



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 30, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran and Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to implement elections by mail statewide beginning in 2020.

We support elections by mail because it is convenient and accessible for voters, and it will streamline the administration of elections. In recent years, more than half of voters have cast their ballot prior to election day.

This bill envisions elections by mail to be implemented statewide in 2020. Given our strong support for all mail elections, we believe the bill should permit election officials the flexibility to be able to implement all mail elections earlier. Specifically, election officials should be given the ability as early as 2018 to implement all mail elections in particular precincts or counties, as deemed appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1.



HB1401 HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 30, 2017

9:45 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1401 HD1, which reduces barriers to voting and increases voter participation opportunities, by allowing future elections to be held by mail.

For many years, Hawai‘i has had one of the lowest voter participation rates in the nation.¹ In response to historical data reflecting the underrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in particular in the polls, during the past three election seasons OHA has implemented a “Hawaiian Voice, Hawaiian Vote: I Mana Ka Leo” campaign to increase Native Hawaiian voter registration, education, and turnout.

During the course of these campaigns, many potential Native Hawaiian voters expressed ambivalence toward taking time off of work to visit polls, or taking the necessary steps to complete the absentee voter registration process. This measure would reduce such hurdles for voter participation by automatically giving citizens the opportunity to vote at their own convenience, from the comfort of their own homes. This will ultimately result in a more accessible election process and potentially higher Native Hawaiian voter turnout.

Evidence indicates that the people of Hawai‘i generally would also likely benefit from the modernized voting process envisioned by this bill. For example, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado—the three states that already conduct elections-by-mail—saw marked increases in voter turnout after implementing their mail-in voting systems.² Notably, these states have not found that holding elections by mail complicates election

¹ Craig Gima, *Hawaii voter turnout dropped below 2012 presidential election*, THE HONOLULU STAR ADVERTISER, Nov. 9, 2016, available at <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/11/09/breaking-news/hawaii-voter-turnout-dropped-below-2012-presidential-election/>.

² New York Times, *Graphic: Voting by Mail* (Oct. 6, 2012), http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/10/07/us/voting-by-mail.html?_r=0; Joey Bunch, *Despite criticism, few efforts to change Colorado’s mail ballot law*, THE DENVER POST, Feb 15, 2015, http://www.denverpost.com/politics/ci_27529935/despite-criticism-few-efforts-change-colorados-mail-ballot.

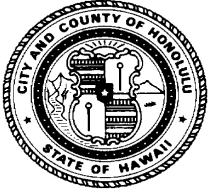
administration, or leads to increased voter fraud.³ Implementing such a system for Hawai‘i would not only mean that every eligible voter could vote at their own convenience, but also that voters would have a much longer time with ballots in their hands, giving them ample opportunity to consider issues and candidates and make more informed decisions.

Hawai‘i’s electorate may benefit greatly from the increased convenience offered by this measure, but we recognize that the logistics of implementation can be complex. Therefore, on these matters, we defer to the Office of Elections and County Clerks’ Offices.

Given the potential to greatly bolster Hawai‘i’s low voter turnout rate, including the turnout of Native Hawaiian voters, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** HB1401 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

³ Allison Terry, *Voter turnout: the 6 states that rank highest, and why*, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, November 6, 2012, available at <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Elections/2012/1106/Voter-turnout-the-6-states-that-rank-highest-and-why/Oregon>.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

KIMBERLY L. RIBELLIA
Deputy City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077 TELEPHONE (808) 768-3810

TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI
CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 30, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran and Chair Tokuda, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1401 HD1 that would transition Hawaii's elections into a vote-by mail election scheme.

As evident in 2016 and in other recent elections, an increasing number of voters now cast their ballots prior to election day. In the City & County of Honolulu, absentee voting comprised 60 and 52 percent of votes cast in the 2016 primary and general elections, respectively. We expect this trend to continue, even as the State continues to expend considerable energy and expense to administer polling places statewide.

In a general consensus, our counterparts in both Oregon and Washington indicated that in their elections-by-mail transitions, more effort should have been exerted to amend their entire election statutes to ensure that the election scheme functions properly and does not contain ambiguities caused by the different methods of voting. We believe that HB1401HD1 incorporates that comprehensive review of Hawaii's election statutes for transitioning Hawaii's election scheme.

