

**LATE**

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**  
802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
elections.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108 SD 1  
REQUESTING THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER TO CONVENE AN  
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING AN AUTOMATIC  
VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN HAWAII

April 12, 2017

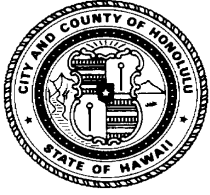
Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 108 SD 1. The purpose of this resolution is to convene a task force to explore the feasibility of establishing and implementing an automatic voter registration system in Hawaii.

The Office of Elections supports automatic voter registration because it is convenient for voters and it may increase registration. Additionally, we believe the electronic sharing of data between driver license and election officials will help to ensure the accuracy of the voter registration rolls.

The Office of Elections and the Department of Transportation have had ongoing discussions to formalize a memorandum of agreement to share data electronically. These discussions began as we moved toward upgrading the statewide voter registration system and to ensure the timely transfer of driver license/state identification data. We believe this task force may help us to understand and resolve challenges of the various stakeholders such as the Clerks' Offices, representatives of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, the City Licensing Administrator, and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Information Technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 108 SD 1.

**LATE**



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108  
REQUESTING THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER CONVENE  
AN AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION TASK FORCE  
April 12, 2017**

Chair Nishimoto and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 108 SD1 Senate Draft 1. We support the intent of this resolution and are willing to participate in the task force once it is convened.

If implemented under the current hybrid voting scheme, a possible unintended consequence could be a modest decline in the voter turnout percentage since the voter registry would increase the number of individuals that have not affirmatively decided to participate in the electoral process.

However, our office does see automatic voter registration's potential to increase voter participation when implemented within a vote-by-mail election scheme. Individuals that become registered voters through this process could be encouraged to vote by the ease and simplicity of a vote-by-mail election.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 108 SD1.



House Judiciary Committee  
Chair Scott Nishimoto and Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura

04/12/2017 at 2:00 PM in Room 325

SCR108 SD1 – Requesting the Chief Election Officer to Convene an Automatic Voter Registration Task Force to Explore the Feasibility of Establishing and Implementing an Automatic Voter Registration System in Hawaii

TESTIMONY / SUPPORT

Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

---

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and committee members:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports SCR108 SD1** which would establish a task force to explore the feasibility of establishing and implanting an Automatic Voter Registration system in Hawaii.

As a state that consistently ranks last in the nation for voter participation, we commend your consideration of this important step to use existing technology and pathways to improve the process for registering eligible voters.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) is a critical step toward modernizing our elections system. With AVR:

- Elections will be more secure. The electronic transfer of data in real time will lead to fewer typos, duplicates, and lost forms, thus our voter rolls will be more accurate and the chances of voter fraud will be reduced.
- The state will save money. States that have upgraded their systems estimate it costs approximately 30 times less to process an electronic application than a paper application.<sup>1</sup>
- Privacy remains protected. If an individual chooses to decline to participate, their personal information will not be shared with election officials. For those who do participate, only information needed to register the voter will be shared.
- Hawaii will become a “model” state for voting reforms. AVR complements recent voting reforms, such as online voter registration (2015) and same day voter registration (2018), aimed at reducing barriers and ensuring access to the polls. AVR would also complement Voting By Mail, if passed, as more accurate voter rolls will reduce the amount of returned mail.

Automatic Voter Registration works. Oregon was the first state to implement this system in 2016. Over 270,000 were registered via Automatic Voter Registration (50% of those were under the age of 34), of those 42.73% or 97,184 voted in the 2016 General Election, which helped Oregon set a new state record for number of votes cast.<sup>2</sup>

We believe that the creation of this task force will help the Office of Elections, Department of Transportation, other government agencies, and community stakeholders identify and resolve challenges, which will lead to smoother implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SCR108 SD1**.

---

<sup>1</sup> Center for Secure and Modern Elections. (2016). *Modernelections.org*.

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Secretary of State. (2016). *Oregon Breaks 2 Million Ballots in Nov. 8 General Election, Setting New Record*. Retrieved from <http://oregonsosblog.us/2016/11/oregon-breaks-2-million-ballots-nov-8-general-election-setting-new-record/>



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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2017, 2:45 P.M., CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SCR 108, SD1, REQUESTING THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER TO CONVENE AN AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATIN TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING AN AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN HAWAII

**TESTIMONY**

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

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

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SCR 108.**

To us, it's already clear that establishing automatic voter registration is feasible; the only remaining questions concern how it could be cooperatively implemented among the State and County officials responsible for driver's license, state identification cards and voter registration services.

In recent years, Hawaii has done much to modernize how citizens can register to vote. Despite this, recent estimates show that more than 250,000 eligible persons – some 26% of those eligible- are still not registered.<sup>1</sup> We will not be able to make inroads with voter turnout until we boost the number of persons registered to vote as a percent of those eligible to vote. Of course, the League acknowledges motivating registered voters to vote also remains a challenge, and we are committed to working on this effort as well.

