

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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March 14, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

House Bill 1248, HD1 - Relating to Elections

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comments on House Bill 1248, HD1 - Relating to Elections, which enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020. Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the election by mail program. Requires the Office of Elections to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the implementation of a vote by mail system.

House Draft 1 includes provisions to have accessible voting machines at the newly established voter service centers, and electronic ballots may be requested by a person with a disability at any time. These provisions are consistent with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 which ensures that people with disabilities may vote independently and privately.

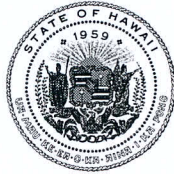
The bill references “voters with special needs” and we ask to have that phrase defined in the bill. Are “voters with special needs” referring to people with disabilities or others who may need assistance, such as people with limited English proficiency? If that is the case, it needs to be defined in the bill. People with disabilities are not “voters with special needs” they have the same rights as other voters but may need to have access in a different manner when compared to other voters. If “voters with special needs” means “voters with disabilities” than we request you use the appropriate terminology.

Our final concern is the number of voter service centers is defined by population of a particular county. The County of Hawaii has a greater land mass than other counties but may need to have more voter service centers based on size and distance the voter may need to travel to drop off a ballot. Although voters may vote and return their ballots by mail, it may not be the most accessible option for the voter. Each county may wish to establish voter service centers based on their own needs and criteria. We suggest that the law suggest a minimum number of voter service centers based on population, however it should be left to each county to determine the number of voter service centers that meets their needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



**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 JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1248, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 14, 2019

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1. This bill implements elections by mail statewide beginning in 2020.

The Office of Elections supports elections by mail because it is convenient and accessible for voters, and it will streamline the administration of elections. In recent elections, more than half of voters have cast their ballot prior to election day.

Additionally, elections by mail would limit logistical issues and voter confusion that may occur at polling place facilities in close proximity to the election. For example, we were notified on June 25, 2018 that the Waikele Elementary School Cafeteria would be unavailable for the Primary Election due to demolition and construction. Waikele Elementary School Cafeteria serves as a polling place for two precincts, 35-05 and 37-04. We mailed letters to these voters notifying them that their polling place had been reassigned to Waikele Community Park for voters of 35-05, and Kanoelani School for voters of 37-04. However, Election Day Officials reported that there was voter confusion as these voters have been voting at Waikele Elementary School since the early 2000s.

This bill appropriates \$200,000 to the Office of Elections for voter education and implementation of elections by mail, and \$830,731 to the Counties in the form of grants based on the percentage of registered voters. These totals were provided during the 2018 Legislative Session by our office with the help of the Counties. Since that time, \$75,450 was appropriated to the County of Kauai

to implement the 2020 elections by mail pilot program, and the Counties have reviewed their estimated costs detailed in the table below:

Office of Elections	200,000
County of Hawaii	328,812
County of Maui	205,695
City and County of Honolulu	<u>377,620</u>
Total	<u>\$1,112,127</u>

As such, we would ask that this bill appropriate \$1,112,127 to implement elections by mail. Additionally, we would ask that the bill appropriate the specified total for each County rather than as a percentage of voter registration. The Counties' estimates are for capital equipment such as a high-speed scanner/sorter to receive and validate voted mail return envelopes, as well as security cages to store validated ballots that are not being directly processed. Once elections by mail has been implemented statewide, we estimate a cost-savings of \$750,000 which is primarily based on the cost of Election Day Officials who would staff and support polling places.

We would propose amending Section 11-1(d)(2) to require the minimum number of places of deposit and in-person voting to refer to a County rather than each island. For example, as written, this Section would require the County of Kauai to establish a place of deposit on the island of Niihau which is privately owned. In the past, the owners have indicated their preference for voting by mail and to rely on the United States Postal Service pursuant to HRS §15-4.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1.

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
County Clerk



MARGARET C. CLARK
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

TESTIMONY OF JOSIAH NISHITA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1248, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

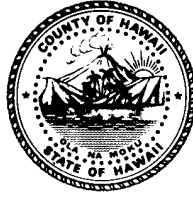
March 14, 2019

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1. This bill will enact voting by mail uniformly for all counties beginning in 2020.

