



Testimony by:
JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

February 8, 2018
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

**SB 2210
RELATING TO VOTING**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation (DOT) respectfully submits comments regarding S.B. 2210.

The DOT has concerns relating to Sections 2 and 3 of S.B. 2210 with respect to the requirement that the examiner of drivers electronically transmit information required by Section 11-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the clerk of the county identifying all “qualified” applicants who properly complete and submit an application for a driver’s license or a civil identification card. The term “qualified”, which appears to be related to voting qualifications, appears in the following specific locations of the bill:

- Section 2, page 3, line 10; and
- Section 3, page 4, line 11.

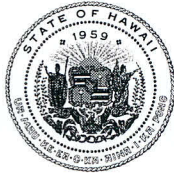
Examiners of drivers and the clerks who process driver’s license and civil identification card applications are not able to determine which applicants are “qualified” in terms of meeting requirements to vote. Determining which applicants are so “qualified” is more properly a function of the Office of Elections (OOE). DOT’s concern about this bill could be remedied by deleting the word “qualified” where this word appears as specified in the bullet points above.

On this point, the DOT and the OOE entered into a Memorandum of Agreement in August 2017 identifying a process that satisfied both parties regarding the electronic transmission of information to OOE under which there is no need for the examiner of drivers to determine which applicants are “qualified.” OOE agreed that its staff, who are extensively trained in voter registration rules, will review the qualifications of individual applicants before updating the OOE’s voter registration database.

The DOT and OOE also worked to amend the driver’s license and civil identification card application forms in accordance to the requirements of Act 167 of the 2016 Legislative Session.

The amended driver's license and state civil identification card application forms were ordered in a quantity of approximately one-year supply and purchased by DOT and OOE for the county operations where driver's licenses and civil identification cards services are handled. Any legislation that would require the modification of any voter registration requirements would affect the current supply of driver's license and civil identification card application forms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**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 TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY
AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2210
RELATING TO VOTING

February 8, 2018

Chair Inouye and Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy, and the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2210. The purpose of this bill is to automatically register to vote any applicant for various motor vehicle licenses and permits, including limited purpose licenses and permits, and identification cards, subject to the applicant being able to affirmatively opt-out within twenty-one days of receiving a mailing from election officials, if they are not eligible or choose not to be registered to vote.

We support automatic voter registration because it removes barriers to the electoral process and maximizes voter registration. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) provides that applicants for a driver license simultaneously be allowed to register to vote. Currently, applicants must sign to indicate that their applications be transferred to the Clerk's Office to register to vote. In this bill, applicants would be automatically registered until they make a determination to opt-out.

However, we propose removing all reference to limited purpose driver's license, limited purpose provisional license, and limited purpose instruction permit as it cannot be used to establish eligibility for voter registration pursuant to HRS §286-104.5(c).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2210.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:00AM Conference Room 225

In SUPPORT of SB 2210 Relating to voting

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Espero and Wakai, and members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **strongly supports SB 2210**, which would automatically register to vote those eligible individuals applying for certain licences, with the option to opt out within 21 days.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to ensuring **a fair, open, and transparent democratic process**. We encourage our members and supporters to actively engage in protecting their right to vote, have their voices heard in government, increase effective partnerships across communities and organizations and consistently engage in civics. SB 2210, if enacted into law, would make these efforts just that much easier for many residents. *Voting should not be something we require people to opt in to, indeed it should be something they can opt out of.*

We must protect the right to vote and ensure a fair and open democracy. Across the nation we've seen active voter suppression, but we should not tolerate this in Hawai'i. Our residents deserve better. Automatic Voter Registration, is one step in ensuring a fair and accessible democratic process for all. (Other initiatives include expanding voting hours, increasing volunteer poll workers, making sure elections run smoothly, early voting, vote by mail, and restoring the right to vote for individuals with past felony convictions). There is still much to be done, and SB 2210 is a great first step!

