

**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
ON SENATE BILL NO. 412
RELATING TO VOTING

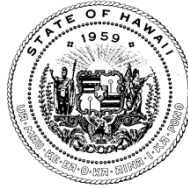
February 6, 2019

Chair Inouye and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412. This bill makes the completion of a voter registration affidavit, unless the applicant affirmatively declines, a mandatory part of all driver license and identification card applications.

The Office of Elections believes that this bill will increase the opportunities for members of our community to register to vote, as it requires the applicant to directly address the question of whether they wish to be automatically registered to vote, or to opt out as part of the driver license and identification card application process.

Additionally, this bill ensures the accuracy of the voter registration rolls by electronically transmitting voter registration data between the driver license and identification card database and the statewide voter registration system. The electronic sharing of data between driver licensing officials and election officials will help to ensure timely compliance with the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act. 52 USC §21083(a)(5)(B) & 52 USC §20504.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

February 6, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

LATE

**S. B. 412
RELATING TO VOTING**

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill with the following amendment.

Pursuant to Section 286-172, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Director of Transportation has the authority to determine the distribution of the personal information contained in the driver license and civil identification statewide traffic records system.

Therefore, DOT suggests amending Section 1, 11- (d) on page 3, lines 10-18 to read as follows: "Databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information, including any documents or images, shall be directly accessible and provided electronically to election officials and the statewide voter registration system to allow for the timely processing of voter applications, ensure the integrity of the voter registration polls, and for any other [government] voter registration purpose, [as determined] requested of the director of transportation by the chief election officer."

Further, should there be a need to modify the voter registration form, DOT and the Office of Elections will need to work collaboratively to ensure the driver's license application form and civil identification card application form reflects the legislated requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2019, 1:15 p.m., Room 225
SB412 RELATING TO VOTING

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Harimoto and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB412 providing that when eligible voters apply for a State driver's license or State ID card, they will automatically be signed up to vote, unless they decline. For voters already registered, this would also provide a convenient way to update voter contact information (such as a new mailing address).

It is well established that Hawaii suffers from both poor voter registration rates and poor voter turnout. One estimate is that 25% of those eligible to vote haven't done so. The League supports each of the different approaches to improved registration in the measures under consideration in the Legislature: 1) Automatic Voter Registration through tax returns and public assistance applications; 2) automatic pre-registration of 16 year old public high school students eligible to preregister and 3) automatic voter registration through the driver's license and State ID process. These approaches don't conflict and have been implemented in other jurisdictions such as Massachusetts.

However, in contrast to other bills that feature a "back end declination," where registration officials would have to later remind the voter of opt out procedures after they first register, SB412 informs the individual of their right to decline to register during the initial registration transaction and prohibits the examiner of drivers licenses from transmitting voter registration affidavits to the County Clerk. We believe this is an adequate and efficient procedure.

There are several public stakeholders involved with this bill. We thank the State Department of Transportation, County licensing examiners, and the Honolulu County Department of Information Technology for work already done to prepare for implementation of this measure.



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Since the target population of this bill is very broad, nearly universal and since preparation work is already well underway, it makes sense to begin this reform with a “driver’s license-automatic voter registration” bill.

There are 10 “Automatic Voter Registration” bills before this Legislature, a good indication that the public wants this reform. We urge you to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:29:41 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vince Kana`i Dodge	Testifying for `Ai Pohaku	Support	No

Comments:

Folks this one HB412 will just make it easier for us people to vote and our system sure needs more people to vote. It can't hurt.

plz support HB412

Mahalo nui!

Vince Kanai Dodge

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 2:07:25 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii fully supports SB 412.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair
LGBT Caucus of the DPH



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 31, 2019 2:00 PM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **SB 412**: Relating to Voting

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the committee,

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 412**. This bill requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. It authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system and goes into effect on 1/1/2020.

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 protect their right to vote, have their voices heard in government, and consistently engage in the legislative process. Automatic voter registration would make these efforts just that much easier for many residents.

Automatic voter registration eliminates unnecessary barriers to voting via the time and effort needed from other registration methods. Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the US for the last twenty years. Automatic voter registration is one step in ensuring a easy, convenient, and accessible democratic process for all.

This measure strengthens our democracy, increases the security of our elections, and is simply more cost effective than paper applications. An 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, homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 412**.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Transportation

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 6, 2019

S.B. 412 – RELATING TO VOTING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 412 which requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, instruction permit, or identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote.

