



**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 WAYS AND MEANS
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 4, 2017

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, 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 towards 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.



Senate Ways and Means Committee
Chair Jill Tokuda and Vice Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

04/04/2017 at 9:45 AM in Room 211

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 Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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.¹
- 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.²

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**.

¹ Center for Secure and Modern Elections. (2016). *Modernelections.org*.

² 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/>



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Board of Directors:

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports SCR 108

Gary L. Hooser

President

Andrea N. Brower

Joshua D. I. Mori

Co-Vice Presidents

Ikaika M. Hussey

Treasurer

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz & Members of the Committee:

I am the Executive Director for the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization. HAPA engages over 10,000 local residents annually through our work.

From October through December of 2016 HAPA and several of our partners held a series of input gathering forums across the islands called the People's Congress. Over 800 people attended forums on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island to discuss the most pressing issues facing their communities. The need to increase voter participation was a key issues raised.

I am writing in strong support of SCR 108, which will create an automatic voter registration task force. Automatic voter registration will help:

Paul Achitoff

Malia K. Chun

Bart E. Dame

Laura Harrelson

Kim Coco Iwamoto

Katie McMillan

Walter Ritte Jr.

Karen Shishido

Leslie Malu Shizue Miki

Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

Cade Watanabe

- 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.

- The task force will allow agencies and community stakeholders to identify and address issues which will lead to smoother implementation.

Respectfully,

Anne Frederick, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (H.A.P.A.)



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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TUESDAY, April 4, 2017, 9:45 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SCR 108 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 Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SCR 108, S.D. 1.

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.¹ We will not be able to make sufficient 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 a 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.

¹ United States Elections Project,
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VAcF0eJ06y_8T4o2gvIL4YcyQy8pxb1zYkgXF76Uu1s/edit#gid=2030096602

Capt. T. J. Davies, Jr. (Ret.)
909 Kapiolani Blvd # 601
Honolulu, HI 96814-2132
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 , Aprurl 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: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:06 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: We have the lowest voter turnout in the country, we need this bill!

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
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 4:47 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ramizusawa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM*

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Mizusawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 4:25 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: christinet54@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christine trecker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Convening an Automatic Voter Registration Task Force is a step in the right direction. Hawaii needs to take advantage of newer technology to streamline the process, save money and make our elections more secure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2017 5:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: maxinekla@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM*

SCR108

Submitted on: 4/2/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maxine Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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