We offer the following comment pertaining to creating an electronic system:

- The Department of Transportation and the Office of Elections are currently working on a new system to share information electronically, which eliminates the need to create an electronic transfer system, which SB 2210 currently stipulates. We suggest that language from SB 2232 be inserted to instead.

This measure *strengthens our democracy*, increases the security of our elections, and is simply more cost effective than paper applications. An opt-out Automatic Voter Registration system gives us the opportunity to modernize our elections so that they work for *all* eligible residents of

Hawai'i, particularly for working families, military families who move frequently, homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2210.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 3:28:12 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2210 – Relating to Voting
Senate Committees on Transportation and Energy and on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Scheduled for hearing at Thursday, February 8, 2018, 9:00 AM, in Conference Room 225

Dear Chairs Inouye and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Espero and Wakai, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 2210**, which would automatically register eligible citizens who apply for or renew their Hawaii Drivers' License or State ID unless they choose to opt out.

“Hawaii ranks dead last in voter turnout for 2016 election,” blared a *Star-Advertiser* headline on March 16, 2017. The logistical barriers to voting are higher for our low-income neighbors, since they are less likely to be able to leave work to vote as well as work far from their homes and polling places. Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) would remove the first barrier to voting for them – getting registered at all.

With an AVR system, information would be electronically transferred from the licensing agency to election officials, ensuring the registration process is convenient, accurate, and secure. Implementing AVR would:

- Help the State and Counties would achieve increased processing efficiency, saving staff from manually inputting data, allowing staff to execute other duties. It costs almost 30 times more to process a paper application versus an electronic one.
- Make elections would secure with frequent updates to the voter rolls, and by using an encrypted system to transfer data rather than paper forms. Additionally, voter eligibility would be verified twice--once by the licensing agency and once by election officials.
- Incur minimal implementation costs because AVR can be integrated with Hawai'i's existing online voter registration system, creating one unified database.
- Help ensure that voting isn't needlessly difficult for working and military families who move frequently, as well as homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas.

We need to do more to get more than 43 percent of our eligible voters to the polls on election day. AVR would be a good start.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 6:28:18 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Patients Without Time	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2210.

I don't want citizens to be forced to register to vote. We are supposed to have freedom. It's great to have the convenience of being able to register to vote at the DMV, but making it mandatory treads on our individual freedom of choice.

SB2210 does NOT have the option to OPT OUT of the mandatory voter registration at the DMV. After the individual is notified of their voter registration by the County Clerk, they have only 21 calendar days to respond to the County Clerk and opt out, which puts a burden of response on them.

If a person just wants to renew their driver's license, they should not be forced to register to vote.

Making it easy to register to vote is great, making it mandatory to register is a dystopian violation of personal freedom. I know several folks who refuse to register to vote because they do not recognize the legality of the State or Federal lawmakers. Will they be denied the right to DMV services?

At least, wait to see how it turns out in Oregon. Lawsuits are bound to result.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2210.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:18:26 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

In addition to the many benefits of Automatic Voter Registration we request the insertion of language from SB2232. Thanks to an agreement between the Office of Elections and Department of Transportation the two will soon share information electronically which eliminates the need to create an electronic transfer system legislatively (like SB2210 currently stipulates). Now the focus should be on changing registration from an opt-in to an opt-out system.

Thank you for your very kind attention.



Board of Directors:

Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy

Senate Committee on Public Safety & Intergovernmental Affairs

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports SB2210

Gary L. Hooser
President

Andrea N. Brower
Ikaika M. Hussey
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Karen Shishido

Leslie Malu Shizue Miki

Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

Cade Watanabe

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Nishiihara and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action in strong support of SB2210 for automatic voter registration. HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization. HAPA engages over 10,000 local residents annually through our work.

Automatic Voter registration will help:

- Modernize our elections. Thanks to advances in technology, we no longer have to stick to traditional paper forms which require staff to literally have to 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.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to support SB2210.

Respectfully,

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



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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 9:00 A.M., Room 225

S.B. 2210, RELATING TO VOTING

TESTIMONY

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

Chairs Inouye and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Espero and Wakai and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports this bill that will help modernize our voting system by implementing automatic voter registration: when eligible voters obtain or renew a driver's license or obtain or update a state identification card they will be automatically signed up to vote unless they decline.