We feel that elections by mail is a more efficient and effective way to reach our voters and administer elections. Additionally, we would be prepared to implement voting by mail in 2020, and we respectfully request your support of this Bill and implementation date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1.

JON HENRICKS
County Clerk



AARON BROWN
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elections Division
County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

LATE

TESTIMONY OF JON HENRICKS
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1248, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 13, 2019

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1. This bill implements voting by mail statewide beginning in 2020.

Our office supports the intent of this bill. Currently, elections in our state consist of absentee voting by mail, absentee walk-in sites and Election Day voting. Absentee voting was implemented to supplement Election Day polling places to allow voters more convenient and accessible ways to vote. Individuals choosing to vote absentee has consistently increased with more than half of voters casting their ballot prior to Election Day.

We believe transitioning to a vote by mail election would increase voter turnout by creating a more convenient voter process and could allow for financial savings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1.



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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 9:30 a.m. Room 016
HB 1248 HD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii **strongly supports HB 1248, HD1 that would introduce voting by mail statewide for all elections beginning with the primary election in 2020.** We acknowledge the diligent work already done over the past five years by the Senate and House Judiciary Committees to craft a comprehensive, clear "Vote by Mail" bill. Hawaii's Voters can be confident that when our Vote by Mail bill passes, the measure is well integrated with existing elections law.

Now we have reached the stage where resolution of the minor differences between House and Senate versions of the "Voting by Mail" bills can position this effort for final passage by the Legislature. We have not identified every difference between House and Senate versions, but respectfully suggest resolution of the following:

1. Regarding "voters with special needs," we applaud improved access via electronic transmission of ballots for "voters with special needs." As previously suggested by the State Disabilities Council, it would be a good idea to define "voters with special needs" in the bill, if not otherwise defined in a separate bill.
2. Since last Fall, much has been made over procedures for returning ballots to the Clerk on Election Day. But Section 11-D (c) of HB1248 HD1 sets deadlines that differ, depending on the method of delivery. In fact, this measure calls for mail ballots to be postmarked before midnight **five days before Election Day**. This would confuse voters, so we hope the deadlines contained in SB 560 SD2 for return of the ballot by closing time on Election Day could be substituted. We would support changing the time of closure of voting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as outlined in the House bill
3. We have no objection to requiring a minimum number of places of deposit for each island, as HB 1248 HD1 sets out. In fact, this might serve to clarify that the place of deposit option will be available to everyone.
4. Regarding tabulation of ballots, resolution of a few prominent questions can help avoid issues that cropped up in the 2018 general election, help avoid any unnecessary recounts, and maintain voters' confidence that "every vote counts." Ballots received by the Clerk on Election Day which cannot immediately be validated should not be comingled with other ballots. We suggest the language in the companion SB560 SD2 provides a practical solution to this concern by providing for an initial tabulation of ballots by 6:00 a.m. on the day following Election Day and an additional seven days to finish the final recount. We hope the House bill can be amended to include this two-step tabulation language as found in SB560, SD2.



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5. Section 36, 8, B of HB1248 HD1 adds a new misdemeanor for a ballot voted by mail other than by those persons authorized to do so; this should go a long way toward discouraging improper handling, collection or mailing of another voter's ballot, and we support this change.

An appropriation is required for implementation of Vote by Mail. We fully support the effort to measure savings derived through voting by mail instead of polling place voting; this assessment should be included in the Office of Elections reports to the legislature for sessions 2020 through 2025.

The Office of Elections has already testified that \$1,112,127 is needed to implement voting by mail statewide (not including \$75,450 already appropriated for the 2020 Kauai elections pilot). By any measure of conventional financial return on investment, this is a good start on a program that will have a \$750,000 per election cycle once fully implemented. Importantly, the bill's appropriation includes \$200 thousand for voter education and public awareness of this change to Hawaii's elections; this is essential for smooth implementation of vote by mail.

This measure holds promise for Hawaii voters and will strengthen democracy in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:15:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



Hawaii

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Hawaii • 307A Kamani St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.275.6275

To: The Senate Committee on the Judiciary
From: Brodie Lockard for the Common Cause Hawaii Board
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019, 9:30 am

In strong support of HB 1248 HD1

Dear JDC Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members—

Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately **\$750,000 would be saved** in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

For many years Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 HD1 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii

LATE

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:06:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

www.WeAreOne.cc

LATE

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:28:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Testifying for Hawaii Advocates For consumer Rights	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Re: Re: HB1248HD1 "Relating To Elections."

For many years Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state. voting by mail (VBM) makes voting easy and convenient. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB1248HD1 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Please support this long-needed legislation.

Mahalo.

Scott Foster
Communications Director
Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights
808-590-5880

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 10:11:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Testifying for Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Wakai and members,

The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in strong support of this measure. States that have adopted this method of voting have had substantial increases in voter participation.

In addition, in our state, data shows that women vote in far lower numbers than men, giving us even less of a say in our democracy. We hope that this measure will help to change that.

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:54:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been testifying in support of this measure for way too long. More people are voting absentee than showing up at the polls. It costs more to have elections at the polls than mail ballots. It is hard for the authorities to find poll workers and poll watchers. Mail is the way to go, now. Stop stalling. This must take effect in 2020.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
RE: HB 1248, HD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020. Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the election by mail program. Requires the office of elections to submit a report to the legislature regarding the implementation of a vote by mail system. (HB1248 HD1)

FOR HEARING ON Pō'ahā, Malaki 14, 2019 / Thursday, March 14, 2019

FROM:

Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Apt. 1205
Kane'ohe, HI, 96744
Tel. 808.247.7942

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Voting by mail, early voting, or absentee voting should be the exception — not the normal, routine, expected procedure. There are many reasons why.

Hawaii voters are being herded like sheep to vote by mailed absentee ballots (and eventually to vote electronically through the internet). Holding elections that way might save money, produce immediate final results the moment the "polls" close, and be extremely convenient for voters. But voter turnout has not improved in recent years despite easy mail-in of ballots and even-easier registration.

During the past several years news media editorials have repeatedly said that Hawaii's dismal voter turnout would be greatly improved by allowing early voting, absentee voting, mail-in voting, electronic voter registration, and same-day voter registration. Since 2010 Hawaii people have been offered the even greater convenience to never again need to apply for an absentee ballot -- just mail a request one time for permanent absentee voting. But as these methods have been adopted, voter turnout has not noticeably improved. Electronic voting by internet has even been tried for neighborhood board elections on O'ahu, but voter turnout has not improved.

VOTING BY MAIL MAKES IT EASY FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF VOTERS TO SELL THEIR VOTES; OR FOR CANDIDATES, UNION STEWARDS, OR CORPORATE BOSSES TO INTIMIDATE VOTERS IN LARGE NUMBERS.

In the "good old days" of in-person voting, a voter could take money and sell his vote, but could nevertheless vote for whichever candidate he wanted, because the ballot was marked in the privacy and secrecy of the voting booth. However, if a voter takes possession of an absentee ballot to be returned by mail, then someone else who buys that vote or intimidates that voter can actually watch the voter mark the ballot; can watch to be sure the ballot gets enclosed inside the official envelope and the envelope gets signed by the voter; and then can mail the envelope for the voter to be sure it gets sent in. Thus the buyer or intimidator can be absolutely certain that the vote has been cast the way the buyer or intimidator wants.

The way for a buyer or intimidator to control large numbers of votes is to demand that people apply for and receive absentee ballots to be returned by mail. Since the period for absentee voting lasts several weeks, there's plenty of time for one buyer or intimidator to control hundreds of votes. Here are a few obvious ways to do that. A candidate who "walks his district" can use the telephone to line up voters to get absentee ballots and then make appointments; and then visit each of them at home to watch them mark the ballots, seal them in the outer mailing envelope and sign the envelope; and then take the envelopes to the post office. A union steward or company boss can instruct large numbers of workers to get absentee ballots, and then organize a meeting where everyone comes to fill out the ballots and sign the envelopes together. A candidate could also do the same thing at an assisted living facility, care home, nursing home, or hospital; meeting with a large number of absentee voters who might have painful or debilitating illnesses that distract them from paying attention; or diminished mental capacity.

These doomsday scenarios are not merely speculative. Romy Cachola was a member of Honolulu City Council. Term limits forced him out of office in

2012. He ran in the primary election on August 11, 2012 for the state House of Representatives, against first-time candidate Nicole Velasco. There are both voter narratives and statistical evidence proving that Cachola stole the election by using voter intimidation with absentee ballots. Chad Blair published articles describing what happened in Civil Beat online newspaper, on August 16

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2012/08/16/16869-concerns-of-voter-intimidation-raised-in-cachola-victory/>

and August 17

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2012/08/17/16880-hawaii-law-prohibits-voter-intimidation/>

Chad Blair reported "Cachola won 51 percent to 46 percent. ... But if only Election Day and early walk-in votes had been counted, Velasco would have won in a landslide, 60 percent to 36 percent. ... According to a Civil Beat analysis, more than 70 percent of those who voted for Cachola in the Democratic primary against Velasco did so via a mail-in ballot. That was by far the highest percentage in Hawaii. ... In all, 41 percent of votes cast were mail-in votes, placing Cachola's 70 percent figure in even sharper contrast. ... Civil Beat granted anonymity to a Filipino family in District 30 who says Cachola forced the grandmother of the house to complete an absentee ballot as he watched. ... "And he just like forced me to do the voting in front of him, and I did not want to. I told him, 'I have to go, I know what to do.' So I stopped what I did, then he looked at his name. I scratched it, and he watched me do it all the way until I finished." The woman said Cachola then told her to put the ballot in the state Elections Office envelope, to seal it and then give it to him to mail. He then left the house with the ballot in hand. ... The family, who supported Velasco and sign-waved on her behalf, said they told Velasco about what happened. ... There was a similar voting pattern when Cachola first ran for the City Council in 2000. In a primary election race, he won 46 percent to 43 percent over his closest competitor, Dennis Nakasato. Among mail-in absentee voters, Cachola secured 59 percent of the vote. Among those who voted in person — either on Election Day or before it — he got only 43 percent of the vote. ..."

VOTING MY MAIL, OR ABSENTEE VOTING, IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS OR THE HAWAII LEGISLATURE. THINK ABOUT WHY.

Anyone who watches the U.S. Senate or House on C-SPAN can see that absentee voting is not allowed for either a voice vote or a roll call vote. In the House, each of the 435 representatives can vote in a roll call only from his chair on the floor by pressing a button for "aye" or "nay" or "present (but abstain)." The votes are then tallied by a central computer and the running count is publicly displayed throughout the ten or twenty minutes set aside for voting, after which the result becomes final. In a Senate roll call vote, a period of time is allowed during which each Senator must approach the clerk's desk and be recognized by the clerk who speaks the Senator's name through a publicly audible microphone. The Senator then speaks the word "aye" or "nay" or "present", and the clerk then repeats both the Senator's name and his vote. That's very 19th Century!

Wouldn't it be much more convenient if a Representative or Senator didn't have to get on the little underground train from his office building to the Capitol building? Why can't he simply watch the proceedings on TV and cast his vote from the comfort of his office? Think how much time and inconvenience could be saved. Indeed, why should a Representative or Senator who is ill or perhaps hospitalized a thousand miles away not be allowed to vote from his home or bed? There have been extremely dramatic, courageous incidents when a Member of Congress knew his vote could be decisive and made a point of coming in person to cast his vote, because otherwise he would not be allowed to vote. On July 22, 2012 Nicole Debevec of United Press International recalled that "Rep. William Natcher, D-Ky., who served until his death in 1994, holds the record for the most consecutive roll-call votes: 18,401 over 41 years, until an illness broke the streak. Roll Call [publication] reported Natcher was wheeled onto the House floor on a hospital gurney to cast one of his final votes." http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/07/22/Politics-2012-Of-ads-and-adages/UPI-13111342944000/#ixzz23wm0cixH

There must be very good reasons why the U.S. Congress refuses to allow absentee voting. Readers can easily figure out many of those reasons. Anytime someone suggests the Hawaii government should make elections happen entirely by mail or absentee voting, we should demand to know why a Hawaii citizen's vote is less important than a vote by a Member of Congress. And anytime an individual voter considers whether to apply for an absentee ballot, he should think about the reasons why a Representative or Senator is required to cast every vote in person, sometimes at great inconvenience and even at the risk of losing his life to get to the "polling place."

Do-gooders think society should do everything possible to increase voter participation by making it easy and convenient to vote. But perhaps it's better to require people to go out of their way to vote. If someone has such little knowledge about the candidates, or cares so little about the election that he is unwilling to make the effort to go to the polling place on election day, then perhaps we're all better off if he does not vote. Low voter turnout is evidence that people can't find candidates they consider worthy of voting for. Personally, I don't mind if voter turnout is low, because that magnifies the effectiveness of my own vote. Ignorant or apathetic people are welcome to abstain.

The right to vote should be exercised by people who know how precious is the blood and treasure sacrificed to make it possible. The founders of our nation signed the Declaration of Independence right below its closing words "... we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Surely we can show our respect by sacrificing a few minutes to go to the polling place on election day.

MAIL-IN BALLOTS REJECTED FOR ERRORS GET NO SECOND CHANCE

I have served as a precinct elections official in every election for 26 years (except the general election of 2000 when I was a candidate for OHA and therefore not allowed to work in the general election). For the most recent

several elections we have had voting machines which detect errors and immediately kick back a bad ballot along with a message helping the voter understand what's wrong. The voter can then get a new ballot and try again.

In the primary election of 2012, and again in 2018, I spent nearly the whole time from 7 AM to 6 PM sitting at the voting machine helping voters insert their ballots and helping them understand why bad ballots got rejected. Perhaps ten percent of ballots got rejected.

The two most frequent reasons were failure to mark the box to choose a particular political party, or voting for candidates in a political party different from the one selected (For example, vote for both Linda Lingle [R] and Mazie Hirono [D] for Senate). Some voters simply didn't understand that the purpose of a primary election is for each party to choose who will be its candidate to run against the other parties' candidates in November. In a primary election a voter must pretend for that one day to be a loyal member of one political party -- the voter must first mark the ballot to identify which party that is, and then must vote only for candidates inside that particular party (plus the non-partisan OHA and county contests on the back side). A few voters also didn't realize that "non-partisan" is actually used as a party name on the front, and thought they could vote for a "non-partisan" candidate in addition to a Democrat or Republican etc. A few voters also voted for more than one candidate in the same contest (for example, both Tulsi Gabbard and Esther Kia'aina among the Democrat candidates for Second Congressional District).

The voting machine catches such errors and kicks back the ballot so the voter can get a replacement ballot and try again. But if an absentee ballot is mailed in, and has an error, the voter gets no second chance. Sometimes in-person voters get frustrated, angry, or disgusted when they make an error and don't want to get a replacement ballot. There is a button on the machine whereby a voter can tell the machine to accept the ballot despite the error. In that case, if the error affects only one contest, then the particular contest where the error occurred is ignored by the machine, but other contests get counted. What happens with mailed-in absentee ballots

that have errors? The commonsense procedure would be for an elections official to push the button to accept the ballot despite the error, so that at least the contests without any error would get counted. But I don't know whether that's how the bureaucrats handle it. In any case, the absentee voter loses out on the opportunity he would have had at the polling place to get a replacement ballot to correct whatever error he made. It would be interesting to find out how many such errors there were among the absentee ballots, and whether the number of errors in any particular contest was larger than the margin of victory and thus could have changed the outcome of the election.

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:48:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear JDC Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately **\$750,000 would be saved** in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

For many years Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 HD1 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 8:20:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB 1248 to enact voting by ail across all counties. This will streamline the voting process, save a lot of money and increase voter participation.

Mahalo!

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 8:23:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PL Fritz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the changes that have been made to date that provide greater access for individuals with disabilities.

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:50:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1248-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:11:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear JDC Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members—

Like many others, I strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately **\$750,000 would be saved** in EACH election cycle by converting to VBM. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

For many years Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places. Not to mention fewer hours of missed work.

Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 HD1 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your continued service to our community. Aloha, Greg Puppione

Honolulu, HI