



SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96762
elections.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2119, HD 1
RELATING TO VOTING

February 13, 2020

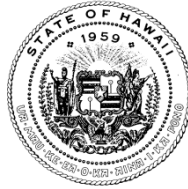
Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2119, HD 1. This bill requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver license, provisional license, or instruction permit, 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; allows an applicant to affirmatively decline to have any of the applicant's information electronically transmitted; and authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system.

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 want to register 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.

Finally, as we transition to elections by mail, we would propose the bill be amended to remove the references to requesting a permanent absentee ballot as all voters will automatically be sent a ballot to their mailing address associated with their voter registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2119, HD 1.



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 13, 2020
2:05 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 325



**H.B. 2119, H.D. 1
RELATING TO VOTING**

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 2119, H.D. 1, with the following amendments.

Pursuant to Section 286-172, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the DOT has the authority to determine the distribution of the personal information contained in the driver license and civil identification statewide traffic records system. The Federal Drivers Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. §2721, prohibits the release and use of data to any government agency except when used to carry out its function. Similarly, Section 92F-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, limits the disclosure of government records to any other agency unless it is necessary for the performance of the requesting agency's duties and functions. Therefore, we do not support giving the chief election officer full access to the driver license and State ID file as proposed on Page 3, in SECTION 1 (d) of the bill. This will result in a direct conflict with Federal and existing State laws. We propose SECTION 1(d) be amended as follows:

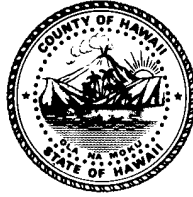
13 (d) Databases maintained or operated by the counties or
14 the department of transportation containing driver's license or
15 identification card information, including any documents or
16 images, shall be directly accessible and provided electronically
17 to election officials and the statewide voter registration
18 system to allow for the timely processing of voter applications,
19 ensure the integrity of the voter registration polls, and for
20 any other voter registration or election purposes, as determined
21 by the ~~chief election officer~~director of transportation.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of Transportation and Office of Elections was signed by both parties in August 2017.

Further, should there be a need to modify the voter registration form and computer systems. The counties, DOT and the Office of Elections will continue to work collaboratively as they have already demonstrated with the current application forms and MOA to ensure the driver's license and civil identification card application forms reflect all future State or Federal legislated requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

TESTIMONY OF JON HENRICKS
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2119, HD 1
RELATING TO VOTING

February 12, 2020

Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2119, HD 1. This bill requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver 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. Allows an applicant to affirmatively decline to have any of the applicant's information electronically transmitted. 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.

This bill would increase registration of eligible voters and would allow the voter an opportunity to decline. The bill also ensures that all applicants will meet voter registration qualifications.

As we transition to Elections by Mail, this bill will allow for accurate voter registration information to be electronically transmitted. The bill will help to keep the accuracy of the voter registration records.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2119, HD 1.



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Relating to Relating to Voting
Testifying in Support with Amendments

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports with an amendment HB2119 HD1 Relating to Voting**, which updates the option to register to vote on an individual's license application (new, provisional and renewal) to an opt-out rather than an opt-in. This small change means that a person would be automatically registered to vote unless they actively affirm not to be. Currently the measure has an effective date of July 1, 2050.

Improving access to voting is fundamental to the democratic process. The more accessible and available we can make voting the better our community will be. Upgrading how we encourage voter registration is the foundation to reforming and improving our elections.

Hawai'i struggles with voter turnout, November 2018 (a general election in a Presidential voting year) saw that only 39% of those eligible actually voted. Arguably that election should be the higher turnout than any of the elections since it contained a major race. One can assume primary elections in non-presidential voting years would yield and even lower turnout. If we can increase the number of those registered, that is the first step in right direction of increasing Hawaii's voter turnout.

This measure will create a seamless modernized system with the information collected from the licensing officials being electronically transferred and linked to the elections offices resulting in a more efficient, secure, convenient process that saves money. Hawai'i is presently using out-of-date systems and decades-old technology. It's time to modernize both the system and the process in which people vote.

