

STEWART MAEDA
County Clerk



MAILE DAVID
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elections Division
County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF STEWART MAEDA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 321, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
March 19, 2013

Chairman 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.

The Office of the County Clerk, County of Hawaii provides the following comments.

Election Day Registration although well intended poses serious concerns. The responsibility of voter registration is a statutory responsibility of the counties. Completing the Affidavit on Application for Voter Registration is a simple process for the voter. The responsibility of ascertaining whether the information provided is acceptable for voter registration will be the burden of a precinct official or registration clerk. The official will be required to determine what an acceptable form of voter identification is, what an acceptable residence address is and most importantly assigning the voter to their correct district/precinct. These functions are currently the responsibility of permanent staff in the County Elections office. In the Election office these employees have access to all of the necessary information and tools needed to determine that voters are registered correctly before voting on Election Day.

Additionally, the Bill will increase operational costs for the Counties. There is no appropriation included in the Bill for the additional costs that will be incurred.

We believe maximizing voter registration is one of the most important functions of our office as well as maintaining the integrity of the voter registration list.

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



Hawaii Women's Coalition

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

TIME: 10:05 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

SUPPORT FOR HB321 – Same Day Voter Registration

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is in strong support of this measure that would allow Hawaii's citizens to vote the same day they register.

The current registration system contributes to our low voter turnout. It favors political insiders and active party members. It does not allow residents who have moved to vote unless they have re-registered to vote. For many the voter registration system is an obstacle course. 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 modernize our voting procedures to create a system that encourages all eligible citizens to vote. Enacting Election Day registration is arguably one of the most important steps we can take to modernize our voting system. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed
Co-Chair Women's Coalition
95-227 Waikalani Dr. A403
Mililani, HI 96789
808-623-5676

hee2 - Kathleen

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 8:52 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: nimo1767@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
Robert Petricci	Puna Pono Alliance	Support	No

Comments:

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

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hee2 - Kathleen

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 9:59 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: CFRnikki@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
Nikki Love	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for hearing this bill on Election Day Registration. It's time to modernize our elections system. Hawaii's 30-day voter registration deadline is incredibly old-fashioned and burdensome for citizens, and it excludes many eligible voters from participating in our democracy. Given Hawaii's consistently low voter turnout numbers, something must be done to turn this around. Election Day Registration is one of the proven tools to significantly boost turnout. Please pass this bill and provide the Office of Elections and county clerks the resources necessary to make it work. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 7:18 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: jonthebru@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB321 on Mar 19, 2013 10:05AM

LATE TESTIMONY

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
John Bruce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB321 Our voting process should be as easy and simple as possible. During the last election as I spoke to people, I found many who were not registered and it was past the deadline. By implementing this law it makes voting available right at the polling place on election day.

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