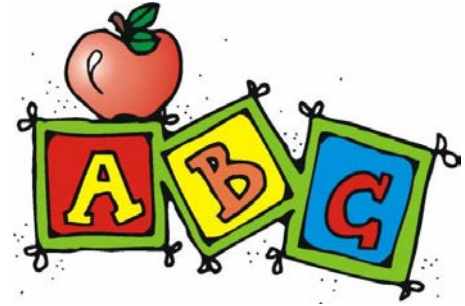


SCR41



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

Report Title: Young Adult; Voter Registration; Voter Participation

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/HMS, JDL

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, KIDANI, SHIMABUKURO, TOKUDA, Baker, Galuteria, L. Thielen



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

Date: 03/12/2014

Committee: Senate Education/Senate
Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

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

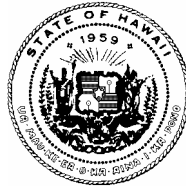
**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 and the requests that relate specifically to the Department. This measure would be an alternative to another measure (H.B. 1797, HD2) that would statutorily require the same actions however, the Department finds it more appropriate that this be addressed as presented by the Resolution rather than by a statutory approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 12, 2014

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Barbara Yamashita, Deputy Director

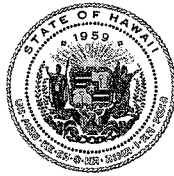
SUBJECT: **S.C.R 41 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
ASSIST WITH INCREASING VOTER REGISTRATION AMONG
YOUNG ADULTS.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 1:15 pm
Conference Room 414, 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.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
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

March 12, 2014

Chair Tokuda and Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Human Services, 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.

Testimony for S.C.R. No. 41
March 12, 2014
Page 3

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 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
City & County of Honolulu (21)		
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
County of Maui (7)		
Baldwin	413	
Hana	20	
King Kekaulike	278	
Lahainaluna	275	60
Lanai	43	
Maui	477	
Molokai	67	
County of Hawaii (11)		
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	
County of Kauai (4)		
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
City & County of Honolulu (25)		
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
County of Maui (7)		
Baldwin	381	
Hana		
Kekaulike	220	
Lahainaluna	251	2
Lanai		
Maui		
Molokai		
County of Hawaii (10)		
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	
County of Kauai (4)		
Kapaa		
Kauai	300	2
Niihau		
Waimea	145	

TOTAL: 5,929 209

Public Schools Participated: 24
Public Schools Registered: 8

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Aloha House
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
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

March 8, 2014

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

**Testimony in Support of SCR 41 Requesting the Department of
Education and Department of Human Services to Assist in Increasing
Voter Registration Among Young Adults**

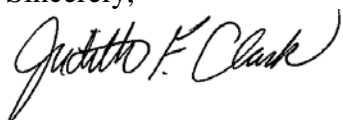
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR 41 Requesting the Department of Education and Department of Human Services to Assist in Increasing Voter Registration Among Young Adults

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR41 on Mar 12, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, March 07, 2014 9:16:49 PM

SCR41

Submitted on: 3/7/2014

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Mar 12, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Aloha, I supported HB1797, Relating to Voting. The testimony I submitted for that bill similarly applies here. 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.

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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