



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

Date: 02/20/2014

Committee: House Judiciary

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1797,HD2(hscr322-14) RELATING TO VOTING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to provide seniors at every public school with voter registration information prior to graduation. Requires the department of human services to provide young adults who are in the young adult voluntary foster care program with information on voter registration and authorizes the department to assist young adults with registering to vote.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the proposed language in Section 2 of HB 1797 HD2.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1797, H.D. 2
RELATING TO VOTING

February 20, 2014

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1797, H.D. 2. The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Education to provide public school seniors with voter registration information prior to graduation and to similarly require the Department of Human Services to provide such information to young adults in the young adult voluntary foster care program.

We consider having these opportunities to be able to easily register to vote to be an important part of ensuring that all qualified residents are able to exercise their right to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1797, H.D. 2.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

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TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1797, H. D. 2
RELATING TO VOTING
February 20, 2014

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1797, H. D. 2. This Bill would require the Department of Education (DOE) to provide seniors at each public high school with voter registration information prior to graduation. The Bill would also require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide young adults in the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program (YAVFCP) with information on voter registration. Finally, the Bill authorizes the DOE and DHS to assist students and young adults in the YAVFCP with voter registration.

Though we have no position on this Bill, we support its intent and offer the following comments.

Firstly, voter registration information and related services must be delivered uniformly statewide to help establish an informed electorate comprised of individuals from a wide array of socio-economic backgrounds.

Additionally, we believe an appropriation to the DOE and DHS is necessary so they do not have to divert funds from other programs to provide the required services.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1797, H. D. 2.

RICKY R. WATANABE
County Clerk

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Daryl Selman, President
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Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

February 3, 2014

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

Testimony in Support of HB 1797 HD 2 Relating to Voting

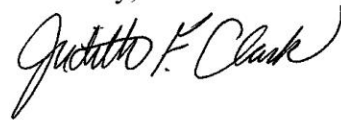
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1797 HD 2 Relating to Voting.

Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country. In the past few elections, only about 40% of the state's registered voters have participated in the primary election. And that's only about 36% of all the people in Hawaii who are eligible to vote, registered or not. We do better in the general election, but turnout has still been in the 50 percent range in non-presidential years and a bit above 60 percent in presidential election year.

Providing high school students and youth in foster care with encouragement and assistance with voter registration, in settings where they feel comfortable, will help young people form the habit of voting and increase their participation in the election process.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

LATE TESTIMONY

HB1797

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 20, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support this 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 bill would institutionalize voter registration of high school students in the DOE and facilitate increased voting.

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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