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy and essential to protect all other rights, therefore we must ensure that the voting process is easy to understand and participate in. Given Hawaii's infamously low voter turn out, the Legislature has taken appropriate steps to make it easier for residents to vote, which include permitting permanent absentee voter status, implementing online voter registration in 2015, and phasing in same-day registration in 2016. The next logical step to improve and increase access to voting is to implement automatic voter registration, as many other states have done. Automatic voter registration reduces the time and effort it takes to register, ensures current addresses are on file, and reduces the overall costs to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 412.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225
SB 412 – Relating To Voting**

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Harimoto and members of the TRS Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like express **support of SB 412**, Relating to Voting.

Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits. Our mission is to unite and strengthen the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai`i. Our member organizations provide essential services to every community in the state.

HANO supports a civically engaged populace and believes all citizens should participate in the democratic process of voting to have a say in community matters.

SB 412 requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote.

Hawaii's voting record has been the lowest in the country for the last 20 years. Automatic voter registration (AVR) will help improve access to voting. Hawaii would follow 17 other states and the District of Columbia in adopting AVR.

AVR helps ensure that voting isn't difficult for working and military families who move frequently, as well as homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas, many of whom are also constituents of Hawaii's nonprofit sector.

We ask for your support of this bill and appreciate your consideration of this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Lisa Maruyama
President and CEO



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In Support of SB 412 – Relating to Voting
Senate Committee on Transportation
Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 1:15 PM, in Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **SB 412**, which would automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they apply for or renew their Hawai'i Drivers' License or State ID, unless they choose to opt out.

According to the United States Election Project, fewer than 4 in 10 of Hawai'i's voting-eligible population voted in the 2018 general election, yet again placing us last in the nation.¹

The logistical barriers to registering to vote are especially high for our low-income neighbors, since they are less likely to have the time or flexibility in their schedules to register in person or via mail or to have internet access to register online.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) would help overcome those barriers. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters. Implementing AVR would:

- Save the state of Hawai'i a lot of money. It costs almost 30 times more to process a paper application versus an electronic one. For the 2016 election, the labor costs to process paper forms totaled over half a million dollars.
- Make elections more secure and accurate with frequent updates to the voter rolls.
- Make voting more convenient for seniors, voters in rural areas, and working and military families who move frequently.

We need to act to get more than 4 in 10 of our eligible voters to vote in our elections. Hawai'i should join the 17 other states and the District of Columbia that have already approved AVR.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

¹ <http://www.electproject.org/2018g>

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:17:24 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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



TO: Committee on Transportation

RE: Testimony in Support of SB412

2/5/2019

Aloha Chair Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair Breene Harimoto, committee members,

As an organizer on behalf of Young Progressives Demanding Action, I am writing to express my strong support of SB412.

Automatic Voter Registration is the logical next step towards the streamlining and modernization of our elections system. Election security will be improved due to the more frequent alignment and increased accuracy of voter rolls, as well the use of an encrypted system, rather than paper forms, to transfer data. This system will ensure that all eligible voters in Hawai'i are registered to vote at their current address, tightening the security of our elections by ensuring that ballots are sent to the correct location and voter.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) will also improve access to voting for citizens, particularly those most strained in our society who may be homebound, frequently moving, or juggling the responsibilities of work, school and family. It will greatly simplify the process and reduce time constraints around voting, thus promoting the likelihood of greater voter turnout. As other states have implemented AVR, data has supported this trend. Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years, and as such could greatly benefit from implementing a system that improves the accessibility and ease of voting for all that are eligible.

There are also cost benefits to implementing AVR, as studies have found it be 30 times cheaper than traditional paper registration. It cost nearly \$575,000 to process paper forms in Hawai'i during the 2016 election. This does not include the printing of voter registration forms, mailings related to duplicate registration entries, and the postage of forwarding registration forms to the proper recipient. Up-to-date voter rolls would furthermore minimize the mailing of ballots to incorrect or obsolete addresses, thus reducing costs even further.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ida Peric

Community Organizer

Young Progressives Demanding Action

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:31:45 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Transportation

DATE: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TIME: 1:15 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 225

LATE

Testimony in support of SB 412, Relating to Voting

Aloha, my name is Melissa Pavlicek and I'm testifying on behalf of AVR Hawaii in **support** of SB 412 which requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote.

We are in support of this measure. Automatic voter registration is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii. Hawaii implemented Online Voter Registration in 2015 and phased in same-day registration starting in 2016. Automatic Voter Registration is the logical next step. Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. This measure is intended to turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting.

AVR Hawaii is a coalition of organizations and individuals who support automatic voter registration in Hawaii. For more information go to avrhawaii.com

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:13:59 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:00:42 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:07:41 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Weger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure is an obvious one. This plus voting by mail will enhance our democracy--and possibly change our dismal voter turnout.

