

**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2444, SD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 24, 2016

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2444, SD 1. 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 by allowing us to compare our voter registration file and driver license file against those of other members of ERIC. 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. Additionally, this bill would help to ensure that the Department of Transportation and county examiners of drivers are able to provide us the driver's licensing and state identification file to accomplish the duties of the chief election officer and the county clerks.

The bill appropriates \$25,000 for the initial membership to ERIC, with additional annual fees to be requested with the annual budget. We estimate the annual membership fee to be \$23,000, and the initial mailing associated with membership to cost \$63,000. The bulk of the initial mailing would consist of voter registration postcards sent to all eligible drivers and state identification card holders who are not currently registered to vote. Subsequent annual mailings

would be significantly less as they would only involve new drivers and state identification card holders who are eligible but not registered to vote.

We would ask that the language of the bill regarding the provision of the driver's license and state identification file be reformatted as a statute, as indicated below, so as to permit the Revisor of Statutes to more easily codify the language.

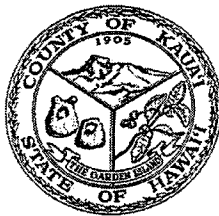
SECTION ____ Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§11- Driver license and state identification card databases.
The databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license and 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 and ensure the integrity of the voter registration rolls or for any other government purpose, as determined by the chief election officer."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2444,
SD 1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

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SCOTT K. SATO
Deputy County Clerk

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**ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**
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**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2444, SD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 24, 2016**

Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill No. 2444, SD 1. 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. 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 since the data files contain information for over a million Hawai'i residents.
- Although 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 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 City & County 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 offer comments on Senate Bill No. 2444, SD 1.

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



Senate Ways + Means Committee
Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

Wednesday 02/24/2016 at 1:00 PM in Room 211
SB 2444 – Relating to Elections

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

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Ways + Means Committee:

Common Cause supports SB 2444 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 SB 2444.