

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 11, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 1579

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1579 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Office of Elections and county offices that administer elections to use the information and services provided by the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) to verify their voter registration rolls; and
- (2) Appropriate \$25,000 for the Office of Elections to join ERIC.

The Office of Elections and Common Cause Hawaii testified in support of this measure. The County Clerk of Kauai and the League of Women Voters of Hawaii provided comments.

Your Committee finds that citizen participation in elections is vital to the American democracy; however, more than 51,000,000 eligible citizens nationwide have not registered to vote. Moreover, one in eight voter registration records contains a serious error, and many voter registration systems remain inefficient and largely based on outdated technology.



Enrollment in ERIC will help Hawaii improve the accuracy of its voter registration rolls by using secure data-matching tools. Currently, it is very difficult to determine if a potential voter has already voted in another state. Hawaii can use ERIC to determine whether a citizen is registered or has voted in another state and, thus, may be ineligible to vote in Hawaii.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1579 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



