

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 04/16/2014

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 041(sscr3186) REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH INCREASING VOTER REGISTRATION AMONG YOUNG ADULTS.

**Purpose of Resolution:** Requests the Department of Education and Department of Human Services to assist with increasing voter registration among young adults.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 and the requests that relate specifically to the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

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

April 15, 2014

Chair Takumi and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 41. 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.

Testimony for S.C.R. No. 41  
April 15, 2014  
Page 3

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

We believe that the present Senate 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 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 41.

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
Mililani	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
Keaau	230	
Kealakehe	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		
Mililani		
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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN  
DIRECTOR

BARBARA YAMASHITA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

April 16, 2014

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R 41 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO  
ASSIST WITH INCREASING VOTER REGISTRATION AMONG  
YOUNG ADULTS.**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 2:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.C.R. 41, 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 S.C.R. 41 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.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 41**  
House Committee on Education  
April 16, 2014, 2:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 329

To: Honorable Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair  
Honorable Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Committee on Education Members

From: Rouel Velasco, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations  
Region 12

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and House Committee on Education Members:

My name is Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which strongly supports this bill. NaFFAA Region 12 represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA strongly supports this resolution, because voter education and voter registration is essential for all senior high school students and young adults in order to inspire them to fulfill their civic duty by exercising their democratic right to vote. Hawai'i has the lowest voter turnout in the nation. By ethnicity, Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in the state, but have the lowest voter turnout. By age, young people 18 through 29 years old are the least likely to vote. The Dept. of Education and Dept. of Human Services are in strategic positions to ensure that we have an informed and engaged electorate.

The members of NaFFAA Region 12 extend our appreciation to you for hearing this resolution and for your consideration of its passage.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco, Chair  
NaFFAA Region XII



**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 2:57 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** jclark@hysn.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR41 on Apr 16, 2014 14:30PM\*

**SCR41**

Submitted on: 4/15/2014

Testimony for EDN on Apr 16, 2014 14:30PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judith Clark	Hawaii Youth Services Network	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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## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 41

House Committee on Education

April 16, 2014, 2:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 329

To: Honorable Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair, Honorable Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Committee on Education Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Past President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and House Committee on Education Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, past president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity.

**The Coalition strongly supports this resolution.** Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

In addition to the foremost role of parents and caregivers, the Coalition also looks to the strategic, educational role of the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Human Services to help prepare and inspire Hawai'i's youth, who are under their supervision, to be informed of their civic duty and the hard-fought right to vote, especially for women and minorities.

Filipinos have the lowest voter turnout in the state, in spite of having risen to become the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i since our first arrivals in 1906. Today, Filipinos make up a sizeable portion of Hawai'i's diverse, service industry work force that is disproportionately underpaid and subject to minimum wage jobs. Given this economic disparity, it is no accident that our children are over-represented in under-achieving public schools, under-represented in higher education, and least likely to be in executive positions in the very industries that hire our people at low wages to ensure growing profit margins. Given this unjust disadvantage, it is imperative to ensure a systems approach for young people to be informed of issues on voter education and have the opportunity to become registered voters through the schools and in DHS programs for youth. This will go a long way to uplift our marginalized families and their children to contribute even more significantly as engaged, informed, critically thinking, and civically engaged stewards for a vibrant economy and stronger communities in Hawai'i's civil society.

The Coalition extends our gratitude to you for hearing this important resolution, and for allowing us to provide our steadfast support to you to bring justice to our working poor families in the passage of this resolution.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, Past President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

# **Filipinos for Affirmative Action**

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P.O. Box 61068 • Honolulu, HI 96839 • [armalate@yahoo.com](mailto:armalate@yahoo.com)

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 41**

### **House Committee on Education**

April 16, 2014, 2:30 pm

Hawai`i State Legislature

Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**To:** Honorable Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair  
Honorable Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Committee on Education Members: Rep. Henry Aquino, Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Isaac Choy, Rep. Richard Lee Fale, Rep. Faye Hanohano, Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Rep. Calvin Say, Rep. Mark Takai, and Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

**From:** Agnes Malate, MEd

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in strong support of SCR 41 to request the Department of Education and Department of Human Services to assist with increasing voter registration among young adults. Exercising the right to vote is the foundation of a strong democratic society, and I firmly believe that increasing voter turnout among the youth is necessary to ensure that the interests of our diverse community are well represented.

Hawai`i has among the lowest percentage of registered voters who turn out to vote. Voter turnout among the young adults is also dismally low. I have had the privilege of working with students from Waipahu High School, along with the Office of Elections, to do a voter registration drive for the Filipino Community in December 2013. The students were eager to learn about the voting process and elections, and how they could be more actively involved in encouraging their peers and family to register and vote. Providing voter registration information through the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services is an excellent way to disseminate information and educate youth and their families about the process. I commend the Senate Committee on Education for being proactive and I urge you to adopt this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony, and I hope you will give SCR 41 your full consideration.

**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 10:53 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mkhan@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR41 on Apr 16, 2014 14:30PM

**SCR41**

Submitted on: 4/15/2014

Testimony for EDN on Apr 16, 2014 14:30PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Strongly support SCR41 until enactment of a bill. For the past few years, the No Vote No Grumble Coalition has reached out to high schools to register its seniors to vote. Passage of this SCR would encourage DOE to institutionalize voter registration of high school students.

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