

**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 JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1579
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

January 28, 2016

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1579. This bill requires the Office of Election to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) to share data with the 13 member states and the District of Columbia.

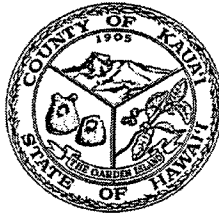
We believe being a member of ERIC would help to maintain the accuracy of the voter registration rolls. As a member of ERIC, the Office of Elections would be required to provide the voter registration file, as well as the driver's licensing and state identification card file. In order to provide the driver's licensing and state identification file we would need the cooperation of the Department of Transportation. To accomplish this, we propose the following language:

Databases maintained or operated by the counties or the state department of transportation containing driver's license and civil identification card information, including any documents or images, shall be electronically accessible by election officials and the statewide voter registration system, to allow for the timely processing of voter registration applications, ensure the integrity of the voter registration rolls, or for any other government purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1579.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

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LATE

January 28, 2016

TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAʻI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1579
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No.1579. This Bill would require the Office of Election to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) and share information with the counties to encourage participation and ensure the integrity of the voter rolls.

Our Office has no position on the Bill, but offers the following comments regarding ERIC membership since it involves voter registration and voter file maintenance, which are matters statutorily assigned to the counties.

- Membership would require Hawai'i to transmit voter and driver license data to ERIC for analysis. The aforementioned data files contain information for over a million Hawai'i residents, however before committing to ERIC membership, we would like to see a thorough independent review of ERIC's data handling policies and procedures, network security, and related technical matters.
- Though ERIC membership would expand on voter file list maintenance efforts already established by the counties, we recommend that a cost-benefit analysis be conducted to ensure that the initial membership fee of \$25,000, and yearly membership dues between \$25,000 and \$50,000 are justified.
- The State Department of Transportation, and C&C of Honolulu's Department of Information Technology should also be consulted to ensure that they will be able to provide driver license data on a regular basis, which is required as a condition of membership.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No.1579.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, January 28, 2016, Room 325
HB 1579 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Co-Chair, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii offers comments on HB 1579.

While it's a little early to be confident, the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) has apparently made good progress in helping member states clean up their voter rolls. The Pew Charitable Trust established this nonprofit in 2012, but our understanding is States control their own database. If Hawaii were to participate they would have the benefit of cross-checking information from voter registration, motor vehicle lists, and US Post Office changes-of-address records from thirteen states and the District of Columbia.

Our understanding is Hawaii's County Clerks and Office of Elections officials already uses electronic Social Security records to enhance the integrity of our voter registration data files. Of course, even with online voter registration and access to Social Security data, there can be errors in voter rolls, such as a citizen entering an incorrect driver's license number or an inaccurate Social Security number. Is it necessary to have ERIC to resolve these errors? And would the Office of Elections membership in ERIC make its databases available to each County?

We know registration officials are diligent in trying to improve our rolls; going forward maybe this investment with ERIC would be helpful. The goal is to get voters registered accurately and \$25,000 toward this effort strikes us as reasonable, if the Office of Elections and County Clerks endorse joining ERIC. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



LATE

House Judiciary Committee
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura

Thursday 01/28/2016 at 2:01 PM in Room 325
HB1579 – Relating to Elections

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

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1579 which would require the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), is a voluntary organization of states that digitally shares information from their voter registration rolls and other databases, including the DMV, Social Security Administration, and Postal Service national change of address registry, to compare lists and ensure accurate records, as well as reaching out to new voters eligible for registration.

It's important to note that the interstate data exchange is not an official record, and that member states continue to maintain control over their own voter lists and records. The data-matching exchange is simply a tool to help states crosscheck information and keep more accurate voter rolls. ERIC does not automatically purge or add any voter registration records to a state's own database. Further, privacy protections have been built into data protocols from the beginning to reduce any potential security risks.

ERIC's membership includes: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, Washington state, and Washington, D.C.

These ERIC members have benefitted from the following:

- Increased voter registration rates through improved access to the registration process.
- Reduced provisional ballots and shorter lines at polling places due to clarity in registration status and accuracy of registration data.
- Modernized record keeping for election administration offices that lowers costs through electronic efficiency, reduction of paper, less errors, and less manual processing.

We believe that having the Office of Elections join the Electronic Registration Information Center will benefit Hawaii, and will enable Hawaii's election team in curate even more accurate voting records.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting HB1579**.