We have a unique opportunity as what is essentially a one-party state--automatic registration and voting by mail are not opposed by more conservative (Republican) candidates who do better when turnout is low. Let's implement these measures now and set an example for the rest of the nation.

Mahalo,

Christine Weger, Atty at Law

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:22:22 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

This is an example of legislation that should sail through because it promises to improve the way government works and the way people respond to government and the opportunities for citizen engagement. Recent court cases locally point to the importance of getting more people engaged in exercising their right their vote so that election results are decisive. But with millennials juggling work and school, parents struggling with child care,kupuna care, and multiple jobs, the time demands on potential voters are many and onerous. Making the registration process automatic, with the freedom to opt out if they so wish, increases the likelihood of people voting when elections next roll around, That is good if we are sincere about wanting to increase voter participation and if we are sincere about improving democracy and how it works in Hawaii. Please move this bill forward. Thank you.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:23:36 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Cail	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

While many states are working on voter suppression, let Hawaii lead the way to easy voter registration. Thank you.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:44:15 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:52:56 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Loomis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In an age when gerrymandering and flagrant efforts at voter supression have, in many jurisdictions, been successful, this bill will ```` to the other states and other election officials.`I urge the members of the Legislature to approve this measure without delay. Make us proud, folks!

James L. Loomis

1291 West Kuiaha Road

Haiku, Maui, Hawaii 96708

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:52:31 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to make it as easy as possible to vote!

Date: February 4, 2019

To: The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

Re: **Strong Support of SB412**, Relating to Voting

Hrg: February 6, 2019 at 1:15 PM in Capitol Room 225

Aloha Senate Committee on Transportation,

I am writing in **strong support of SB412**, which requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. The bill also authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system.

Automatic voter registration (AVR) increases the opportunity for all eligible adults to be registered to vote at every election and the likelihood that people will vote, while allowing those who wish to opt out.

AVR increases the diversity of the voting population, making it more representative of the state population.

AVR lowers voter registration costs.

AVR reduces registration-related errors. A study conducted in Arizona found that the small percentage of paper-based registrations in one county made up an overwhelming number of registration errors in that county.

With AVR, only eligible voters are registered to vote, state databases are promptly updated and there is greater accuracy of eligibility information such as dates of birth which leads to greater security of our elections.

I **strongly support SB412** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Kea'au, HI

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:39:06 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James R Lamerson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Name	JAMES R LAMERSON LAMERSON
Email	jrlamerson@hardwarehawaii.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412
Testimony	<p>Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, members,</p> <p>I am 42 years old and was a first time voter in 2016. Because I went to my polling location early in the day and had pre-registered online my experience was initially smooth and pleasant. I decided to spend the day there to observe, help, and learn more about our democratic process. Within a couple of hours things got very busy, as the day progressed everything eventually descended into chaos. Our polling station was not prepared for the high volume of first time voters. When the station declared that they were closing and that voting was done we had hundreds of first time voters still standing in line waiting to be registered. I left that afternoon, my heart heavy with an overwhelming sense of disappointment, and quite frankly disgust with the organization of our voting system. Automatic registration would have prevented so many people from being denied their right to participate in our democratic process.</p> <p>I wholeheartedly support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.</p> <p>Our recent political climate has activated and charged up many who would have previously been non-participants. AVR will significantly resolve issues faced by first-time voters by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save</p>

the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.

I am hopeful for a truly representative democracy for the People of our state and nation. It begins here.

Mahalo,

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:52:35 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In graduate school at U.C. Berkeley in the 1980s, my professor, Ray Wolfinger, argued that voter registration hurdles were the biggest reasons for low voter turnout. It may be a little less true in Hawaii today, but there is still truth to the point. This will help increase voter turn-out.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:05:38 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB412. Automatic voter registration will encourage more legitimate and participatory elections. Let's make it easier for people to exercise their citizen rights when they renew their IDs/driver's license.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:26:58 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the committee,

I support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. AVR will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting.

As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu (makikirandy@yahoo.com)

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412
Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, members,

I support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. AVR will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.

Mahalo

James McDonough	Diane Koerner Koerner	Justin Jansen
Shannon Rudolph	Elizabeth O'Connor	Angela Britten
Sandee Pa	Erica Scott	Will Caron
Healani Sonoda-Pale	Randy Ching	Richard Janik
Sharon Willeford	Javier Mendez	Korynn Grenert
Randy Gonce	Carla Allison	Jun Shin
Timothy Starbright	Lurline Bettencourt	Laura Ramirez
Michael deYcaza	Toi Norwood	Kenneth Hirsch
Sheryl Lynch		

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, members,

I support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.

