:33 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

HB321

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

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

Comments: Strongly support.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 3:44 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: surferg@aloha.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM*

HB321

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cleon Bailey	Individual	Oppose	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

To the state representatives of Hawaii,

I write this testimony in support of bill HB321 making it so citizens can register and vote for their representatives. I believe this would be good for the people of Hawaii and the nation because it eliminates the confusion that surrounds many elections. It streamlines the process and allows people to take action for what they believe in even if they are far too busy to register to vote several weeks before hand.

I urge you to follow Kaniela Ing's vision and pass this bill as well as future bills that he is proposing. He is a great representative with great vision.

Mahalo,
John Fitzpatrick

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 9:56 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

HB321

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

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

Comments: Hawaii has continuously had the nation's lowest voter turnout and needs to improve its voter turnout. Enacting Election Day registration is one step we can take to modernize our voting system and create a structure that allows and empowers more eligible voters to cast a ballot. The current registration system favors those who are highly motivated, very interested in politics early on in the election/campaign season, who plan far in advance to ensure that they are registered to vote 30 days before election day. Our current registration system does not reward eligible voters who have a newfound interest in politics. Please pass HB321 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 8:54 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: joseph.heaukulani@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM*

HB321

Submitted on: 3/16/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Heaukulani	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 3:26 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM*

HB321

Submitted on: 3/15/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov