# SB 2380

### RELATING TO VOTING

Requires all applicants for a new or renewed driver's license, provisional license, instructional permit, or civil identification card, who are eligible to vote, to automatically be registered to vote.

PSM, JDL



### STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

SCOTT T. NAGO CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER 802 LEHUA AVENUE PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782 www.hawaii.gov/elections

#### **TESTIMONY OF THE**

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

ON SENATE BILL NO. 2380

RELATING TO VOTING ...

February 6, 2014

Chair Espero and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2380. The purpose of this bill is to require automatic voter registration for all applicants for a new or renewed driver's license or civil identification card, including a provision license or instructional permit.

The Office of Elections is in support of the automatic registration of all applicants for a driver's license or civil identification card, so long as they meet the statutory requirements to be a registered voter. In reviewing the bill, we have a variety of technical comments relating to compliance with the National Voter Registration Act and streamlining the administrative processing of the voter registration applications.

We would note that the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires that all motor vehicle driver's license application shall also serve as an application or voter registration, unless the applicant fails to sign the voter registration application. 42 USC § 1973gg-3(a). Given this, all driver license applications incorporate an affidavit on application for voter registration. Similarly, all civil identification card applications incorporate an affidavit on

Testimony on S.B. 2380 Relating to Voting February 6, 2014 Page 2

application for voter registration. See attached copies of the driver's license and civil identification card applications.

The utilization of an affidavit on application for voter registration, which is found at the bottom of the driver's license and civil identification card applications is necessitated by the language of HRS § 11-15. Specifically, HRS § 11-15(a) requires that the application be in the form of an affidavit.

Additionally, there are statements related to voter registration that cannot be pulled directly from the driver's license or civil identification card application such as the statement "[t]hat the residence state in the affidavit is not simply because of the person's presence in the State but that the residence was acquired with the intent to make Hawaii the person's legal residence with all the accompanying obligations therein" or "[t]hat the person is citizen." HRS § 11-15(a)(5) & (6). Given this, the county clerk cannot automatically register someone with solely the information from the driver's license or civil identification card application, such as name, address, date of birth, or social security number.

Finally, under the NVRA, all applicants must be given the right to decline to register to vote and informed that any declination will be confidential. 42 USC § 1973gg-3(c)(2)(D). As such, the present form states the following: "Do you wish to register to vote? If 'NO', STOP! If 'YES', continue on." Applicants who wish to continue on then fill out the affidavit on the application for voter registration. The result of this is that applicants have to affirmatively indicate they wish to register to vote by filling in the voter registration specific information in the affidavit on application for voter registration.

Given the foregoing, in order to best accomplish the goal of this bill, which is to automatically register voters, while complying with the NVRA, we have attached a draft bill for the committee's consideration.

The draft bill would have the State move away from the current "opt-in" process for voter registration to an "opt-out" process in relation to applicants for a driver's license or civil identification card. Specifically, we can amend the language of the affidavit on application for voter registration to require the applicant to affirmatively check off "NO" in terms of not wanting to register to vote, as opposed to the current system in which the applicant needs to only leave it blank to decline to vote (e.g. "Do you wish to register to vote? If Yes, continue on to the Affidavit on Application for Voter Registration. If No, please sign below indicating that you are declining to register to vote at this time. Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ ").

Testimony on S.B. 2380 Relating to Voting February 6, 2014 Page 3

Driver license and civil identification card applications would not be allowed to be processed by the examiner of drivers until such time as the applicant affirmatively indicates on the affidavit on application for voter registration that they are declining to register to vote or the applicant completes the voter registration application.

While such a process does not guarantee a hundred percent registration of such applicants, it does guarantee that each applicant will explicitly be given the opportunity to register to vote and the decision by an applicant to register or not register will be unambiguous.

Given the volume of driver license and civil identification card applications that are completed on a yearly basis and the need to quickly enter applicants into the voter registration system, the draft bill also proposes that the examiner of driver transmit voter registration information to the county clerks electronically, within five days of the submittal of the application.

Further, the bill appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation, which oversees the driver license and civil identification card programs, to make the necessary changes to its system and the statewide voter registration system to permit the electronic transmission, receipt, and processing of said voter registration information.

Finally, as a result of the need to make these changes in the systems, the bill proposes delay the effective date of registration provisions to January 1, 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2380.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTING.

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1	SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2	by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
3	designated and to read as follows:
4	" <u>§11-</u> Automatic Voter Registration. (a) Notwithstanding
5	any law to the contrary, an affidavit on application for voter
6	registration shall be a part of the application associated with
7	the issuance of a civil identification card under section 286-301
8	and a driver's license under section 286-109.
9	(b) The affidavit on application for voter registration
10	shall be filled out by any applicant for a driver's license or
11	state identification card, unless the applicant clearly indicates
12	on the application that they do not wish to register to vote.
13	(c) Applications for an identification card or driver's
14	license will not be processed until the applicant clearly
15	indicates on the application that they do not wish to register to
. 16	vote or the portion of the application related to voter
17	registration is completed.

22

## S.B. NO.

1 (d) The examiner of drivers of each county shall provide 2 the respective county clerk with the voter registration 3 information set forth in the affidavit on application for voter 4 registration electronically, within five calendar days. 5 information shall include a digital copy of the applicant's 6 signature. 7 (e) Upon receipt of the electronic information, the county 8 clerk, shall treat it as constituting an application to register under section 11-15. 10 The examiner of drivers for each county will maintain a 11 copy of any driver license or civil identification application, 12 including the affidavit on application for voter registration. 13 In the event of issues related to the electronic 14 transmission of the information, the county clerk may request 15 that the examiner of drivers deliver the affidavits on 16 application for voter registration to the county clerk for 17 processing. 18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general 19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much 20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015, and the 21 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year

2015-2016 to plan, design, and permit the Department of

## S.B. NO.

1	Transportation to make the necessary changes to its system and
2	the statewide voter registration system to permit the electronic
3	transmission, receipt, and processing of said voter registration
4	information.
5	SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
6	SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014;
7	provided that section 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2016.
8	
9	INTRODUCED BY:

## STATE OF HAWAII IDENTIFICATION CARD APPLICATION

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#### For election information, call the State of Hawaii Voter Hotline at 1-800-442-VOTE (8683)

The office at which a person registers to vote is confidential. A person's declination to register to vote is confidential and is used for voter registration purposes only (National Voter Registration Act of 1993). §11-15 Hawaii Revised Statues requires that a person registering to vote provide, under affirmation, a social security number. Any application lacking this information will be denied. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Privacy Act, be advised that this information may be released to government agencies for government pruposes.

#### **IMPORTANT**

Print all requested information - Use ball point pen.

## STATE OF HAWAII DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICATION

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#### For election information, call the State of Hawaii Voter Hotline at 1-800-442-VOTE (8683)

The office at which a person registers to vote is confidential. A person's declination to register to vote is confidential and is used for voter registration purposes only (National Voter Registration Act of 1993). §11-15 Hawaii Revised Statutes requires that a person registering to vote provide, under affirmation, a social security number. Any application lacking this information will be denied. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Privacy Act, be advised that this information may be released to government agencies for government purposes.

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 LÏHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAI'I 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF RICKY R. WATANABE
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2380
RELATING TO VOTING
February 6, 2014

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2380. This Bill would require counties to automatically register as voters all qualified persons at the time they are issued a civil identification card or driver's license.

We support the Bill but have concerns regarding some of its provisions, and wish to offer technical comments to address potential adverse impacts to County operations if the Bill is passed in its current form.

#### Implementation

Sections 11-A (b) of the Bill would require the examiner of drivers (EOD) to use all original, duplicate, or change of address driver's license, provisional license, instructional permit, or state identification cards as voter registration applications. Additionally, the EOD will be required to transmit the information contained in the aforementioned applications to the clerk of the county in which the applicant resides.

Currently, the hardcopy originals of all the aforementioned applications are transmitted to the respective county clerk. Upon receipt, County staff manually sorts the applications into two (2) batches: 1) applications from individuals wishing to register to vote (Registrants) and, 2) applications from individuals who do not want to register to vote (Declinations). Staff then type information from each Registrant application into the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). Declination applications are filed in alphabetical order.

The Bill would require County staff to data enter information from all applications into the SVRS and essentially quadruple the number of applications our office is required to process. This places a huge strain on County operations and will almost certainly force us to hire additional staff.

Testimony for SB 2380 Relating to Voting February 6, 2014 Page 2

Developing an electronic means for transmitting information from the aforementioned applications would simplify and expedite the automatic voter registration process but would require funding and amending the Bill's effective date since it will take some time to develop and test a new system.

#### Underage Applicants

Section 11-A (c) of the Bill would require the clerk to defer the application of any applicant who is less than 18 years of age and register the individual once the applicant turns 18 years old.

HRS 11-12 (b) already allows otherwise qualified individuals at least 16 years of age to preregister to vote. County staff preregister all qualified applicants by typing information from the individual's application into the SVRS. Programming within the SVRS automatically changes the individual's voter status from preregistered to eligible voter once the individual reaches the age of 18.

We would prefer to adopt this process to fulfill similar provisions of this Bill and recommend against deferring or holding onto applications until the applicant is 18 years of age. During the time between initially receiving the application and actually registering the individual vote, information on the individual's application could have changed so outdated information could be used to register the individual.

#### Lack of Option to Decline Voter Registration

It appears that the present version of the Bill does not include an option for an applicant to decline to register to vote. Though we understand that this is a policy decision, we wish to note that some applicants will be quite uncomfortable with being required to register.

Currently, both civil identification and drivers' license applications contain instructions for voter registration applicants and for applicants who do not wish to register to vote. (Please see Exhibits 1 and 2.)

If an applicant does not complete the voter registration affirmation section or sign the application, the form is filed as a Declination (i.e. opting not to register to vote) and no further action is taken. This is a simple, straightforward process which we would prefer to continue using.

Additionally, if the current version of the Bill is approved, funding would likely be necessary to revise and reprint civil identification and drivers' license applications because applications currently allow voters to decline to register to vote.

Testimony for SB 2380 Relating to Voting February 6, 2014 Page 3

#### Effective Date

If the current version of the Bill is approved, it would take effect immediately and require state and county election officials to begin work on fulfilling its provisions at the same time that we are preparing for the 2014 Elections. Given the huge impact the Bill will have on Hawai'i's voter rolls, we would prefer to move the effective date to an off-election year so we could focus more time, attention, and resources towards developing a sound process.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2380.

RICKY R. WATANABE

County Clerk

### STATE OF HAWAII IDENTIFICATION CARD APPLICATION

CHECK TRANSACTION REQUESTED: 

INITIAL 

RENEWAL 

DUPLICATE SID NUMBER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy) LAST FIRST MIDDLE NAME MAIL STREET OR P.O. BOX APT. NO. CITY STATE/COUNTRY ZIP CODE **ADDRESS** STREET ADDRESS HOME APT. NO. CITY STATE/COUNTRY ZIP CODE ADDRESS FEET INCHES WEIGHT (LBS) COLOR HAIR COLOR EYES MALE SEX **HEIGHT** FEMALE CITIZENSHIP DO YOU WISH TO BE AN YE\$ DO YOU HAVE AN ADVANCE HEALTHCARE YES ORGAN DONOR NO DIRECTIVE? NO NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.) EMERGENCY RELATIONSHIP CONTACT APT. NO. ZIP CODE CONTACT STREET OR P.O. BOX CITY STATE/COUNTRY **ADDRESS** CONTACT AREA CODE NUMBER IDD PREFIX COUNTRY CODE NUMBER OR TELEPHONE I acknowledge that my social security number I am providing is required by Section 286-303(c)(7), Hawali Revised Statutes. I further acknowledge that if I am unable to obtain a social security number as evidenced by official notification by the Social Security Administration to the county examiner of drivers, a randomly generated alternate number shall be issued by this agency for the sole purpose of providing me with a state identification card. NOTE: Your social security number or the randomly generated alternate number will NOT be the State Identification card number printed on your card. Federal law requires all male applicants between the ages of 18 through 25 to be automatically registered with the United States Selective Service System. By submitting this application for the Issuance of a state Identification card, duplicate or renewal, the qualified applicant is consenting to registration with the United States Selective Service System, if so required by Federal law. I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that all the information provided is true and correct and that I am the person named and described in this application. I understand that providing false information may be a violation of Federal and State Law APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE \_ DATE AFEIDAYIT-ON-APPLICATION FOR YOTER REGISTRATION (STATE OF HAWAII RESIDENTS ONLY!!) Do you wish to register to vote? If "NO", STOP! STOP If "YES", continue on. For office use only Affidavit Number If so, where? Address/County/State/Zip (your voter registration will be cancelled in that state) I.D. DL99 Loc. Code 98 Home Phone \_ Business Phone FOR FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY ELECTIONS (you must meet all of the following qualifications to register to vote.) I hereby swear or affirm that I am: However, I understand that I must be 18 years old by election day to vote; and The residence in this affidavit is not simply because of my presence in the state, but that the residence was acquired with the intent to make Hawaii my legal residence with all of the accompanying obligations therein. WARNING: Any person knowingly ALL INFORMATION ON THIS AFFIDAVIT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. furnishing false information may be guilty of a Class C felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment Signature and/or \$10.000 fine. If you do not sign, we will assume you do not wish to register to vote.

#### For election information, call the State of Hawaii Voter Hotline at 1-800-442-VOTE (8683)

The office at which a person registers to vote is confidential. A person's declination to register to vote is confidential and is used for voter registration purposes only (National Voter Registration Act of 1993). §11-15 Hawaii Revised Statues requires that a person registering to vote provide, under affirmation, a social security number. Any application lacking this information will be denied. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Privacy Act, be advised that this information may be released to government agencies for government pruposes.

#### **IMPORTANT**

Print all requested information - Use ball point pen.

#### STATE OF HAWAII **DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICATION**

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For election information, call the State of Hawaii Voter Hotline at 1-800-442-VOTE (8683)

The office at which a person registers to vote is confidential. A person's declination to register to vote is confidential and is used for voter registration purposes only (National Voter Registration Act of 1993). §11-15 Hawaii Revised Statutes requires that a person registering to vote provide, under affirmation, a social security number. Any application lacking this information will be denied. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Privacy Act, be advised that this information may be released to government agencies for government purposes.

## DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

KIRK CALDWELL



SHERI T. KAJIWARA

PRESTON P. H. K. KO ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

# TESTIMONY OF PRESTON KO, ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES Thursday, February 6, 2014, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 224

SENATE Bill 2380, "RELATING TO Voting" Position: Comments

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to the intent of S.B. No. 2380 which will require all applicants for a driver license or civil identification card to automatically be registered to vote.

In order to allow the counties and State Department of Transportation to amend and distribute the new application forms and Honolulu's Department of Information Technology to develop programs that will transmit the required daily voter registration data to the County Clerks and the County Clerks to merge the transmitted data into their computer files, we recommend that the effective date of this bill be amended to January 1, 2016.

Sincerely,

Acting Licensing Administrator



#### Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Tuesday 02/06/2014 at 03:00PM in Room 224 SB2380- Relating to Voting

## TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB2380, with amendments. This bill would require that persons applying for a new or renewed driver's license, provisional license, instructional permit, or civil identification card, who are eligible to vote, will be automatically registered to vote.

This would help establish a registration process that is accessible, easy to understand, and relatively easy to administer. By implementing this practice, we could be diverting our resources from registering voters, to educating voters.

While we strive to modernize our voting systems to make government more efficient and increase civic engagement, we do not believe that voter registration should be forcefully done. Therefore, we ask that the bill be amended to include an opt-out option for persons who do not want to register to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2380.

#### <u>SB2380</u>

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Lynn Allen	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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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