Automatic Voter Registration is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawai'i. Hawai'i is using out-of-date systems and decades-old technology. It's time to modernize. Hawai'i, implemented Online Voter Registration in 2015 and phased in same day registration starting in 2016. Automatic Voter Registration is the logical next step.

Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. This will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. Research shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

Automatic Voter Registration will enhance the security of our elections. Recent court challenges surrounding local races highlight the need for greater security. Elections will be more secure due to the increased accuracy of voter rolls and use of an encrypted system, rather than paper forms, to transfer data.

Automatic Voter Registration will ensure accuracy and privacy. All eligible voters in Hawai'i will be registered to vote at their current address, tightening the security of our elections by ensuring that ballots are sent to the correct location and correct voter. Privacy will be protected, and those who wish to opt-out may still do so.

Automatic Voter Registration is 30 times cheaper than traditional paper registration. It cost nearly \$575,000 to process paper forms in Hawai'i during the 2016 election. This does not include the printing of voter registration forms, mailings related to duplicate registration entries, and the postage of forwarding registration forms to the proper recipient. Nor does it include more than 33,000 applications submitted during the 2016 election cycle that the state did not categorize when reporting the data. Up-to-date voter rolls will help reduce the cost of sending ballots to wrong addresses.

Automatic Voter Registration improves access to voting for citizens. AVR helps 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. AVR reduces unnecessary barriers to voting and greatly reduces the time demands required to vote for people holding multiple jobs or who are juggling school, work and family. Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. AVR will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.

Mahalo,

Eric Schrager
Ewa Beach, HI

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412
Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, members,

I enthusiastically support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. AVR will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.

Hawaii could lead the way nation wide in making sure as many people are registered and vote as possible. Please pass this legislation and let's show the rest of the country what can be done to make our elections work for all the people.

Mahalo,

Marina Drummer
4328 Kilauea Rd.
Kilauea, HI. 96754

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:19:04 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support automatic voter registration. I believe it is the most fair system to get voters on board and encourage a large voter turnout in response.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:58:33 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:36:30 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica murray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is clear from election fraud in 21st century that this is not the only measure we need to put in to place. We need to make it easy to register, easy to cast a vote and with security measures in place hat put confidence in voters hat they are being heard correctly.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:50:59 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Paterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill would both expedite the voting procedure, but also give the general public an easy way to vote or register. Please vote yes on this issue.

Respectfully

Mary Paterson

Kauai County

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:49:19 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Fontana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The voting access need great improvements, and this bill is a good start. Registration needs to me made easier and more efficient. Please pass.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:47:24 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shayne stambler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

mail in would be more efficient

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:08:22 AM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peg Sullivan-Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this Automatic Voter Registration bill...I have been a proponent of AVR for many years and have wondered why it hasn't been in place already. Voting is the fundamental tool for democracy.. AVR will streamline the process, avoid as much corruption, and give residents easier and more fair access to the ballot..The time is now for something that should have been in place long ago..

Thank you,

Peg Sullivan-Miller

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:25:07 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
william digiorgio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There should not be any impediments to voting in a healthy democracy. Automatic voter registration assures that everyone's voice can be heard. I wholeheartedly support this measure.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:10:19 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JULIA FUJIOKA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB412. We need Automatic Voter Registration to make voting accessible to more people, which will increase voter turnout. Our State has been near the bottom of the list of low voter turnout. AVR will also save the state money in election/voting manpower.

Mahalo,

Julia Fujioka

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:39:04 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauralee Baoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Automatic voter registration makes it easier for people to get involved in the voting process. I support SB 412.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:15:03 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Leonard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:11:13 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Voter turnout is extremely low in the state of Hawaii. If we are to ensure representation of all constituents, auto registration is a step forward.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:44:58 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Bojanowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re. Hearing at 1:15 pm 2/6/19

Dear Sen. Inouye, Sen. Harimoto, and other Members of the Committee on Transportation,

I am writing in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of SB412 relating to voter registration. Please pass this important bill to increase our state's voter turnout and strengthen voter rights.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Bojanowski
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:37:59 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of making voting as accessible and unencumbered as possible. This opt-out proposal is a great solution. Perhaps we should also automatically register everyone for an absentee ballot at the same time; if they chooses to vote at the poll instead, they can just exchange their absentee ballot at the poll.

Thank you,

Kim Coco

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:32:50 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am strongly in support of SB412

It is brilliant and makes total sense to improve voter turn out. The bill is totally positive.

