

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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April 1, 2014

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.C.R 43/H.R. 25 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO  
ASSIST WITH INCREASING VOTER REGISTRATION AMONG  
YOUNG ADULTS.**

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 11:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.C.R. 43/H.R. 25, is to require the Department of Education to provide high school seniors with voter registration information prior to graduation; and to require the Department of Human Services to provide young adults in the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program with information on the voter registration and informational literature to any young adult who inquires.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports H.C.R. 43/H.R. 25 to encourage voting among young adults. The DHS supports providing young adults with information on voter registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH INCREASING VOTER REGISTRATION  
AMONG YOUNG ADULTS

April 1, 2014

Chair Carroll and members of the House Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 43. The purpose of this resolution is to request the Department of Education to provide public school seniors with voter registration information prior to graduation and to similarly request the Department of Human Services to provide such information to young adults in the young adult voluntary foster care program.

In the past, we have distributed voter registration forms to both the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services. The return rate on these forms have been rather limited, despite the efforts of these departments to distribute these forms. However, we believe that it is still worthwhile to continue to make voter registration forms available to these young adults.

In regard to the Department of Human Services, it distributes voter registration forms on an ongoing basis to any applicant for public assistance. The voter registration forms are coded with a unique department code that permits us to tabulate how many forms are returned for reporting purposes to the federal government under the National Voter Registration Act.

The most recent reporting time period was from the close of registration for the November 2010 General Election until the close of registration for the

November 2012 General Election (i.e. a two year voter registration period). A total of 502 voter registration forms were received during that time period. We are unable to determine of those how many may have been submitted by the young adult voluntary foster care program, as the forms are coded specifically for the Department of Human Services and not individual programs, as noted previously.

As it relates to the Department of Education, we have been operating the Young Voter Registration Program (YVRP) over the last several years. Slight modifications have occurred over the years, but essentially participation is voluntary, with some years the Superintendent co-signing with the Chief Election Officer a memorandum to the principals asking for participation, in other years the Hawaii State Student Council would take the lead, and last year the Office of Elections directly solicited participation from the high schools.

YVRP relies on the voluntary participation of the 45 public high schools. Each public high school that chooses to participate is provided a unique code on their voter registration forms to permit us to track how many are returned. The program is run during the spring semester and is focused on high school seniors.

In 2012, the Office of Elections worked directly with Susan Saito, Advisor to the Hawaii State Student Council to implement the 2011-2012 YVRP. They used the program as their service learning project for the year. A total of 43 high schools indicated an intent to participate. As such, forms were distributed to those schools. Of those 43 schools, 9 returned a total of 967 completed registration forms.

In 2013, the Office of Elections attempted to work again with Ms. Saito, but it was informed that she had retired. As for working with the new advisor to the Hawaii State Council we were informed that they had decided to go with a different service learning project. Given this, a letter was sent out to the Superintendent informing her that the Office of Elections would be contacting the high schools directly to determine their interest in participating in YVRP. A subsequent letter was sent to the principals requesting them to appoint a liaison for the Office of Elections to work with, should they choose to participate. A total of 24 high schools indicated an intent to participate and forms were distributed to those schools. Of those 24 schools, 8 returned a total of 209 forms.

For 2014, the Chief Election Officer and the Superintendent have sent out a joint memorandum to all principals asking them to participate in this program. The deadline for these schools to tell us who their YVRP liaison is and the number for voter registration forms they need is March 28, 2014. As this is an

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election year, we expect that the return rate on the forms will be similar to what occurred in 2012.

We believe that the present House Concurrent Resolution is useful in that it will result in the Department of Human Services and Department of Education revisiting their present voter registration programs with the Office of Elections, to see if there are better ways to firmly incorporate voter registration into the operations of these departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 43.

Young Voter Registration Program (YVRP)  
School Year 2011-2012

Public Schools	Packets	Registered
<b>City &amp; County of Honolulu (21)</b>		
Aiea	252	
Campbell	694	
Castle	308	155
Farrington	649	
Kahuku	248	
Kailua	203	
Kaimuki	242	
Kaiser	305	
Kalaheo	206	
Kalani	299	
Kapolei	493	
Leilehua	469	
McKinley	477	111
Miilani	610	115
Moanalua	526	
Pearl City	434	149
Radford	325	
Roosevelt	320	
Waialua	178	
Waianae	463	
Waipahu	1,110	289
<b>County of Maui (7)</b>		
Baldwin	413	
Hana	20	
King Kekaulike	278	
Lahainaluna	275	60
Lanai	43	
Maui	477	
Molokai	67	
<b>County of Hawaii (11)</b>		
Hilo	307	44
Honokaa	155	
Kau	63	
Ke Kula O Ehunuikaimalino	9	7
Kaau	230	
Kealahou	397	
Kohala	71	37
Konawaena	154	
Laupahoehoe	14	
Pahoa	91	
Waiakea	264	
<b>County of Kauai (4)</b>		
Kapaa	266	
Kauai	292	
Niihau	1	
Waimea	153	

TOTAL: 12,851 967

Public Schools Participated: 43

Public Schools Registered: 9

Young Voter Registration Program (YVRP)  
School Year 2012-2013

Public Schools	Packets	Registered
<b>City &amp; County of Honolulu (25)</b>		
Aiea		
Anuenue School	21	
Campbell	650	
Castle	300	
Farrington		
Hawaii School for the Deaf & Blind		
Kahuku	250	
Kailua	185	11
Kaimuki	220	1
Kaiser		
Kalaheo		
Kalani	300	1
Kapolei		
Leilehua	385	
McKinley		
Millilani		
Moanalua		
Nanakuli	150	11
Olomana School		
Pearl City	400	
Radford	270	
Roosevelt		
Waialua	90	38
Waianae		
Waipahu	520	143
<b>County of Maui (7)</b>		
Baldwin	381	
Hana		
Kekaulike	220	
Lahainaluna	251	2
Lanai		
Maui		
Molokai		
<b>County of Hawaii (10)</b>		
Hilo	300	
Honokaa	0	0
Ka'u High & Pahala Elem. Schools	54	
Ke Kula o Ehunuikaimalino	10	
Keaau	188	
Kealakehe		
Kohala		
Konawaena		
Pahoa	89	
Waiakea	250	
<b>County of Kauai (4)</b>		
Kapaa		
Kauai	300	2
Niihau		
Waimea	145	

TOTAL: 5,929 209

Public Schools Participated: 24  
Public Schools Registered: 8