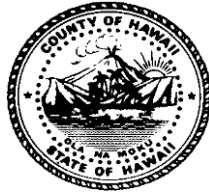
In addition to modifying or removing references to polling places, HB1401 HD1 adds further structure to requirements that arise with the implementation of vote-by-mail elections. Chief among the proposals is addressing the ballot return postal "service gap" by establishing places of deposit starting five days prior to the election. The measure also allows election officials to consider the postal service standards for the particular mailing origin of the vote by mail ballot packets to ensure that all voters have a full 18-days to receive and return their ballots, regardless of whether the ballots may be mailed from within Hawaii or anywhere on the U.S. mainland.

We would, however, recommend an amendment to Section 6 of the bill pertaining to the sworn affirmation required of election day registrants utilizing a voter service

center. We believe that the intent of the sworn affirmation in subsection (c) is to require an acknowledgement that the voter “*has not voted and will not attempt to vote again*” in that election if allowed to exercise same day registration, whether it be at another voter service center or in another jurisdiction elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1401 HD1.

STEWART MAEDA
County Clerk



JON HENRICKS
Deputy County Clerk

County of Hawai'i
Office of the County Clerk

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8255 • Fax (808) 961-8912

TESTIMONY OF STEWART MAEDA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
REGARDING HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 30, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran and Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to uniformly enact voting by mail across all counties of Hawai'i for all elections commencing in 2020.

Our office strongly supports this bill. Currently, elections in our state consist of absentee voting by mail, absentee walk-in sites and Election Day voting. Absentee voting was implemented to supplement Election Day polling places and to allow greater opportunities to vote. The total turnout for Hawai'i County of individuals who voted in the 2016 General Election was 66,021 and of that 39,551 individuals chose to vote absentee. Sixty percent (60%) of all individuals who voted in Hawai'i County chose to vote absentee rather than by utilizing traditional polling places.

Transitioning to a vote by mail election would help to create a more convenient voter process, increase voter turnout, and provide financial savings during election years. This bill would also allow voters more convenience and flexibility. Voters would have the ability to vote from virtually anywhere and mail ballots from their home or any other mail depository.

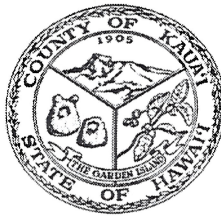
Our hope is that the passage of this measure will encourage voters who may feel disenfranchised due to isolation, lack of transportation, or disability, to feel more a part of the process due to the ability to vote by mail.

Given our strong support for all mail elections and the increasing method chosen by voters to vote by mail, we believe the bill should permit election officials the flexibility to implement all mail elections as early as 2018. With an all-mail voting system, Hawai'i County will see financial savings in areas such as staff and Election Day workers, decreased voting machines and associated contracts as well as warehouse storage costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800
TTY: (808) 241-5116



SCOTT K. SATO
Deputy County Clerk

Facsimile: (808) 241-6207
E-mail: elections@kauai.gov

**ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819

**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

March 30, 2017

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Chair Tokuda, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401, HD 1. This Bill proposes enacting voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020.

Our Office fully supports transitioning to voting by mail and vote centers as a means for providing voting services, but respectfully requests that this Bill be amended by adopting language in Senate Bill 334, SD 2, which would allow any election prior to the 2020 primary election to be conducted by mail, in whole or in part, as determined by the chief election officer for state or federal elections, or the county clerk for county elections.

We wish to thank the Legislature for hearing this Bill and respectfully request support of this measure. Additionally, please feel free to contact the County of Kaua'i's Elections Division if we can assist in clarifying issues pertaining to elections by mail or related matters.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401, HD 1.

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

DANNY A. MATEO
County Clerk



JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
MARCH 30, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran and Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to have elections by mail statewide beginning with the 2020 elections.

House Bill No. 1401 HD 1 provides a comprehensive overhaul of current statutory provisions related to elections, to conform to elections by mail operations. Feedback from other jurisdictions that have transitioned to elections by mail have indicated a comprehensive overhaul is needed for creation of effective and efficient elections by mail law.

Overall, we feel that elections by mail is a more efficient and effective way to reach our voters and administer elections and we respectfully request your support of this Bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THURSDAY, March 30, 2017, 11:00 a.m., Room 211
HB1401, HD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice-Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB1401, HD1 that introduces voting by mail statewide in 2020.