For all these reasons, we urge you to **vote in favor of HB2119 HD1 updating the measure to include a clean effective date** so that the measure can go in to effect as soon as possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director

Pono Hawai'i Initiative



of Hawaii

Hawaii State House of Representative Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday February 13, 2020 2:05PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2119 HD1

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2119 HD1, which would automatically register any person who is eligible to vote and applies for state issued license/ID.

Automatic Voter Registration would make our voter registration system more accurate, secure, and cost-effective. Sixteen states and Washington DC already have AVR law; twelve states and Washington DC have already implemented AVR.¹

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and includes just over 650 active members with over 3800 supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Please pass this important bill to modernize our voting system. Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Younghee Overly".

Younghee Overly

Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii

publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx>

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 5:33:54 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 5:34:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Pride @ Work - Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 6:08:32 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Bilyk	Breastfeeding Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, Feb 13, 2020
2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2119
RELATING TO VOTING.



Chair Lee, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Indivisible Windward supports passing HB 2119, Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) which states... “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.” HB 2119 would also authorize the electronic transmission of information and 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.” HB 2119 is known as Automatic Voter Registration (“AVR”).

Indivisible Windward supports making AVR law because it will be a step in the right direction to make it easier for Hawaiians and State residents to vote. It is a necessary part of the much larger process of modernization Hawaii’s state government infrastructure. AVR will benefit our people and our state in many ways.

First, AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the DMV and does not “opt-out” of being a registered voter, the person’s information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections. This will lead to a much more efficient and effective State government.

Second, AVR will save the state and the taxpayers money! AVR has been estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

Last, AVR encourages more citizen participation in the process of how our society functions and how the government spends its money. This change should lead to better policy decisions and improved governance by making the voting process easier for citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2119. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at IndWind808@gmail.com.

Very respectfully yours,

Lawrence Basha
Leadership team, Indivisible Windward



Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, February 13, 2020
2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2119
RELATING TO VOTING.



Chair Lee, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Indivisible Hawaii is testifying in support of HB 2119, which would provide 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.” HB 2119 would also authorize the electronic transmission of information and 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.” HB 2119 is known as Automatic Voter Registration (“AVR”).

Indivisible Hawaii supports AVR as part of a much larger modernization process for Hawaii’s state government. AVR will benefit Hawaii citizens and the state government in several ways.

One, AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the DMV and does not “opt-out” of being a registered voter, the person’s information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections.

Two, AVR will save the state money. AVR has been estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

Three, AVR encourages more citizen participation in the process of how our society functions and how the government spends its money. This change should lead to better policy decisions and improved governance by making the voting process easier for citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2119.

Very respectfully yours,

Lawrence Basha

AVR Team Leader, Indivisible Hawaii



**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 325
HB 2119, HD1, Relating to Voting**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and members of the JUD Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like express support of HB 2119, HD1, 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.

HB 2119, HD1 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.

AVR will help modernize the election system and make it more accurate and secure. AVR is cost-effective, estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

AVR will help vote-by-mail implementation, which is how Hawaii will be conducting elections statewide starting 2020. AVR will ensure that Hawaii's voter rolls are accurate and up to date.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Lisa Maruyama
President and CEO

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 9:48:36 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

February 12, 2020

TO: House Committee on the Judiciary
RE: Testimony in support of HB2119 HD1

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i. One of those values is that an open democracy is a necessary component to ensuring a healthy society that is free of oppression.

Too often, the economic and social realities of life make participating in the democratic and civic processes unnecessarily burdensome for average citizens. Between working multiple jobs, studying to earn a degree to help us get ahead, taking care of our families—both keiki and aging kupuna—and allowing for the necessary level of social interactions we need to stay connected with our communities, young people in particular find it challenging to participate.

Young people have much to offer by way of ideas and solutions to the 21st century's most pressing problems. But too often our voice is not heard in the public policy discourse. Young people should have a seat at the table because identifying and implementing the best solutions requires a diverse set of view points and ideas be included from the beginning. When young people—or any group with much to contribute to policy discussions—are unable to participate, and go unheard, our interests are not considered and we lose out. And that's bad for all of society, because it prevents the healthy development of a new generation of leaders and problem-solvers who will need to take over the reins at some point. Don't we want our future leaders to have a solid foundation from which to build the solutions of tomorrow?

