

**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 BILL NO. 327 SD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 22, 2017

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 327 SD 1. This bill requires the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

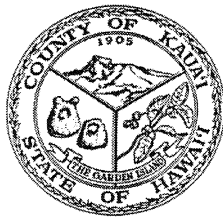
Joining ERIC would help to ensure compliance with federal laws by allowing election officials to access the driver's license file. Specifically, this bill authorizes the Department of Transportation and county examiners of drivers to provide us the driver's licensing and state identification file to 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 SD 1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

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**ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAI'I 96766-1819

**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 327, SD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 22, 2017**

Dear Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill No. 327, SD 1. This Bill would authorize the electronic transmission of driver's license and civil identification data to election officials, as well as the statewide voter registration system, and would 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 as it will greatly support our efforts to fulfill requirements of both the National Voter Registration Act and the 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 the potential liability of providing ERIC with personally identifiable information of nearly a million Hawai'i residents every sixty (60) days.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 327, SD 1.

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



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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WEDNESDAY, February 22, 2017, 9:30 A.M., Room 211
SB 327, SD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

REVISED TESTIMONY

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

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

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 327 SD1 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.

Electronic transmission of databases from County DMV's and county civil identification card databases to voter registration officials is an essential feature of moving Hawaii toward automatic voter registration, and we strongly support this move.

Joining ERIC would permit voting officials to have the benefit of cross-checking information from voter registration, motor vehicle lists, and US Post Office changes-of-address records from twenty 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.

According to a 2016 report from the federal Government Accounting Office,¹ a state's participation in ERIC leads to more accurate voter registration lists and cost savings for state and local election offices. State

¹ United States Government Accountability Office, "Elections; Issues Related to Registering Voters and Administering Elections," June 2016, p. 31



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officials noted that ERIC data improve the accuracy of voter registration lists by identifying registrants whom elections administrators should remove for various reasons. For example, local officials in Oregon noted that ERIC lists identified over 900 registrants who died in another state, enabling election officials to remove most these registrants from Oregon's registration list.

This same report found that improved accuracy of registration lists translates into cost savings from decreased mailing costs as well as decreased staff time to maintain the voter registration lists. "Vote-by-mail" states, such as Colorado and Oregon, have a heightened interest in maintaining clean voter registration lists because of the costs associated with mailing a ballot to an incorrect address.²

In a study by The Pew Charitable Trusts, of King County, Washington, which conducts elections entirely by mail, there was a drop in undeliverable ballots from 17,911 in the 2013 primary to 11,174 in the 2014 primary, which county election officials attributed to Washington's participation in ERIC.³

States without all vote-by-mail elections cited similar benefits. In Delaware, officials reported receiving about three bins of returned postcards instead of eight bins from the state's bi-annual mailing to verify voters' addresses, resulting in less money wasted on printing and postage for mailings that do not reach the intended recipient. And according to a Pew Charitable Trusts report, the director of elections in Minnesota cited approximately \$116,250 in savings to counties since the state joined ERIC in August 2014.⁴

The goal is to get voters registered accurately and \$25,000 for Hawaii to join ERIC strikes us as reasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

² Officials in Oregon specifically cited the identification of deceased registrants from ERIC as particularly helpful.

³ The Pew Charitable Trusts, ERIC Reduces Undeliverable Ballots in King County, Washington, October 16, 2014.

⁴ The Pew Charitable Trusts, ERIC Promotes Long-Term Cost Savings in Minnesota, March 24, 2015.



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

02/22/2017 at 9:30 AM in Room 211
SB327 SD1— Relating to Elections

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

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee:

Common Cause supports SB327 SD1 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.

The 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 to curate even more accurate voting records.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting SB327 SD1**.



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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WEDNESDAY, February 22, 2017, 9:30 A.M., Room 211
SB 327, SD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz 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.

Hawaii is moving toward automatic voter registration, so it is important to efficiently share drivers' license and State IDs information 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 voting officials to have the benefit of cross-checking information from voter registration, motor vehicle lists, and US Post Office changes-of-address records from twenty 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.

Date: February 20, 2017

To: The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Christine Trecker

Subject: SB327 SD1 - **Support**

I support SB327 SD1 which requires the Office of Elections to join ERIC and allows databases of driver's license and other civil information be electronically transmitted to the state voter registration system.

The goals of SB327 SD1 to increase both voter registration rates and efficiencies in the voting process make this measure an important one and worthy of your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.