This measure can increase voter turnout, gives voters more time to study candidates and issues and saves money in the process. The League encourages everyone to register to vote and then vote. In the 21st century, voting does not mean we must line up at a polling place!

Since we last testified on this bill, Hawaii has earned the dubious distinction of having the lowest voter turnout in the United States during the 2016 general election, when only 43% of eligible voters turned out to vote.

Voting is a two-step process, first registering to vote and then actually voting. We must work on both voting steps; this bill addresses the second,¹ and most studies have now found that voting by mail increased turnout.² A 2013 study in Washington found this was a two to four percent increase in all types of elections.³

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports a simple, secure, and effective plan as outlined in this bill. Beginning in 2020 all registered voters would receive a ballot in the mail that would give us about eighteen days before the election to study the candidates and issues. We would have time to consider the ballot without the pressure of a long voting line behind us. The voted ballot would be inserted in a secrecy envelope and then placed in a prepaid return envelope. No one will know an individual's vote!

Conducting elections by mail **statewide** is an extension of decades of experience with successful distribution, collection and counting of mail-in absentee ballots. Hawaii has permitted absentee voting since 1976, so procedures for voting by mail, including division of labor between the Counties and State, are well established. We have experience with this approach - Hawaii's U.S. House vacancy election in 2010 and the special vacancy elections conducted by the City & County of Honolulu in 2009 and 2010, were conducted entirely by mail and produced high turnout. Our County Clerks and the Office of Elections support this change.



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Importantly, this bill would allow for Voter Service Centers (polling places strategically located on each island) where an individual may vote or register to vote, regardless of the political district in which he or she resides. In our opinion, maintaining the voluntary nature of mail voting and having some type of ballot tracking mechanism (i.e. “where’s my ballot”) will go a long way to reassuring voters about this change in our elections.

Most voters want to vote by mail. As pointed out in the preamble to this bill, beginning with the primary election in 2014, more ballots were submitted before primary election day than on Election Day, and eighty-three percent of these early voters cast absentee ballots. In 2016, the number of votes cast before election day exceeded the number of votes cast at polling places except in Maui County. In Hawaii County, approximately 60% of voters were absentee voters. But we voters must continue to do our part by keeping individual registration data such as our residence address up-to-date. This will help assure smoother delivery and return of mail ballots.

Voter education will be key. Certain reminders we already use should be emphasized, such as signing the outside ballot return envelope and meeting the deadline for ballot return. It is also important to emphasize that ballots can be dropped off at Voter Service Centers or deposit boxes.

Voting by mail will reduce the high cost of maintaining, storing, and transporting voting equipment and supplies to more than 200 polling places. A bigger savings occurs because we will no longer need to recruit and train thousands of volunteers - small changes with a big impact! The Office of Elections estimates it will save Hawaii \$800 thousand per election cycle.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

¹ More than 250,000 eligible persons – some 26% of those eligible to vote in Hawaii- are still not registered. Only 58% of those registered turned up at the polls. **United States Elections Project, 2016 November General Election**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VAcF0eJ06y_8T4o2gvIL4YcyQy8pxb1zYkgXF76Uu1s/edit#gid=2030096602

²U.S. General Accountability Office, “Elections: Issues Related to Registering Voters and Administering Elections,” June 2016, page 2.

³ Gerber, et al, “Identifying the Effect of All-Mail Elections on Turnout,” **Political Science Research and Methods**, 2013.



Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee / Senate Ways and Means Committee
Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair Jill Tokuda

03/30/2017 at 9:45 AM in Room 211
HB1401 HD1– Relating to Elections

TESTIMONY —STRONG SUPPORT
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and members of the committees:

Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports HB1401 HD1 which would establish a statewide “Voting-by-Mail” or, “Elections-by-Mail” system.

Common Cause believes that increased citizen participation in the electoral process is a crucial component of maintaining a successful democracy, and believes that Voting-by-Mail provides people more time to exercise their right to vote.

VOTING TRENDS

It’s important that the ways we engage the voting public be maximized to counter the perceived voter apathy, and other factors that have led to a decrease in voter participation in recent years. We believe the intent of HB1401 HD1 achieves that goal in numerous ways; the first of which being the basic voter preference for Voting-by-Mail. Although statewide Voting-by-Mail has yet to be fully implemented locally, it has been successfully utilized in Hawaii as recently as the 2010 1st Congressional District election. According to figures provided by the Office of Elections, trends show a leaning of basic voter preference for Voting-By-Mail with 54.4% of voters from the 2016 Hawaii Primary Election opting to participate by mail-in absentee ballot, compared with 38.1% who voted at their precinct. Additionally, studies have shown that states that already have Vote By Mail see increased voter turnout rates.¹ As the state with the lowest voter turnout in the country (again), we should be looking for solutions to combat this trend.

OVERCOMING LOGISTICAL OBSTICLES

In addition to the individual and collective benefits that Voting-by-Mail provides to the public, tangible solutions to significant logistical obstacles accompany the intent of this bill: Hawaii’s 2014 Primary Election reminded us that the potential for storms, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, pose a substantial threat to an electoral system which relies heavily on holding elections on a single day. A Voting-by-Mail system is more “protected” from these natural disasters.

POTENTIAL TO SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY

Estimates from the Office of Elections show that after an initial technology investment, the state would save approximately \$800,000 per election cycle. Tax dollars can be saved by the reduced need for as many walk-in voter service centers that accompanies a Voting-by-Mail system; a system which will only be further complemented by the election reform measures that are in the process of being implemented: Online Voter Registration, as of 2015; Late Voter Registration at Early Walk-In Sites as of 2016, and Election Day Registration as of 2018. These programs, combined with implementing a Voting-by-Mail system, will showcase Hawaii as a “model” state for voting reforms.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **strongly supporting HB1401 HD1**.

¹ United States Government Accountability Office. (2016). Elections: Issues Related to Registering Voters and Administering Elections.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION



OFFICERS

John Bickel, President
Alan Burdick, Vice President
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer
Karin Gill, Secretary

DIRECTORS

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Dylan Armstrong
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Chuck Huxel
Jan Lubin
Jenny Nomura
Stephen O'Harrow
Cameron Sato

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96823
www.adaaction.org

March 27 , 2017

TO: Honorable Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Members of their Committees

RE: HB 1401 HD1 Relating to Elections
Support for hearing on March 30

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 1401 HD1 as it would enact voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020 and would establish service centers to accommodate personal delivery of ballots.

Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates. We believe this bill would increase voter participation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:55:24 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Monk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Sadly, Hawaii elections have had record low turn outs. Mail-in balloting has been successful in other states, reducing election costs and increasing voter participation. Hawaii needs make it easier for people to exercise their right to vote.

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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Voting is a sacred American principle, yet surprisingly few citizens exercise this right. HB1401 makes it significantly easier to vote while building in numerous safeguards against fraud, misplacing the ballot or other mishaps. It also is well crafted to allow citizens who prefer to vote in person to do so.

The bill is supported by the Office of Elections and is estimated to save the State of Hawaii more than \$800,000.

Experience in states that conduct elections by mail has shown that voter participation increases, though a causal link has not yet been established.

Thus, HB1401 has many benefits and seems to have no downside.

I urge you to pass HB1401.

Thank you,

Ann Sack Shaver, Ph.D.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:32:02 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a lifelong Hawaii resident and Democrat I strongly support mail in voting! We need to do everything in our power to make it easier for people to vote. I am so embarrassed and appalled by our abysmal voter turn-out! Please pass this bill so we can try this system of mail-in voting as our current system is NOT working.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:37:09 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: This is an excellent idea!

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March 28, 2017

COMMENTS ON HB 1401 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Dear Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, and
Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means

While I have some major concerns about Vote By Mail (VBM), I understand that now that almost half of Hawaii voters are using permanent absentee ballots, it is likely that some version will pass. My major concern is that VBM gives up the privacy of the voting booth and potentially subjects voters to inappropriate pressure and monitoring of their vote by family members, friends, and others. It also raises some additional concerns about privacy of the ballots during counting. Below I spell out possible amendments that may mitigate these concerns.

Protecting Voter Privacy:

What kind of inappropriate interference am I thinking of? Consider a man who says to his wife, "I'm the head of this family and you will vote as I say," or a mother to an adult daughter, "As long as you live in my house, you'll vote the way I tell you to," or a friendship group to which one person suggests, "Let's all get together to fill out our ballots! We'll have much more impact if we all vote alike."