This issue gets at the very heart of why YPDA was founded to begin with. We saw the tragic result of an election process that failed to bring young people into the electoral process—that failed to capture the imaginations and hopes of what has become the largest single voting bloc in the country. Apathy is the biggest challenge we face in mobilizing young people to participate. The result of that apathy in 2016—not just among young people, but among far too

many eligible voters who did not participate—is a dangerous administration that puts into place policies that actively harm people and planet in the name of enriching the ultra-rich even further. We are determined to do everything we can to ensure that apathy is overcome so that the inclusive values of our generation are represented in policy and implemented by administrators who share those values. We overcome apathy, in part, through aggressive outreach. But we also do everything we can to cut out barriers and unnecessary steps to make participating as simple, easy and clear as possible.

Hawai'i has a perennially underperforming voter participation rate, but it wasn't always like that, and it doesn't have to be going forward. There exist multiple opportunities to change the current paradigm, boost voter turnout, and strengthen our democracy as a result. Last year, this legislature took a bold step in the right direction by expanding Hawai'i's Vote By Mail program to the entire state for the 2020 election cycle. The passage of Automatic Voter Registration would be another bold step in the right direction.

Automatic Voter Registration won't eliminate voter apathy—that will require the hard work of organizing. But it will eliminate one barrier to participation. It's a quick and easy step—low-hanging fruit—that the state can take this year that will have dramatic results. How do we know? Because in other jurisdictions, implementation of Automatic Voter Registration policies have made huge differences in participation rates. One early-adopting jurisdiction (Oregon), now has a 90 percent registration rate, and blew the rest of the country out of the water for voter participation in the 2018 midterm elections—68 percent compared to the national average of 49 percent. (Read more: <https://www.sightline.org/2018/12/13/voter-turnout-oregon-tops-charts-2018-midterms>).

Oregon also demonstrated that Automatic Voter Registration increases the diversity of voters too by enfranchising the very demographic groups that have the hardest time making time to participate in the process: young people, struggling working class families, minorities—all of whom need to have an electoral voice and a seat at the policy table if we are to develop well-rounded, inclusive solutions to our problems that have genuine community buy-in.

If we are serious when we say that we value democracy, then let us show that we are willing to take action to live up to our values. Let us demonstrate that we mean what we say when we insist that a healthy democracy is the only practical defense against tyranny. To live up to that value, we must make sure that we provide access to democracy for groups who struggle to find time to engage with the process. We lose out as a society when potential solutions to our problems are not heard. We lose out as a society when apathy keeps people from participating.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron
2019–2020 Co-Chair
Action@YPDAhawaii.org



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 13, 2020 2:00 PM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB2119 HD1**: Relating to Voting

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB2119**, which makes completion of a voter registration application affidavit a mandatory part of all driver's license and identification card applications, automatically registers each applicant for voting, and requires sharing of information among the counties, Department of Transportation, and election personnel.

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 engage in the legislative process. Automatic voter registration would make these efforts just that much easier for many Hawai'i residents. By making registration automatic whenever someone gets a driver's license or updates their address at the DMV, voters are more likely to be engaged and ready to participate in our electoral process. We welcome that—and so should our lawmakers.

Automatic voter registration is the logical next step in modernizing our elections by eliminating needless paperwork. It has been estimated that paper registration costs 30 times more than AVR. The possibility of human error in transcribing voter information from paper forms will be reduced and the state could save the nearly \$600,000 it spent in 2016 alone in processing paper forms. Furthermore, Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the U.S. for the last twenty years. AVR will not only simplify the process to register to vote, but is likely to save us money and result in increased turnout on Election Day.

Automatic voter registration has already been approved in 17 other states and is a common sense solution for Hawai'i. AVR will strengthen our democracy, increase the security of our elections, and is simply the most cost effective, efficient, and modern system available.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB2119 HD1**.



To:
Representative Chris Lee
Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary

Representative Joy San Buenaventura
Vice Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary

From:
Zonta Club of Hilo, Legislative Advocacy Committee

Feb 12, 2020

RE: Zonta Club of Hilo SUPPORT for HB2119 Relating to Voting

Aloha Representatives Lee, San Buenaventura and the members of the House Committee on the Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB2119. Women typically hold many different responsibilities in our society. Giving busy women easier access to voting by supporting Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), which reduces red tape and saves them a few steps on the road to being able to cast their vote. It benefits them, their children and our entire community.

Zonta Club is an organization that is dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy. That mission is especially important this year as we mark the 100th year of women's suffrage in America. This gives added significance to the proposed enactment of AVR in Hawaii. By complementing our new Voting By Mail process and ensuring that Voter rolls are updated promptly, AVR could do much to encourage women voters to become more fully engaged in our democratic processes. AVR simply cuts out needless duplicate paperwork, minimizes human error and saves all eligible voters and the state time and money.

The Zonta Club of Hilo supports making AVR a reality in Hawaii with HB2119. Women need it. We all need it.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Mahalo,

Heather Kimball

Zonta Club of Hilo Legislative Advocacy Committee

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men. Our membership includes both current and former small business owners in Hilo



HIPHI Board

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Research Office

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
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Keawe'aimoku
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University of Hawaii at Manoa,
College of Tropical Agriculture
and Human Resources

Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente

Catherine Taschner, JD
McCorriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP

Date: February 12, 2020

To: Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

Re: Support for HB 2119, Relating to Voting

Hrg: February 13, 2020 at 2:05 PM at Conference Room 325

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of HB 2119**, which would automatically register any person who is eligible to vote by default when they apply for a state driver's license or state ID.

This measure, also known as Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), will help to modernize Hawaii's elections process and complement the new "Vote by Mail" law. With AVR, the information of eligible voters that do not opt out are transferred electronically and automatically from the Department of Motor Vehicles to the State Office of Elections. This system is efficient, saves money, and keeps the voter rolls up to date.

HIPHI supports increasing civic engagement and believes AVR will reduce barriers to participation in the democratic process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, February 13, 2020
2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2119, HD1
RELATING TO VOTING.

Chair LEE, Vice Chair SAN BUENAVENTURA, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Common Cause Hawaii is testifying in support of HB 2119, HD1, which would provide 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. HB 2119 would also authorize the electronic transmission of information and 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." HB 2119, HD1 is known as Automatic Voter Registration ("AVR").

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts. Common Cause Hawaii supports AVR as a much-needed voter modernization tool for Hawaii. AVR will benefit Hawaii in several ways.

One, AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections. This does not mean that a U.S. citizen will be "automatically" registered to vote by simply enacting AVR. It will still be necessary for a U.S. citizen to interact with a government official through the DMV—and not decline voter registration—to be registered to vote. Further, this AVR bill prohibits DMV from electronically transmitting any information, if an applicant affirmatively declines for the applicant's information to be transmitted.

Two, AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to possibly save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

Three, AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive society. AVR is a vital step to making sure that all Hawaii US citizens have an equal voice in the political process by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2119, HD1, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee members to pass HB 2119, HD1 out of your Committee. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



Hawaii
Holding Power Accountable



Hawaii



of Hawaii



A F S C M E
LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA
Cherish the Earth.



DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2020
TIME: 2:05 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 325

Testimony in support of HB 2119, HD1, Relating to Voting

Aloha, we are testifying on behalf of the AVR Hawaii Coalition in support of HB 2119, HD1, which provides for the voter registration of 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 unless they decline to be registered to vote. This bill also authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation to election officials.

While mail-in voting will certainly enable registered voters to more conveniently exercise their right to vote, it won't increase voter registration. Hawaii's voter rolls still need to be updated and accurate for voting by mail to function properly, improving our voter participation rates.

- HB 2119, HD1 will give voters the opportunity to register to vote or update their address at the same time they complete their driver license application or application for a state identification card. They will also have the opportunity to decline to register to vote. For any applicant who does not decline, the driver licensing office then transmits application information securely and electronically to election officials. Please be assured that no U.S. citizen is "automatically" registered to vote simply by the passing of this legislation. It will be necessary for the U.S. citizen to interact with a government official to be registered to vote or to update their address.

- Any person who does not want to register to vote or to update their address simply ticks a checkbox on the application to decline. No information will be transmitted for any person who ticks the decline checkbox. "Automatic" simply refers to the transfer of information and data between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections for those who want to vote. HB 2119, HD1 also prohibits the examiner of drivers from electronically transmitting any information if an applicant affirmatively declines for the applicant's information to be transmitted.

If voting is the cornerstone of Democracy, voter registration is its bedrock. 'A 'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia – no task is too big when done together by all. Please support HB 2119, HD1.

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



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In Support of HB 2119, HD1 – Relating to Voting
House Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 2:05 PM, in conference room 301

LATE

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 2119, HD1**, which would automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they apply for or renew their Hawai‘i driver’s license, instruction permit, or state ID, unless they affirmatively 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 16 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>



ADA

HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS

John Bickel, President
Alan Burdick, Vice President
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer
Doug Pyle, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Melodie Aduja
Juliet Begley
Ken Farm
Stephanie Fitzpatrick
Chuck Huxel
Jan Lubin
Jenny Nomura
Dave Nagaji

MAILING ADDRESS

Stephen O'Harrow
Lyn Pyle
P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823

February 12 , 2020

TO: Honorable Chair Lee and JUD Committee

RE: HB 2119 HD1 Relating to Voting

Support for hearing on Feb. 13

LATE

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 2119 HD1 as it would modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections. It prohibits DMV from electronically transmitting any information, if an applicant affirmatively declines for the applicant's information to be transmitted.

This bill is both cost effective and good policy as it would increase voter registration; therefore turn-out.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



LATE

Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2020, 2:05 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of H.B. 2119, H.D. 1, Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of, with a suggested amendment to, H.B. 2119, H.D. 1, which would automatically register eligible people to vote or update voter information when they apply for or renew a state identification card or driver's license, with the option to decline registration.**

Hawai'i has the lowest voter turnout in the country. Hawai'i should aggressively seek out solutions to increase voter enrollment and participation, such as automatic voter registration. With the correct safeguards in place, automatic voter registration helps remove barriers to registration for eligible voters, updates voter registration rolls, and leads to more efficient elections.

To further strengthen this measure, the ACLU of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the measure be amended to apply the same process to other forms or applications submitted to a government office, such as applications for public assistance and intake forms at jails, to more fully achieve the measure's intent. If the Committee is inclined to adopt this amendment, we would be happy to assist in reviewing government forms that could potentially be used for automatic voter registration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 13, 2020

2:05 PM - Room 325

LATE

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2119 HD1- AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** including the ten people who have died in the last 5 months, as well as the approximately 5,200 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that more than 1,200 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. Democracy demands participation and we support all strategies to increase voter turnout in Hawai'i nei.

HB 2119 HD1 will give voters the opportunity to register to vote or update their address at the same time they complete their driver license application or application for a state identification card. They will also have the opportunity to decline to register to vote by simply ticking a checkbox on the application to decline. No information will be transmitted for any person who ticks the decline checkbox.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully urges the committee to pass this important bill to make voter registration more convenient. With Vote By Mail a reality, this should increase voter turnout in Hawai'i and move us out of the basement!

Let's get Hawai'i back to where we once were - when registered voters turned out!

See the next page for the voter turnout statistics from Hawai'i Office of Elections - <https://elections.hawaii.gov/resources/registration-voter-turnout-statistics/>.

REGISTERED YEAR	VOTER VOTERS	TURNOUT	TURNOUT %
1959	174274	147078	84.4%
1960	190504	139049	73.0%
1962	212861	172401	81.0%
1968	265253	166271	62.7%
1970	282470	202401	71.7%
1976	353249	251457	71.2%
1998	582558	291069	50.0%
2000	629162	262487	41.7%
2008	667647	246299	36.9%
2010	684481	293016	42.8%
2012	687500	290766	42.3%
2014	697033	289398	41.5%
2016	726,940	252,725	34.8%

Community Alliance on Prisons is a steadfast proponent of democracy and this bill will definitely help engage more citizens! We respectfully urge the committee to pass this important measure onto FIN.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

"Not voting is not a protest. It is a surrender."

Keith Ellison

LATE

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 5:55:45 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Piilani Kaopuiki	League of Women Voters	Support	No

Comments:



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

LATE

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President
Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 2119, HD1, Relating to Voting**

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020

Time: 2:05 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

The Hawaii Community Foundation supports House Bill 2119, relating to voting. Voting is a hallmark of civic participation and one of the cornerstones of our democracy. This bill will help collective community efforts to engage all our citizens. It 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 allows an applicant to affirmatively decline to have any of the applicant's information electronically transmitted.

Hawaii has the lowest voter turnout in the nation and this trend is unlikely to reverse itself without new strategies. Data by generation shows substantially more voting interest by Baby Boomers compared to other groups and trends show a declining participation by younger age groups. The 2016 election would have been the first presidential election for which some of the Millennial generation were eligible to vote. Only 40 percent of eligible millennials registered, while only 30 percent of those registered voted.

Automatic voter registration can lead to cleaner registration rolls because the process updates existing registrations with current addresses. Incorporating automatic voter registration during routine and necessary transactions like license renewal removes barriers to registration for eligible voters. Removing barriers to voter registration is a step in the right direction to increasing voter participation in Hawaii.

Please advance this measure.



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 Judiciary

LATE

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 13, 2020

H.B. 2119, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO VOTING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2119, H.D. 1 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 implementing online voter registration in 2015, phasing in same-day registration in 2016, and establishing an all-mail election in 2019. 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 H.B. 2119, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,


for
Randy Perreira
Executive Director

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:51:29 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 2:39:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB2119, which should help increase the typically dismal voter turnout here in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
RE: HB2119,HD1 RELATING TO VOTING.

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. Allows an applicant to affirmatively decline to have any of the applicant's information electronically transmitted. 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

FOR HEARING ON Thursday, February 13, 2020

FROM:

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

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

This bill makes it automatic that anyone who applies for a driver license will thereby be registered to vote, unless they intentionally refuse to be registered.

Before you move this bill forward, please carefully consider whether it will allow people who are not citizens of the United States to easily become voters, either deliberately or negligently.

Does the driver license application form require a person to prove U.S. citizenship either through a birth certificate or a naturalization document? (A "green card" does not confirm citizenship and actually implies non-citizenship.)

If the driver license application form does not require proof of U.S. citizenship, does it at least have an affidavit requiring applicant to affirm having U.S. citizenship and a very visible WARNING that the affirmation is under penalty of perjury? Or is there merely a checkbox where an applicant in a rush, and perhaps not speaking good English, simply checks the box much like many of us check those boxes on internet websites saying yes we have read all 20 pages of legal mumbo jumbo.

News reports from other states (such as California) that provide automatic voter registration through driver license applications indicate that many non-citizens are becoming registered as voters through this mechanism, and are actually voting. The concept is that it's good government policy to encourage all drivers to actually have a driver license for purposes of insurance and identification, whether they are citizens or not. In previous years there were efforts to allow the Mexican government identification document to be used when applying for driver licenses -- Matrícula Consular de Alta Seguridad is an identification card issued by the Government of Mexico through its consulate offices to Mexican nationals residing outside of Mexico.

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 7:33:32 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2119. The more individuals we can have registered the better it is for our democracy.

Please pass HB2119.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 8:13:38 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to support HB2119 HD1.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) will benefit Hawaii in several ways.

One, AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and does not “opt-out” of being a registered voter, the person’s information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections. A U.S. citizen will still need to interact with a government official through the DMV—and not decline voter registration—to be registered to vote. Further, this AVR bill prohibits DMV from electronically transmitting any information, if an applicant affirmatively declines for the applicant's information to be transmitted.

Two, AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to possibly save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

Three, AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive society. AVR is a vital step to making sure that all Hawaii US citizens have an equal voice in the political process by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, February 13, 2020
2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2119
RELATING TO VOTING.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2119 to institute Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). I support all the concept to make it easier for those people who cannot spare the time to register to vote due to work, limited mobility, or other circumstances. Voting is a right and our Democracy should make it as easy as possible for people to participate in the process.

AVR is a great start to modernize Hawaii's election system and to make hearing from the people of Hawaii more efficient. This measure should eliminate the initial barrier to voting, which is registering. In the same way getting a driver's license leads to a lifetime of driving, AVR should lead a young person, or someone new to Hawaii, who are getting a driver's license, to be voter for life. This should have additional impact in other areas as more citizens are better able to participate in electing the decision makers for our state.

With the technology available today, AVR should be able to save the State time, resource and money by eliminating all the paper used in registering voters, the resources to get those papers to where they are recorded and stored. Additionally, AVR is one step in the overall modernization of the State's virtual infrastructure which is being done to support our citizens and serve our state.

With respect,

Lawrence Basha
Kailua, Hi 96734
8083843271

TO: Members of the Committee on Transportation

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2:05 p.m. Thursday, February 13, 2020

SUBJECT: HB 2119, HD1 Automatic Voter Registration – **OPPOSED to Opt Out**
SUPPORT Opt In

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on HB2119, which would automatically register people to vote when renewing driver's licenses or certain other documents unless they opt out.

Some people will not vote no matter what we do. They simply do not want to vote. Now that we have mail-in ballots, it doesn't make sense to be sending ballots to people who will not be voting.

I would support this bill if it were opt-in.

Please either amend the bill to make it opt in or vote "no" on HB 2119, HD1.

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:30:38 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Rosenthal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am Debra Rosenthal, and I write in support Automatic Voter Registration.

I taught University-level American Government courses for 35 years. I'm dedicated to good citizenship. Hawaii's voter registration system is good but I'm sorry to say not good enough. When I updated my driver license, I brought my voter registration form to the Motor Vehicles Department. I failed to notice that I hadn't signed the form, and the clerk didn't look at the form at all. It was two months before the Elections office let me know that I'd have to resubmit my registration request. Anyone can make this kind of error--not to mention misspellings, illegible handwriting, etc.

Please make it easy to get this right--support the AVR proposal, HB 2119. I regret that I can't testify in person, but am happy to elaborate or help however I can to get our voting system modernized.

Thank you,

Debra Rosenthal, Ph.D.

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:50:23 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with CommonCause Hawaii comments.

Chair Chris Lee
Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura
House Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, February 13, 2020
2:05 PM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2119 HD1 RELATING TO VOTING

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a Sophomore at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and currently serve as the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). Today, I am testifying as an **individual** in **support of HB2119 HD1**, Relating to Voting.

I appreciate that the legislature continues to have important discussions with the community on how we can improve participation in politics and civics, one of these big ideas that is now in the process of being implemented is Vote-By-Mail starting from this year’s election. However, we can’t stop and we shouldn’t stop. We need to continue to find ways to build on the work we’ve already done such as the expansion of voting rights over the course of U.S. history, and continue to make our democratic institutions easier to understand and more accessible to take part in.

For me, automatic voter registration really seems to be the natural next step. Automatic voter registration is going to really make being a registered voter much easier and efficient, and we don’t even need to create a new process. We all go to the DMV, even as a non driving busser, I went to the DMV for a State ID and will have to go back soon to renew it. People have the option of having the information that they gave to the DMV, the DMV being a government office where you regularly update your information, and opt in for that information to be used to register you to vote. It really sounds like a natural transition for me. Then when Vote-By-Mail happens, it will be run even more smoothly, as voter rolls will be accurate and up-to-date. We can make this happen.

I support HB2119 HD1 and request for this measure to be **passed** through your committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin
1561 Kanunu St.
Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 5:21:35 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB2119, HD1 is cost-effective, more accurate & secure plus promotes a more inclusive society.

(I live on Maui & can't testify in person.)

Mahalo

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 7:30:00 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the committee,

I strongly support HB2119 HD1. AVR will help the Office of Elections and county clerks to have accurate addresses of voters, making our vote by mail system work effectively.

The cost to the State will be minimal as the data transferral system from transportation department to office of elections is already in place. Both sides' software are synced up.