Convening this task force will enable members to anticipate any unexpected procedural issues in automatic voter registration while drafting complementary legislation. We respectfully urge that the task force be created so that work can begin as soon as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

---

<sup>1</sup> United States Elections Project,  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VAcF0eJ06y\\_8T4o2gvIL4YcyQy8pxb1zYkgXF76Uu1s/edit#gid=2030096602](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VAcF0eJ06y_8T4o2gvIL4YcyQy8pxb1zYkgXF76Uu1s/edit#gid=2030096602)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 8:50 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** fosters005@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SCR108**

Submitted on: 4/10/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Foster	Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

***Capt. T. J. Davies, Jr. (Ret.)***  
***909 Kapiolani Blvd # 601***  
***Honolulu, HI 96814-2132***  
***[tjdavies@juno.com](mailto:tjdavies@juno.com)***  
***808-593-1026***

31 March 2017

To: Committee On Ways And Means, Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair, Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 9:45 a.m., Room 211

**Re: SCR 108 SD1, Requesting the Chief Election Officer to convene an Automatic Voter Registration Task Force to explore the feasibility of establishing and implementing an Automatic Voter Registration System in Hawaii.**

Chair Senator Tokuda, Vice Chair Senator Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

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 SCR 108 SD1, Requesting the Chief Election Officer to convene an Automatic Voter Registration Task Force to explore the feasibility of establishing and implementing an Automatic Voter Registration System in Hawaii.

**Modernizing our elections:** Thanks to advances in technology, we no longer have to stick to traditional paper forms which require staff to literally take the forms from one agency to the next and then manually enter data. Updating and modernizing our system will lead to increased processing efficiency and productivity.

**Save money:** States that have switched to electronic systems have reported that it costs about 30 times less to process an electronic application than a paper application

**Elections will be more secure:** Due to the increased accuracy of voter rolls—thanks to real time data transfers, fewer typos, fewer duplicate records, no more lost forms, etc. the chances of voter fraud will be reduced. The use of an encrypted system, rather than paper forms to transfer data, will also make our elections more secure.

Privacy and the right to choose to participate is assured, as those who do not want to register to vote can opt-out and their information will not be shared with the Office of Elections.

Your favorable consideration of SCR 108 SD is 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  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:30 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** barbarapolk@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM

**SCR108**

Submitted on: 4/10/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to pass this resolution. There does not seem to be opposition to the idea of automatic voter registration, but there are details that must be worked out by those involved before it can be implemented. Implementation should save the state money by producing more accurate voter rolls. In addition, it would encourage more people to vote. I am sure implementation details can be worked out. Please pass this resolution to be sure the conversations are held.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

re: SCR 108, SD1 Convening of an Automatic Voter Registration Task Force

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 2:45 p.m., Room 016

Aloha Chair Keith Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and committee members.

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. I am a member of AARP, Kokua Council, the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans, PABEA legislative committee and the League of Women Voters.

I'm testifying in strong support of SCR108, SD1. This bill would allow the Chief Election Officer to convene a task force to explore the feasibility of establishing an Automatic Voter Registration System. Hawaii has historically low voter turnout, one of the worst in the nation, for which we should all be ashamed.

An automatic system would modernize the system (paper forms no longer needed), save money (estimated to be 1/30th of current costs) and make elections more secure (thanks to real time data transfers, fewer typos's, etc). Those who do not choose to register in this manner could opt out.

Please support SCR108 to support the formation of a working group to explore this.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service



## JUDtestimony

---

From: R. Elton Johnson, III <precis@lava.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM  
To: JUDtestimony  
Subject: Testimony in strong support of SCR 108 (House Judiciary Committee, Room 325, 04/12/17, 2:00 PM)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR 108, SD1, Automatic Voter Registration Task Force.

It's critical that we do what we can to make voter registration as convenient as possible. Voter turnout here in Hawai'i has been dead last among the states in each of the recent presidential elections. According to analysis of U.S. Elections Project data by Nonprofit VOTE, only 43 percent of Hawaii's eligible voting population voted in the 2016 election.

And automatic voter registration states have consistently realized voter turnouts an average of 7 percent to 13 percent higher than other states according to Nonprofit VOTE.

SCR 108 would help to set in motion a careful examination of automatic voter registration, and whether it is right for Hawai'i.

Please support SCR 108.

Mahalo,

R. Elton Johnson, III

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** dr.yoshicedo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM

**SCR108**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017  
Testimony for JUD on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jill Yoshicedo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee on Judiciary: I am in support of SCR108 as automatic voter registration helps ensure every citizen's right to vote. I am in favor of an electronic system over manual data entry, which will save money, increase departmental efficiency, and increase accuracy. Please support convening a task force to evaluate the implementation of automatic voter registration in Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** ndavlantes@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM

**SCR108**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Why in the world wouldn't Hawaii do this? Anything to make it easier for people to vote would help our abysmal turnout.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SCR108**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)