

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 03 2017

RE: S.B. No. 855
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 855, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to increase voter participation.

Specifically, the measure amends the absentee voting law by:

- (1) Providing that the submission of a voter registration application to either register to vote or update the voter's registration information shall constitute a request for permanent absentee voter status, unless the applicant specifically indicates the applicant does not wish to be a permanent absentee voter; and
- (2) Replacing the requirement that the application to register as a voter include a space to request a permanent absentee ballot with a requirement that the application include a space for the applicant to decline permanent absentee ballot status.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Office of Elections; Common Cause Hawaii; League



of Women Voters of Hawaii; Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action; Americans for Democratic Action; and twelve individuals.

Your Committee believes that this measure will make voting more convenient, and thus improve voter participation, by ensuring that every registered voter will receive a ballot by mail, unless the voter affirmatively opts out of receiving absentee ballots and chooses to vote in person.

Your Committee has amended this measure by replacing the word "person" with the word "applicant," as appropriate, in section 2 of the measure for the purpose of using consistent terminology.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 855, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 855, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,




JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 855, SD1	SDL, WAM	24 Feb 2017		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (VC)				/
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	/			
HARIMOTO, Breene	/			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	/			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	/			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn	/			
TOTAL	10			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes