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LATE TESTIMONY

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TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 401, HD 2
RELATING TO VOTING
February 5, 2016

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 401, HD 2. This Bill proposes to require all applicants for a new or renewed driver's license, provisional license, instructional permit, or civil identification card to clearly decline to register to vote or fill out the voter affidavit on their application before their application can be processed.

This Bill will heighten awareness of available voter registration services while applying for or renewing a driver's license or civil identification card in an effort to increase voter registration counts. However, we are concerned that the potential increase in voter registration activity generated by this Bill could adversely impact the current process for transferring voter registration information because it is paper-based and requires physically transferring hardcopy paper documents from the examiner of drivers to the respective county clerks.

Additionally, the current process requires county election personnel to manually enter information from each voter registration affidavit. This additional increase in voter registration activity experienced by the examiner of drivers could create adverse staffing and budget issues for each county.

To accommodate any of the increases in activity generated by this Bill, we believe voter registration information and signature images should be electronically transmitted from the examiner of drivers directly to the SVRS. This would streamline and modernize the process, and ensure that our Office will be able to efficiently accommodate any potential increase in voter registration activity resulting from this Bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 401, HD 2.

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



HB401 HD2
RELATING TO VOTING
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 5, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB401 HD2, which would reduce barriers to voting and potentially increase voter participation, by requiring applicants for a driver's license or state-issued identification card to either register to vote, or affirmatively decline to do so.

It is well known that Hawai'i has historically suffered from low voter turnout. Hawai'i consistently ranks lower than the national average for voter participation among those eligible to vote in the presidential election.¹ In response to historical data reflecting the underrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in particular in the polls, during the past two election seasons, OHA has implemented the "Hawaiian Voice, Hawaiian Vote: I Mana Ka Leo" campaign to increase Native Hawaiian voter registration, education, and turnout. **In line with our efforts, OHA generally supports the reduction of barriers to the complex system of voter registration, voter education, and election-day polls.**

Hawai'i's electorate will likely grow if citizens are required to affirmatively decide whether to register to vote, when submitting a driver's license or state-issued identification card application. Accordingly, OHA supports this measure as consistent with its past and ongoing efforts to increase voter turnout. OHA does recognize that consistency with federal law is of paramount importance and the logistics of implementation can be complex and costly; on these matters, we defer to the Attorney General's Office, Office of Elections, and County Clerks' offices.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB401 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ Editorial Board, *The Worst Voter Turnout in 72 Years*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Nov. 11, 2014, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/opinion/the-worst-voter-turnout-in-72-years.html>.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 7:54 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB401 on Feb 5, 2016 09:00AM*

HB401

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 5, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB401 on Feb 5, 2016 09:00AM

HB401

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 5, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support the intent and future implementation of the legislation to register potential Native Hawaiian voters (as much as allowed by Federal law). The simplified voting process would help the underrepresentation of Native Hawaiians and further increase Native Hawaiian voter participation. Mahalo.

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