This simple reform will improve access to the electoral system for eligible voters. The Center for American Progress projected in 2017 that if Hawaii adopted an effective system like that used in Oregon, more than 145 thousand people in Hawaii would join the voter rolls in the first year of the program alone. These new voters would then be poised to participate in making political decisions. About 62 thousand of these new voters are unlikely to have become registered without the convenience of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).¹

AVR will also improve the accuracy of voter records because it will be easier for a voter to update their personal information. It will cut down on the cost of handling extra paper records, while providing convenience for Hawaii's busy citizens.

The League respectfully requests one amendment to this bill to protect individuals who are ineligible to register but accidentally register. Unless an ineligible applicant willfully and knowingly completes the portion of the application related to voter registration despite knowing that the applicant is not eligible to vote, the record and signature of an ineligible applicant that is knowingly transmitted

¹ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2017/11/30/443333/close-elections-missing-voices-automatic-voter-registration-projected-impact-50-states/>, page 3.



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

electronically or by facsimile transmission by an examiner of drivers to a clerk shall not constitute a violation of section 19-3.5. The name of any ineligible applicant that is incorrectly registered in the general county register because the applicant completed the portion of the application related to voter registration shall be removed from the registration pursuant to section 11-23.”

We were delighted to learn that last August the Office of Elections and Department of Transportation entered into a Memorandum of Agreement allowing the Office of Elections to access the driver license and state identification databases, administered by the Department of Transportation and maintained by the City and County of Honolulu. It is also our understanding that no appropriation is required to implement this bill. These circumstances should make it possible for the effective date of the bill to be January 1, 2019.

The League thanks all voting and transportation officials who have cooperated to help implement this new approach to voter registration. We urge you to support this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 11:04:22 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S. Shaver	League of Women Voters	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 9:00 A.M., Room 225

S.B. 2210, RELATING TO VOTING

TESTIMONY

Ann Sack Shaver, President

Chairs Inouye and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Espero and Wakai and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports this bill that will help modernize our voting system by implementing automatic voter registration: when eligible voters obtain or renew a driver's license or obtain or update a state identification card they will be automatically signed up to vote unless they decline.

Automatic Voter registration is a simple and effective way to increase voter registration in Hawaii. Nine states have successfully implemented automatic voter registration and numerous others are considering it. Outgoing President Barack Obama urged that it become the national norm.

This reform will not only make it easier for potential voters to register, it will also make it easier to update voters' personal information and will be cost effective for our state. It is a reform that has many benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

Guy Archer
Juliet Begley
Gloria Borland
Chuck Huxel
Jan Lubin
Jenny Nomura
Stephen O'Harrow
Doug Pyle

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823

February 6, 2018

TO: Honorable Chairs Inouye & Nishihara and Members of the TRE & PSM
Committees

RE: SB2210 Relating to Voting

Support for hearing on Feb. 8

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 SB 2210 as it would automatically register for voting when one gets a driver's license. These motor voter laws have helped to increase voter registration and therefore voter turnout. Critics have correctly pointed out people even with registration need a reason to vote. Yet the classic book on the topic is Who Votes by Ray Wolfinger. He argues easier registration laws can account for up to a 9 percentage point increase in voting over more restrictive states.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



Senate Committees on Transportation and Energy; and Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs
Chair Lorraine Inouye, Chair Clarence Nishihara

02/08/2018 9:00 AM Room 225
SB2210 – Relating to Voting

TESTIMONY / STRONG SUPPORT with Amendments
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Inouye, Chair Nishihara, and members of the committees:

Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports SB2210 with amendments which would automatically register eligible citizens, who apply for or renew their driver's license or identification card, to vote; unless they decline. It also establishes an electronic data transfer system between licensing and elections officials for voter registration purposes.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) has been and remains one of our top legislative priorities, as AVR will make our elections more secure, efficient, and accessible. AVR is a key reform to modernizing our elections and a common-sense solution that could help increase voter turnout. With Hawaii having the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years,¹ we must do all we can to turn this around.