Please add to the materials to be sent out with ballots wording similar to the following:

"Every voter has the right to fill out their ballot in private, to place it in an envelope and mail it themselves. Any attempt by family members, friends, or others to interfere with this right shall constitute election fraud."
This category of fraud should also be included in bill Section 34.

Watchers for Ballot Counting:

Although the bill spells out in some detail the procedures for appointment of and duties of poll watchers (Section 12 pp 24-25), there is nothing in this bill about watchers for ballot counting, except a reference in Section 21, p.38 to "official watchers." Unless such information exists in other parts of HRS not amended by this bill, **wording must be added to guarantee that there must be official watchers, that each registered party is allowed to have a watcher present, and how and when the Office of Elections will let designated watchers know when counting will be taking place and where. Also, "official watchers" should be present when clerks "prepare the ballots for counting"** (p. 53, lines 10-11 and p. 54, lines 12-14), unless there is a requirement in law that during these preparations, no one will see an actual marked ballot.

Other Suggestions:

Deadline for receipt of ballots: Given that a voter would have ten days after election day to correct a deficiency in his or her ballot, it is not clear why the close of polls on election day is the deadline for mailed ballots, or especially for mailed absentee ballots. When a person is away from the State, the time for delivery of mail can be very uncertain. I suggest **allowing all ballots postmarked by election day to count.**

Postponed elections: I am concerned that the wording is not clear enough. When a ballot includes candidates for state, federal and local offices, **results of the entire election should be delayed**, since to announce partial results tends to bias the voting in the precincts that are delayed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill.

Aloha,
Barbara B. Polk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2017 2:04:44 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/25/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	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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COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS, AND JUDICIARY AND LABOR
THURSDAY, MARCH 30 2017, 9:45 am, Room Number 211

HB1401 HD1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

BEPPIE SHAPIRO, testifying as individual

Chairs Keith-Agaran, Tokuda; Vice-Chairs Rhoads, DelaCruz, and Committee Members:

I write to support HB1401 HD1, which would establish and fund a vote-by-mail program for all counties in the state.

I have spent many months in the last 8 years in Portland, Oregon, where my daughter and grand-children live. I have experienced two election cycles while visiting there. I have been able to observe “up close” and also through local media, the simplicity and efficiency of vote-by-mail elections there. Voters in Oregon receive ballots through the mail; completed ballots can be dropped in special secure boxes provided at every library and most state and city offices; if the voter provides a stamp, the ballot can be mailed with other postal mail.

With Hawai'i's abysmal voter turnout, it behooves the state to make voting easier and more convenient for citizens. I, like many, many other voters in Hawaii use the absentee ballot system whether I'm in Hawaii or traveling.

The greatest advantage of receiving my ballot by mail is the time it allows me to read and consider every item on the ballot, and consult voter guides or knowledgeable friends or websites of candidates to decide how I want to vote on each item.

I believe ballot measures would get much more informed and considered responses if ballots were distributed to voters well before election day.

Please pass HB1401 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:46:02 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Councilmember Brandon Elefante	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1401 HD1 that would transition Hawaii's elections to a vote-by-mail election scheme commencing in 2020. Consistent with the City Clerk's testimony in support, I also recommend an amendment to Section 6, subsection (c) of the bill related to the sworn affirmation required. Specifically, the sworn affirmation should be amended to require an acknowledgement that the voter "has not voted and will not attempt to vote again" in that election. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1401 HD1.

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Senator Keith-Agaran
Senator Tokuda

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: HD1401 HD1, relating to elections

Day and date of hearing: Thursday, March 30th

Time and place of hearing: 9:45 am in conference room 211

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of bill HD1401 HD1, regarding voting by mail. My name is Dr. Catherine Pirkle. I am an assistant professor in public health at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; my specialty is global health. I am writing to support bill HD1401 HD1.

I support this bill because, if implemented well, it should improve voter experiences by providing more time and flexibility to voters to investigate their choices for candidates, as well as remove the perceived or real barriers of going to a polling place. In theory, this should increase voter turn-out rates, which in the U.S. are quite low compared to most OECD countries (31 out of 35 according to the Pew Research Center¹).

Due to my career, which has involved extensive travel and residence abroad, up until this past year, all of my voting experiences were by mail, as an absentee voter. What I have appreciated most about voting by mail has been the time I could spend investigating my ballot choices carefully and systematically. While voters could and should consider their choices carefully prior to arriving at polling stations, voting by mail greatly facilitates this process in the comfort of one's home.

