

**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 JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON SENATE BILL NO. 327
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 3, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 327. This bill requires the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

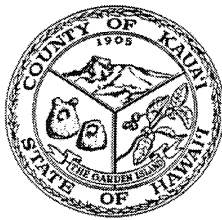
Joining ERIC would help to ensure compliance with federal laws by allowing election officials to access the driver's license file. Specifically, this bill authorizes the Department of Transportation and county examiners of drivers to provide us the driver's licensing and state identification file to comply with the Help America Vote Act and National Voter Registration Act. This involves comparing the voter registration file against the driver's license and state identification files to ensure the accuracy of the voter registration rolls, and to permit driver's license and state identification card applicants to be able to request to be a registered voter or to update their voter registration at the same time of their application.

ERIC not only compares voter registration rolls to ensure the integrity, but also compares the driver's license files to determine if a voter may have moved to another state, as indicated by them having obtained a driver's license in another state. As the Office of Elections does not have access to the driver's license file, it is not currently able to join ERIC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 327.

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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 SENATE BILL NO. 327
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 3, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill No. 327. This Bill would authorize the electronic transmission of driver's license and civil identification data to election officials and the statewide voter registration system, and require the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Our Office supports the electronic transmission of driver's license and civil identification data to election officials and the statewide voter registration system since it will greatly aid in our efforts to fulfill requirements of both the National Voter Registration Act and Help America Vote Act.

However, we do have concerns with requiring the Office of Elections to join ERIC. Though membership may enhance voter file maintenance efforts already established by the counties, we are concerned with having to provide ERIC with the personally identifiable information (PII) of nearly a million Hawai'i residents every sixty (60) days, and question whether the liability of providing the PII of so many Hawai'i residents to a non-governmental entity such as ERIC is truly worth the possible benefits.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 327.

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



Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

Friday 02/03/2017 at 8:45 AM in Room 016
SB327– Relating to Elections

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

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committee:

Common Cause supports SB327 which would require the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), and authorizes the electronic transmission of databases containing driver's license and civil information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system.

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 SB327.



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

FRIDAY, February 2, 2017, 8:45 a.m., Room 016
SB 327 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 327 which authorizes the electronic transmission of databases containing driver's license and civil identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system. The measure also requires the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) and share information with counties to encourage voter participation and ensure integrity of voter registration rolls.

This measure would clear up any doubt about whether records of drivers' licenses and State ID's could legally be shared for purposes of voter registration. We fully support this change, which is a critical part of moving toward automatic voter registration in Hawaii. Likewise, joining ERIC would permit Hawaii's County Clerks to 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.

ERIC may help to resolve unintentional errors in a voter's Hawaii registration while preventing voter registration in more than one State. This is important for Hawaii, since we regularly have many people moving into and out of the State. We know registration officials are diligent in trying to maintain the integrity of our registration rolls; this modest investment with ERIC would be helpful. The goal is to get voters registered accurately and \$25,000 toward this effort strikes us as reasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.