However, we note that during the interim, the Office of Elections and the Department of Transportation entered into a memorandum of agreement allowing for the electronic transfer of information for voter registration purposes, to ensure the integrity of our voter rolls. Our understanding is that officials are currently working on this new data system. Thus, the current version of SB2210 is no longer applicable and we ask that you **insert the language from SB2232**.

Like SB2210, SB2232 also changes voter registration at our DMVs, from an opt-in to an opt-out system. However, it also adds additional protections to safeguard our privacy and data, and better clarifies implementation than SB2210.

We commend your consideration of this important step to use existing technology and pathways to improve the process for registering eligible voters and urge you to continue reducing barriers to voting by moving forward on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting SB2232**.

¹ <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2017/03/16/breaking-news/hawaii-ranks-dead-last-in-voter-turnout-for-2016-election/>

To: Hawaii State Senate Committees on Transportation and Energy and Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in support of S.B. 2210,
relating to Voting

Dear Chairs Inouye and Nishihara and Members of the Committees,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of S.B. 2210 and automatic voter registration for all eligible citizens.

To give all eligible voters an equal shot at participating in our democracy, it is our responsibility to proactively give citizens the chance to exercise that right. S.B. 2210 will capture potential voters by registering new voters when they receive a new license or state-issued ID.

The state should also consider automatically registering eligible voters using DMV records and automatically updating registration information when voters update their address or name information through the DMV.

Automatic voter registration not only streamlines the registration process and casts a wide net to eligible voters, it also sends the message that state government is committed to the idea that voting is a right, not a privilege.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:17:35 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it saves the county time and money. It is a very efficient proposal. However, if the person doesn't vote for three years, will his/her name be deleted from the voter registration list?

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 3:04:29 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 10:11:38 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please make it easy for busy people to register to vote. "Crowd-sourced" elections may give us better lawmakers and happier constituents.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 7:44:15 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Stronglt Support

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 3:05:29 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 4:40:04 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 7:03:20 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Bonnet		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

In the name of democracy (and convenience!), please support SB2210.

Mahalo,

Morgan

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 8:57:04 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hattie Gerrish		Support	No

Comments:

Please vote yes. I think expanding democratic participation is very important, and I would like to see Hawai`i leading the nation on voter turn out instead of coming last. I am a young person who values my right to vote, and I think this bill would encourage other young people to vote as well. As a resident of Paauilo 96776, I am particularly hoping my Senator Inouye will support this bill.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:55:46 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I volunteer doing voter registration on Kauai and feel we must move to automatic voter registration. I strongly support this bill.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:04:44 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen		Support	No

Comments:

I suport SB220 which make voter registration automatic. Hawai'i has the lowest voter turnout in the nation Only about 30% of eligible residents turn out to vote. We need to work towards greater participation in government. I urge to you pass SB 220 from committee.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:25:59 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucia You		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:23:39 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching		Support	No

Comments:

Chairs Inouye and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Espero and Wakai and members of the committees,

Please pass SB2210 -- the Automatic Voter Registration bill. Hawaii has one of the worst voter participation rates in the country. This will help register more voters as well as save money. It is much cheaper to register people through vehicle registration than it is via paper.

Other states have AVR and their registration totals have increased as a result. Hawaii should do all it can to make registration as easy as possible. Common Cause has been trying for years to get AVR passed. It is time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching / Honolulu / makikirandy@yahoo.com

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:06:52 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Chun	many different	Support	No

Comments:

This is a terrific idea. Hawaii's low voter turnout needs to be addressed and this bill might do it.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:14:14 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please insert the language of SB2232 into the bill.

Mahalo!

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:16:59 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:30:22 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

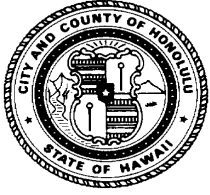
Comments:

I strongly support SB2210. Its goal to streamline the voter registration process to hopefully increase voter participation in elections makes this measure an important one and worthy of your support.