Additionally, if well-designed and implemented, HD1401 HD1 should improve the voting experiences of any voting-age individual with difficulties physically making it to a polling station, such as is the case for many older adults and individuals with mobility disabilities. This is also generally the case for all adults balancing busy schedules. For the last 10 years of my grandmother's life she voted exclusively by mail because she was not physically capable of waiting in line at a polling station. Not all voters know to, and/or register for, the absentee voting by mail option when unable to make it to a polling station. This bill will potentially remove such a barrier by enacting voting-by-mail uniformly across Hawaii.

Overall, I support this bill as I believe it will increase voter-turn out by rendering the voting experience more convenient and thus, more appealing.

Sincerely,
Dr. Catherine Pirkle

¹ Pew Research Center (2016) U.S. voter turnout trails most developed countries. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/02/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/> [accessed March 26, 2017].

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 5:10:11 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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Douglas Meller

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1401, HD1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS
SUBMITTED FOR THE 3/30/17 9:45 AM PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR & COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

I strongly support this bill. It will discourage last-minute negative campaigns and it will provide time for voters to ask questions before they vote.

The State Office of Elections and County Clerks have successfully conducted statewide absentee voter programs for all elections for decades. Oahu mayoral special vacancy elections in 2009 and 2010 and a U.S. House special vacancy election in 2010 were conducted entirely by mail. HB 1401, HD 1 is a logical cost-saving adaption of this extensive experience

From:
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB 1401 (03/30/17 at 9:45 a.m., Room 211)
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 12:19:26 PM

Hawai'i's voter turnout has been dead last among the states, in each of the last three presidential elections (2008, 2012, and 2016). According to analysis of U.S. Elections Project data by Nonprofit VOTE (www.nonprofitvote.org), only 43% of Hawai'i's voting eligible population turned out to vote in the 2016 election.

Voting by mail has been permitted since 2003 for any federal, state, or county election held other than on the date of a regularly scheduled primary or general election (*Hawaii Revised Statutes* Sect. 11-91.5). HB 1401 HD1 would merely extend that convenience to all voters in our primary and general elections. Security issues would be largely restricted to the individual ballot, and could be minimized by signature checks. A voter could check to confirm receipt of his or her ballot, and a paper trail could be maintained in case of a recount.

We're already familiar with the cost savings and logistics efficiencies of voting by mail in our statewide elections, since an increasing percentage of those who voted in the 2014 and 2016 elections in Hawai'i did so via absentee ballot, with more votes cast before election day than on election day in 2016. The Hawai'i Office of Elections has estimated the savings during each election cycle at \$800,000.

But for me it is the anticipated positive effect upon voter participation in our democracy that especially recommends vote by mail in Hawai'i. Please approve HB 1401.

Mahalo,

Elton Johnson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 10:41:07 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francine Roby	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is critical that we have back up paper systems and not rely exclusively on electronic voting. Since I moved here 2 years ago, I was surprised to find no paper copy of my vote was produced after electronically voting. If I did not catch all info going by on the screen how could I be sure what I put was what I intended and that the equipment correctly registered it? I am a senior citizen & I don't always catch things as fast as young people but I will be voting for another 30 years or so. Our systems can be hacked and we need paper proof. I would like to mail in my vote too with a paper ballot option. Mahalo.

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 11:01:02 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Sartoris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:23:16 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Ah Mai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I've mailed in my ballot for years. Friends who recently converted to mail-in are pleased with the service. I've also studied electronic voting and trust a paper backup more than a total electronic system. I am in STRONG support of this bill.

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Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:39:19 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 2:44:32 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a voter who greatly appreciates the convenience of being able to vote by mail, I strongly support this bill.

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Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 11:13:02 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Yes! We want mail-in ballots uniformly across state!

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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:29:07 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to support a cohesive mail in voting system. Voting is critical to our democracy. Thankfully, I'm able to get to polling places when I need to. But for so many of our residents - shut ins, kupuna, those without vehicles - this is not so. We need to make it as easy as possible for these folks to participate in the election.

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Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:53:03 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:30:47 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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From:
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT for HB1401
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:31:34 PM

I strongly support and urge passage of this important legislation.

Hawaii has one of (if not THE) highest rate of NON-participation by voters in our Nation.

We must work to fix this embarrassment.

Consider the following:

- 1) We have the technology to modernize our elections.
- 2) We can avoid polling place crowding.
- 3) We can increase voter participation.
- 4) Voters can vote on their own time frame.

Please SUPPORT HB 1401!

Mahalo nui loa!

LJ Bates III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 2:14:42 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Hawaii needs better voter turn out. We need to make voting easier and this will be a wonderful step towards that end.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 11:06:06 AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It will be very helpful in getting citizens to actually vote!! Please vote YES!!

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:14:46 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Merle Hayward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 5:31:47 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1401.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 2:52:14 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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I would like to receive my ballot in the mail. Receiving my ballot in the mail would allow me more time to research the measures or candidates and make a more informed decision.

Pamela Yeaton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2017 1:11:33 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/25/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Boland	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: We must retain the right to vote on real paper, without electronic interference. The more digitized our lives get, the more removed from us -- and tamper-able -- our lives become.

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From:
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Vote By Mail Testimony
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:15:41 PM

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:45 a.m., Conference Room 211
HB 1401, HD 1, Relating to Elections

TESTIMONY

Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda and members of the committees:

I support HB 1401 which would enact voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020.

Much has been said about the need to improve voter participation in elections. This bill provides procedures to efficiently, safely and securely accomplish this. Under this bill, voters desiring to cast their ballots will be able to do so with convenience and an improved voting system.

The dismal track record of voter turnout must be changed. The response to vote by mail in other jurisdictions is positive encouragement for Hawaii. Every effort to improve the voting process helps move the community forward in Making Democracy Work.

I urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Piilani Kaopuiki
Honolulu, Hawaii

PETER L. FRITZ

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
and
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

H.B. 1401 HD 1
Hearing: March 30, 2017

RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Chairs Tokuda and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and members of the Committees. My name is Peter Fritz. I am an individual with a disability. I am testifying **in support of this bill, with a proposed amendment to allow individuals with disabilities to vote using a ballot that is electronically transmitted to the voter with special needs.**

This bill enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020. It repeals and amends provisions relating to polling places, including absentee polling places. Establishes voter service centers to accommodate personal delivery of ballots.

Because this bill permits electronic transmission of ballots, it can be amended to allow for the electronic transmission of ballots that can be completed by a computer to individuals with special needs. I am proposing that language be added to §11-G on page 8 of this bill to permit a voter with special needs to request that a ballot be transmitted electronically. Allowing voters with special needs to receive a ballot electronically could enable individuals with special needs to vote privately and independently. The new section would read as follows:

§11-G Electronic transmission under certain circumstances. A voter with special needs may request that a ballot be forwarded by electronic transmission. For all voters, if a ballot package is not received by a voter within five days of an election or a voter otherwise requires a replacement ballot within five days of an election, the voter may request that a ballot be forwarded by electronic transmission. Upon receipt of such a request and confirmation that proper application was made, the clerk may transmit the appropriate ballot, together with a form containing the affirmations, information, and a waiver of the right to secrecy under section 11-137. The voter may return the voted replacement ballot and executed forms by electronic transmission, mail, or deliver to a place of deposit or voter service center; provided that the ballot and forms are received by the issuing clerk no later the closing hour of voting provided in section 11-131. Upon receipt, the clerk shall verify compliance with the requirements of this part; provided that if the voter returns multiple voted ballots for the same election, the clerk shall prepare only the replacement ballot for counting.

Because this bill replaces the current voting system with what is essentially an absentee ballot system, it may discriminate against individuals with disabilities who cannot complete a paper

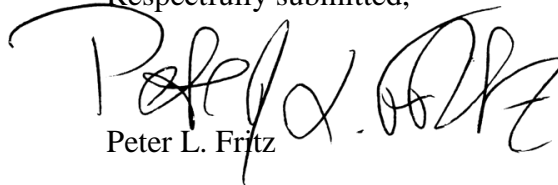
ballot without assistance. I would ask that the Committee take notice of lawsuits that have been filed in Maryland¹, Ohio², and California³ regarding vote-by-mail and paper absentee ballots that are inaccessible for individuals with disabilities. A court ordered Maryland to adopt a system for remote marking of ballots for the 2014 election.

