



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/26/2019
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1485, HD1 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a process, beginning on January 1, 2020, for automatically preregistering or registering public school-enrolled students who are at least 16 years old. (HB1485 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1485, HD1 to increase Hawaii's youth voter participation and encourage civic engagement. This measure proposes to establish a process for automatically preregistering or registering public school-enrolled students who are least sixteen-year-old to vote in our state.

We prioritize civic engagement and efforts to increase voter participation among the future leaders in our public high schools. Towards this goal, the Department supports automatic voter registration as a mechanism to remove barriers to strengthen the voice and involvement of our youth.

The following amendments are respectfully offered for the Committee 's consideration:

Page 5, lines 2-5:

The ~~superintendent of education shall~~ department of education may transmit the voter registration affidavit to the clerk of the county in which the applicant resides, as necessary:...

Page 6, lines 9-13:

The ~~board and the superintendent shall~~ may adopt and communicate guidelines policies as necessary to maximize and facilitate the preregistration and registration of qualifying students to vote as provided in section 11- .

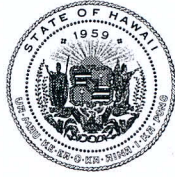
As this proposed measure will involve all Hawaii public high schools, further dialogue is needed to ensure effective implementation of HB 1485, HD1 in regards to the provision of voter affidavits translated in other languages for students and families whose primary language is

other than English.

Hawaii public schools continue to strengthen civic engagement as a critical avenue to cultivate positive change and a shared responsibility for our community well-being.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1485, HD1.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1485, HD 1
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

February 26, 2019

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1485, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to establish an automatic preregistration and registration program for public school students who are at least sixteen years old.

The Office of Elections believes that this bill will maximize voter registration by requiring the Department of Education to provide voter registration applications to all students who are at least sixteen years old and enrolled in a public high school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1485, HD 1.



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
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 26, 2019

H.B. 1485, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1485, H.D. 1 which establishes a process for automatically pre-registering public school-enrolled students who are at least sixteen years old.

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. We must make it easy for future generations to participate in our democracy and the passage of H.B. 1485, H.D. 1 will allow that.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1485, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 12:30 p.m., Room 308
HB1485 HD1 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION
TESTIMONY

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

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters strongly supports HB 1485 HD1 that would provide public high school students age 16 but not yet 18 and otherwise eligible to vote to be automatically preregistered. This is a very innovative approach to building lifelong voting habits among young people; our hope is it also starts a lifelong habit of being engaged in civic life and becoming informed voters who learn as much as possible about issues and candidates.

Your Committee on Judiciary clarified that students do maintain the option to subsequently opt in or opt out of preregistration or registration. This maximizes the window during which the student may change his mind about pre-registering.

In response to the legitimate student privacy concerns of the Department of Education, the HD1 version of this measure does not require electronic submission of pre-registration forms but does allow the Superintendent to manually transmit the forms to the County Clerk, election officials and the statewide voter registration system. Foregoing the operating cost savings and security of automatic transmission from records maintained by the Department is disappointing, but we certainly defer and respect the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

In their testimony the Department of Education identified “student voice,” as an impact strategy of their Strategic Plan, so the Leagues hopes the Department will reconsider (and advocate) that learning how to register to vote and then actually registering *are* legitimate educational interests. A modest appropriation for this bill is still appropriate as the high school student population is less familiar with how to register to vote than older people. We defer to education officials on what this amount should be.

We note that HB1485, HD1 could be implemented in conjunction with automatic *registration* approaches under consideration this session including HB1217 and SB 412, SD1, both of which require that people automatically be registered to vote if they meet the eligibility requirements to vote when they obtain a driver’s license or State Identification card.

We support the measure’s effective date of January 1, 2020. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 1485 HD1 – Relating to Voter Registration
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 12:30 PM, in conference room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 1485 HD1**, which would establish automatic voter pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-old public school students in our state.

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 pre-registering to vote for our low-income students, since they and their guardians are less likely to have the time, means and/or transportation to register in person or via mail, and also are less likely to have internet access to register online.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) would help overcome those barriers. And an AVR system would ensure that the registration process is convenient, accurate, and secure. Implementing AVR would:

- Help the State and Counties be more efficient by saving staff from manually inputting data. It costs almost 30 times more to process a paper application versus an electronic one.
- Make elections more secure and accurate with frequent updates to the voter rolls.
- Make voting more convenient for working and military families who move frequently.

We need to do more to get more than 4 in 10 of our eligible voters to vote in our elections. AVR would be a good start.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

¹ <http://www.electproject.org/2018g>



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 26, 2019 12:30 PM Room 308

In SUPPORT of HB 1485 HD 1: Relating to Voter Registration

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 HB 1485 HD 1**. This bill automatically pre-registers high school students to vote, with an opt-out option.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to ensuring a fair, open, and transparent democratic process. We encourage our members to actively protect their right to vote, have their voices heard in government, and engage in elections. Automatic voter registration would make these efforts easier, especially for high school students who are not familiar with the process to vote. Automatic registration, coupled with outreach and education on how to vote, has the potential to make new voters aware of Hawai'i's issues and motivate them to participate in our democracy.

Hawa'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the U.S. in the last twenty years. Automatic voter registration for students could help increase participation of young adults. It removes voter registration as a barrier to engagement and is one step to create a more convenient and accessible democratic process for Hawai'i's voters.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 1485 HD 1**.

HB-1485-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:24:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-1485-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:52:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1485-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:35:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Tajima	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The department has strong concerns about connecting voter registration with public school student data and for the following reasons is unable to support HB1485 HD1:

Adversely affects school officials from adhering to the federal FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) law.