I request, however, that your Committee insert the updated language of a similar bill SB2232 in place of the content in SB2210.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Christine Trecker



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
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 COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY
AND JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2210
RELATING TO VOTING
February 8, 2018

Chairs Inouye and Nishihara and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2210 that would create an automatic voter registration program for driver license applicants. We support the intent of this bill but express additional concerns.

The measure presents considerable recurring costs to the County Clerks in the form of contacting all persons serviced at drivers licensing offices (i.e. mailing of opt out notices). For Honolulu, we would anticipate spending over \$75,000 annually to mail "opt out notices" to an estimated 150,000 persons serviced at drivers licensing offices each year.

We question the assignment of financial responsibility (for sending the required notices) to the Counties for what appears to be a State drivers licensing/voter registration initiative. However, we acknowledge that counties should have a role in processing any returned opt-out responses from applicants as part of its voter registration processing responsibilities.

Additionally, while the measure acknowledges startup costs for the Department of Transportation, it does not provide any funding to the State and County election offices to modify the State voter registration system to enable processing the data transmitted from the drivers licensing offices.

We also express the following technical concerns for the committees' consideration:

1. The bill appears to stipulate automatic voter registration action for only driver license applicants that "are not currently registered" (Page 2, line 15). If the intention is that all driver license applicants be registered or re-registered (address updates, name changes, etc.) we recommend a clarification to expand automatic voter registration to all transactions.

2. The county clerk is tasked with determining eligibility to register to vote, specifically "...whether the applicant is.... a citizen of the United States." (Page 2, line 9-10).

Our understanding is that drivers licensing may collect documents to verify citizenship and residency as part of compliance with the Real ID Act. This documentation is not made available to election offices and we would be unable to perform an eligibility check without requesting that applicants once again provide that documentation. We believe that a presumption of eligibility should suffice in lieu of receiving an affirmative opt out response from the applicant and recommend removal of the eligibility verification provisions.

We also highlight that this measure would apply automatic voter registration to individuals seeking the various types of limited purpose driver's licenses. It is our understanding that a portion of this category of applicant may not meet eligibility requirements for registering to vote.

3. The measure requires the assignment of a transaction number and registration of the voter after the expiration of a 21-day opt out period (page 2, lines 19-21, page 3 line 1).

This appears to suggest that applications will be held in a queue for processing only after the 21-day opt out period has expired. This provision may conflict with the federal National Voter Registration Act that presumes registration to be the date the registrant appeared at the drivers licensing office.

We recommend removing this provision to allow the election offices to develop an appropriate processing procedure. The procedure becomes especially relevant closer to the election during peak activity periods (i.e. absentee voting, pollbook printing, etc.). The details of these processes might be more appropriately addressed via the promulgation of administrative rules.

If the Legislature desires to move forward with automatic voter registration at drivers licensing policy, we would be most willing to assist with drafting a comprehensive and cohesive measure that can be implemented by both drivers licensing and election offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference room 225

From: Bart Dame

SB2210, RELATING TO VOTING

STRONGLY SUPPORT

My name is Bart Dame and I am testifying as an individual.

I strongly support efforts to make it easier for Hawaii residents to vote and believe this bill is likely to boost turnout by a small amount.

It is appropriate for the state to keep a database of people who are pre-qualified to vote in our elections, whether the person wants to be included or not.

However, in Hawaii, there are a number of people, particular some Native Hawaiians, who do not regard themselves as “Americans” and would resent being forced to have their names listed on what is, essentially, a roll of citizens of the state of Hawaii. In addition, there may be residents who are not convinced voting is an effective activity and may want to avoid being included on the voter roll in order to avoid the nuisance of being contacted by campaigns who work off of voter lists.

I believe in response to these two concerns, it is appropriate for the state to allow people to opt out of inclusion on the list.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2210

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 6:28:07 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall		Support	No

Comments: