



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1055, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 25, 2016

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for House Bill No. 1055, HD 1. This bill requires applicants registering to vote to provide their Hawaii driver's license or state identification card number, or if the applicant does not have either, the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN).

The Office of Elections recognizes that the intent of this bill is to conform with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), as well as to ensure the security of applicants' SSN's. Pursuant to the HAVA Section 303(a)(5)(B), jurisdictions that rely on the driver's license number or the last four digits of the SSN are required to share information between election officials and driver's licensing officials to verify the accuracy of the information provided on applications for voter registration. Additionally, to the extent an applicant had not been issued an SSN, the State would then issue the applicant a unique identification number and enter them into the statewide voter registration system pursuant to HAVA Section 303(a)(5).

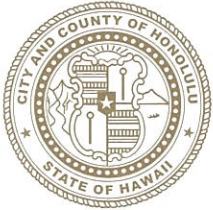
This bill requires the direct sharing of information between the driver's license and voter registration files, under HAVA Section 303(a)(5)(B)(ii). The DOT is required to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Social Security to validate information provided to it by election officials that does not correspond to a driver in its records. This involves DOT submitting on the behalf of election officials the name, date of birth, and last four digits of the SSN to the

Social Security Administration through a web service called Help America Vote Verification (HAVV) to confirm if the person is a recognized person in the Social Security Administration's database, including confirming whether the person is reported as deceased. 42 USC § 15483(a)(5)(B)(ii) and 42 USC § 405(r)(8). The Office of Elections proposes the following language for your consideration.

§11-A Sharing of data between driver licensing and election officials. (a) Databases maintained or operated by the counties or the state department of transportation containing driver's license or civil identification card information, including any documents or images, shall be provided electronically to election officials and the statewide voter registration system, to allow for the timely processing of voter registration applications, ensuring the integrity of the voter registration rolls, or for any other government purpose, as determined by the chief election officer; and

(b) The department of transportation shall enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Social Security to verify voter registration applicant information, in compliance with the Help America Vote Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1055, HD 1.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
CITY CLERK

KIMBERLY L. RIBELLIA
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI
CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1055
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 25, 2016

Chair Luke and Committee Members:

The Office of the City Clerk provides comment on HB1055 that would eliminate the requirement to provide a social security number for voter registration within Hawaii's election laws, replacing it with, if available, a Hawaii drivers license number or civil identification number, or the last four digits of the social security number.

While we acknowledge the concerns with identity theft and the discomfort caused when disclosing personal information, this measure would have an immediate and adverse effect upon the integrity of the State's voter registration rolls by increasing the potential for duplicate records (due to the lack of a requirement for a key identifier held by all registrants).

For your information, Hawaii's election statutes are covered under an exemption within the federal Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §552 that allows the use of the full social security number because Hawaii has statutorily (and continuously) required the information for its system of records prior to January 1, 1975.

Enactment of this measure would jeopardize this exemption and in time, also erode the association of Hawaii's voter records/data with the original election documents that the counties have maintained for decades.

As the custodians of voters' personal information, the County Clerks take the responsibility for securing the information entrusted in their care very seriously. It is my belief that upholding the integrity of Hawaii's elections process justifies the continued requirement for the information.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



House Finance Committee
Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto

Thursday 02/25/2016 at 3:00 PM in Room 308
HB1055 – Relating to Elections

TESTIMONY — SUPPORT
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Finance Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1055 which would alter voter registration requirements so that one could provide a Hawaii driver's license number, a Hawaii state identification card number, the last four digits of a her/his Social Security number, or a unique voter-registration related state-assigned number.

Most states require either a driver's license, non-driver's state-issued identification card, or the last four digits of a Social Security number to verify an applicant's ID. Hawaii is one the few states left that still require a full Social Security number for voter registration purposes.

Voter registration drives held by private organizations, political parties, and political candidates/campaigns are common in Hawaii. In these cases, "strangers" approach and ask eligible voters to register to vote. We have heard from individuals that while they may have been interested in registering to vote, they did not feel comfortable giving their Social Security number to someone they had just met.

Requiring only the last four digits of one's Social Security number, as opposed to the full SSN, in the voter registration process can alleviate these privacy concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting HB1055**.