This bill includes an appropriation. I would respectfully request that consideration be given to the following when determining the amount of the appropriation:

- Development Costs for Accessible Ballots such as:
 - Tactile and large-print ballots for some voters with visual disabilities.
 - HTML ballots, which can be marked and printed with a home computer.
 - Software such as Prime III
 - Ballots that are compatible with JAWS[®], WindowsEyes, ZoomText, Voice Over (Mac) and NVDA software.
- For voters without access to a computer or other assistive technology, an appropriation to acquire tablets with remote voting software and funding for Office of Election personnel to take such equipment to a voter. Oregon has a program where election officials take a tablet to nursing homes and to disabled voters so that these individuals can participate in elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter L. Fritz

¹ Nat'l Fed'n of the Blind, Inc. v. Lamone (D. Md., 2014)

² Hindel v. Husted (S.D. Ohio, 2016)

³ California Council of the Blind v. County of San Mateo Case 3:15-cv-05784 Filed 12/17/15

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 9:27:39 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. Spiegel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:07:56 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill to facilitate wider use of mail-in balloting for state run elections.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2017 12:17:42 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/25/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights	Support	No

Comments: There are many reasons for a vote by mail program in Hawai'i. In addition to the cost savings to the state and the ease of voting, voting by mail would give Hawaii's voters the time needed to study candidates and issues at home..

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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:08:13 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: STRONGLY SUPPORT!

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March 25 2017

To: Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads &
Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan Dela Cruz & Members
Senate Committees on Judiciary & Labor and Ways & Means

From: Sharon Moriwaki

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1401, HD1, Relating to Elections,
Before the Senate Committees on Judiciary & Labor and
Ways & Means, Thursday March 30, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.,
Conference Room 211

Hawaii's low voter turnout problem must be addressed. Ours is one of the lowest in the country. While there are a number of reasons for the apparent apathy, measures such as proposed in HB 1401, HD1, which facilitate voting by those who cannot get to the polls, must be tested. The election by mail system and the safeguard procedures set forth in HB1401,HD1, will provide an easy option for those who cannot and do not vote at the polls and/or those who prefer to vote by absentee ballot while also addressing concerns about voter fraud.

As a concerned citizen, I think that more engagement by our citizens will make for a better government, a better community. HB1401, HD1, will establish a more efficient and cost-effective voter registration and voter turnout system, which will encourage greater voter participation. It is well worth the appropriation needed if it will provide an efficient and effective system to increase voter turnout and engagement.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and passage of HB 1401, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Capt. T. J. Davies, Jr. (Ret.)

17 February 2017

To: Committee on Judiciary & Labor, Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair, Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways And Means, Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:45 a.m. Room 211

Re: **HB 1401 HD1, Relating to Elections: Voting by Mail; Voter Service Centers (\$).**

Chairs Keith-Agaran & Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

My name is T. J. Davies Jr. I am 82 years old, retired, handicapped and live in Kakaako.

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB 1401 HD1, Relating to Elections: Voting by Mail; Voter Service Centers (\$).**

Hawaii voters want the convenience of voting by mail. Voters can avoid long lines and take their time when casting their ballots, rather than being pressured and rushed in a cramped booth on Election Day.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. Voters prefer the convenience of Vote by Mail. **54.4%** of voters from the 2016 Hawaii Primary Election opting to participate by mail-in absentee ballot, compared with 38.1% who voted at their precinct

The state will save money; the Office of Elections estimates having Vote by Mail and service centers, the state will save approximately **\$800,000** every election cycle due to the streamlining of our elections.

Voter Service Centers will be available for those who prefer to vote in person or need assistance. This ensures that voters who enjoy going to the polls on Election Day are still able to do so.

Your favorable consideration of HB 1401 HD1, Relating to Elections is urgently requested.

Mahalo & Aloha

T. J. Davies Jr., Volunteer
Treasurer, AARP Chapter 60 Honolulu
Treasurer, Kokua Council for Senior Citizens of Hawaii Education Fund
Director, Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans
Kakaako (District 26 / Senate District 12)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:47:27 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Imagine a world where it's easier for voters to participate! Then imagine they do! Voting By Mail can help with that! Mahalo for helping make democracy work by passing Vote By Mail!

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:50:29 PM

HB1401

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. I strongly support this bill. It's time to end long lines and make it possible for all to vote. Thank you for supporting this bill. Tulsi

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