Please support SB 412

Mahalo,

Noreen Dougherty PO Box 685

Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:28:25 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
petra zoeller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:27:56 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:16:42 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pablo Beimler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:10:41 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natasha Boteilho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Maam/Sir

Please support SB 412. We know that automatic voter registration works by increasing voter turnout, closes loopholes and it's cheaper innovative way to register to vote. As a Waianae resident, I pray this is Bill gets approved increases voter turnout in my district because of it.

Natasha Boteilho

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:07:17 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurel Quarton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:02:19 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angus Raff-Tierney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB412. At the present time, when a resident obtains or renews their driver’s license the option of also registering to vote is available. This is called an “opt in” option. Unfortunately, most people are not aware of this option and in their rush to just get their license and get out – many, if not most, do not opt in and thus do not register to vote.

AVR simply reverses the process and makes it an “opt out” choice. Every resident who obtains a driver’s license is automatically registered to vote, unless they choose not to. Provisions to ensure that only those legally entitled to vote are put in place, that protect the integrity of the process.

Voter information is then electronically transferred between licensing and election officials, resulting in a more efficient, secure, convenient process that saves money.

Hawaii is presently using out-of-date systems and decades-old technology.

It’s time to modernize. It’s worked elsewhere. Why not here?

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:42:36 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie and Thomas Pasquale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a great idea. Voting by eligible citizens should always be made as convenient as possible to encourage participation in our democracy.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:40:31 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry OShaughnessy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill SB412 which will automatically register folks when they get their drivers license and they can opt out if desired. Keep it simple is the best motto. Please vote doe this smart bill.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:37:24 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:34:32 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:33:19 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:18:01 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:06:39 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:04:34 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Coon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill makes sense from a number of perspectives and I urge you to approve it.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:53:40 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:49:46 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judah Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a seasoned journalist and award-winning author of books promoting the consciousness needed for democracy to work, I am strongly supporting SB412 as an effective way to increase voter participation and strengthen our democracy.

Now it's your job, as legislators, to empower greater citizenship through this bill.

Judah Freed
Author, *Making Global Sense*
Kauai, Hawaii

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:48:34 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Hanger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:43:33 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:35:49 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Ornellas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Makes sense. Makes easier to exercise rights.

PASS THIS BILL

Mahalo

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:30:39 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think this is an excellent and efficient way to get more people registered to vote, the challenge will be getting them to the polls when it comes time to vote.

We shall see how this impacts our elections in the future, when registered voter numbers are up, but turn out is still low.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Adams

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:30:24 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:28:34 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Ernst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a long time Kauai resident, I ask for your support of this bill SB412.

I support this bill because it will save money, and at the same time, make it easier for busy, hard working people to vote. Win-Win !

Thank you for your consideration,

Jenny Ernst

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:25:15 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Weber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:22:29 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Small	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:03:24 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and its intention to make the process for voter registration easier for the regular person. By streamlining the process to driver's license registration, we can help improve our voter turnout and make it easier for the future generations to exercise their right to vote.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:02:24 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Canales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Agree

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:01:48 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill!

Mahalo,

Dr. Judith White

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:00:09 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:58:56 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Weltman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:58:06 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:01:30 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a no-brainer. Make it easy for people to vote. Please support this bill.

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:33:24 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I respectfully request that you pass this bill for Automatic Voter Registration.

Hawaii implemented Online Voter Registration in 2015 and phased in same day registration starting in 2016. Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) is the logical next step.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. The implementation of AVR in other communities has demonstrated clearly that it will help turn that trend around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting.

As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

Automatic Voter Registration helps to make sure that all eligible voters in Hawaii are registered to vote at their current address. This increases the security of our elections because we know that ballots are sent to the correct location and the correct voter.

Please support this bill!

Mahalo,

Sherry Pollock

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:29:49 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candice Pacheco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All voters should have easy access to vote. In a time where voter suppression is becoming more common place it is up to places like Hawaii to set a example of ethical and democratic behavior.

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:05:10 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Webster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chir and Members of the Committee. Please consider this my whole hearted endorsement of SB412. As we all know, Hawaii's voting record is one of the lowest in the country. Likning voter registration to license renewal is a creative and carefull considered approach for increasing the likelihood that people will vote.

Thanks for your consideration,

John Webster

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:56:06 AM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-412

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:17:35 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Dunville	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412
Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, members,

I support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. AVR will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.

Mahalo

Michael Stauber	Randy Ching	Marilyn Mick
Kat Culina	Greg and Pat Farstrup	Susan Roman
Jun Shin	Martha Nakajima	Randy Gonce
Kate Paine	Nathan Yuen	Joan Gannon
Keoni Mahelona	Mary Wagner	