Financial implications.

Parental rights and consent.

No other state uses public school children or a department of education's student information database for voter registration.

Other states use the Department of Motor Vehicle or one state uses its health care database.

*The Department does appreciate the intent of the bill to increase voter participation and encourage civic engagement.

HB-1485-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:29:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Shin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It definitely needs to be taken into consideration that our state has very low voter turnout and while this bill will work on make it easier for high school students to vote, we can't stop there. We need to also insure that they have the best civic education, as well as have voter drives and other community outreach and organizing efforts so we could help in empowering our next generation of leaders to get involved. In turn, we can encourage their friends and family to get involved as well. **I strongly support HB1485 HD1 and request for it to be passed through your committee.** The youth are our future, let's continue to include them at the decision making table.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,


Jun Shin

1561 Kanunu St.

Cell: 808-255-6663


Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

From: Kristen Harmon <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:54 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 - Kristen Harmon

	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485
Name	Kristen Harmon
Email	kmcorey@hawaii.edu
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 HD1
Testimony	<p>Aloha chair Luke, committee members,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I especially like this bill because it extends access to our democracy to young people who will be eligible to vote by the subsequent election. Young people are the future of our state and the future of our society, and it is incredibly important that we welcome them into the democratic process as early as possible to cultivate a responsible and engaged citizenry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p>

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.


From: Kimiko LaHaela Walter <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:59 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 - Kimiko LaHaela Walter

 **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485**

Name	Kimiko LaHaela Walter
Email	kimikolahaelawalter@gmail.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 HD1
Testimony	<p>Aloha chair Luke, and FIN committee members,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I especially like this bill because it extends access to our democracy to young people who will be eligible to vote by the subsequent election. Young people are the future of our state and the future of our society, and it is incredibly important that we welcome them into the democratic process as early as possible to cultivate a responsible and engaged citizenry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo, Kimiko LaHaela Walter, Mō‘ili‘ili</p>

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.


From: James McDonough <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 7:24 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 - James McDonough

 **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485**

Name	James McDonough
Email	james_mcdonough@fastmail.fm
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 HD1
Testimony	<p>Aloha chair Luke, committee members,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I especially like this bill because it extends access to our democracy to young people who will be eligible to vote by the subsequent election. Young people are the future of our state and the future of our society, and it is incredibly important that we welcome them into the democratic process as early as possible to cultivate a responsible and engaged citizenry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p>

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.


From: Randy Gonce <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 6:57 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 - Randy Gonce

	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485
Name	Randy Gonce
Email	rgonce@my.hpu.edu
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 HD1
Testimony	<p>Aloha chair Luke, committee members,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I especially like this bill because it extends access to our democracy to young people who will be eligible to vote by the subsequent election. Young people are the future of our state and the future of our society, and it is incredibly important that we welcome them into the democratic process as early as possible to cultivate a responsible and engaged citizenry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p>

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



From: Sharain Naylor <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 6:43 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 - Sharain Naylor


 **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485**

Name	Sharain Naylor
Email	sasheir@yahoo.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 HD1
Testimony	<p>Aloha chair Luke, committee members,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I especially like this bill because it extends access to our democracy to young people who will be eligible to vote by the subsequent election. Young people are the future of our state and the future of our society, and it is incredibly important that we welcome them into the democratic process as early as possible to cultivate a responsible and engaged citizenry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p>

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

LATE

From: Cindy Aban <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:07 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 - Cindy Aban

 **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485**

Name	Cindy Aban
Email	caban54@gmail.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1485 HD1
Testimony	<p>Aloha chair Luke, committee members,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I especially like this bill because it extends access to our democracy to young people who will be eligible to vote by the subsequent election. Young people are the future of our state and the future of our society, and it is incredibly important that we welcome them into the democratic process as early as possible to cultivate a responsible and engaged citizenry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo, Cindy Aban Waipahu</p>

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

LATE



TO: Committee on Finance

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1485

2/26/2019

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen, committee members,

As an organizer on behalf of Young Progressives Demanding Action, I am writing to express my support of HB1485.

Automatic Voter Registration is the logical next step towards the streamlining and modernization of our elections system. With voter turnout in America lower than that of most developed countries, and Hawaii's rate of voter turnout currently standing as one of the lowest amongst the United States, it is imperative that we make improvements that will increase participation in our elections and promote the involvement of our citizens in democracy from as early an age as possible.

Tying voter registration directly to existing public school records would help improve the accuracy of our voter rolls and remove an unnecessary barrier to voting for our youth, who make up one of the largest voting blocs but consistently are underrepresented in our elections turnout.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ida Peric

Community Organizer

Young Progressives Demanding Action

Gary L. Hooser

5685 Ohelo Rd.

Kapaa, HI 96746

garylhooser@gmail.com

LATE

February 25, 2019

Aloha Committee Chair and members,

Thank you for hearing **HB1485 HD1** Relating to Voter Registration. I stand in **support** of this measure. This measure will help to ensure higher rates of registered voters by preregistering/registering voters in public school, removing a hurdle in the voting process. By ensuring more people are registered to vote we can encourage democracy.

When we preregister or register students we can encourage civic engagement and hopefully create a lifelong voter. Hawaii struggles with voter turnout, November 2018 saw that only 39% of those eligible actually voted. If we can increase the number of those registered that is one step in right direction of increasing Hawaii's voter turnout.

Thank you for your time and positive consideration.

Gary L. Hooser