Please pass HB2119 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 9:41:39 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the enactment of Automatic Voter Registration because it helps bring people to the table. The ability to vote and be heard when policies are enacted is good for democracy, especially when it improves access to voting for those who have typically been excluded or feel unable to participate in our democracy for one reason or another.

Over the course of the impeachment of President Trump, we were reminded more than once that more than a century ago the Supreme Court declared that voting is “a fundamental political right, because [it is] preservative of all rights.”

Whatever the community needs or wants—whether it’s a living wage, decent public education, safety, health care, all our civil liberties—can only be assured if we all have the ability to make our voices heard. That is sometimes easier said than done. People get left out. People feel marginalized.

Rural communities. People who are rushing from one job to the next to pay the bills. People who are juggling child care and kupuna care. These harried people do not always place voter registration at the top of their to-do list.

Vote By Mail (VBM) is a great step in the direction of improving access to voting. The next logical step is Automatic Voter Registration. Why? Because it will make VBM work better by improving the accuracy of our voter rolls.

No matter how stressed they are, people have to renew their driver’s license, have to get a state ID, have to file a change of address. And when they do, unless they say NO, their latest updated address and relevant information will automatically be transmitted electronically to the Office of Elections. This saves them and the state time and money and increases the likelihood that ballots will be mailed to the right address.

In a state where voter turnout is very low but where concerns about big simmering issues in the community are causing people to agitate for corrective action with ever greater fervor, why not take steps that will bring people together and give them a voice sooner rather than later?

Please move HB2119 forward so that all of Hawaii will be better positioned to participate in our elections. Mahalo nui. Dawn Morais Webster

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 12:20:59 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Cech	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the enactment of Automatic Voter Registration. This is because the ability to vote on issues and policies that impact everyone is vital to a healthy democracy. Without AVR, people with busy jobs, children to care for, and other obligations are kept from the voting pool. This is injustice. AVR will make it possible for people to be automatically registered to vote by simply getting their driver's license. This will drastically increase voter turnout and in turn reflect laws and policies that are what the people want. Voter turnout in Hawaii needs to increase, and the easiest way to do that is with AVR.

Please move this bill forward so that all of Hawaii will have a fair chance to participate in elections and make their voices heard.

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 1:50:58 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aisha Heredia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Seeing that Hawaii has the lowest voter turn out rates in the country, **I strongly support HB2119 HD1**. Automatic voter registration (AVR) encourages that citizens activate their vote, by being opted-in to the voter registration it helps promote civic duties. AVR is a vital step to making sure that all Hawaii US citizens have an equal voice in the political process by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

I support HB2119 HD1 because voting is right, but should not be a cumbersome process to learn how to register, if it were automatic. In January 2016, Oregon became the first state to implement AVR. In what is sometimes referred to as the "Oregon model," an eligible voter who interacts with the DMV is not asked whether they would like to register to vote, but instead is automatically opted into registering. The voter is later sent a notification informing them that they were registered and that they can opt-out by returning the notification. The Nation magazine analyzed the successes of Oregon's new AVR by sharing Oregon's 2016 registration statistics, "In the year that Oregon adopted AVR over 66 percent of new voters were registered via the AVR program. Of the individuals who were registered for the first time through Oregon's new program, a significant portion—67,902, or 36 percent—voted in 2016...In our view, AVR has been successful in mobilizing many new Oregonians to participate in the election who may not have voted without this program being in place." (1)

I support HB2219 HD1 because AVR in Hawaii because it has great potential to increase our voter turn out, by lowering the barriers that it takes to vote. AVR has proven to work in Oregon, and small states like Vermont has seen their voter registration jump up similarly.(2)

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia

- (1) <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/how-oregon-increased-voter-turnout-more-than-any-other-state/>
- (2) <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/automatic-voter-registration-summary>

LATE

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 2:06:09 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am asking for your support of HB2119, HD1, which would permit automatic voter registration of Hawaii residents applying for a driver's license or a Hawaii ID card.

This is an important bill. Over the years I've participated in many voter registration drives and am always suprised at how many times a person believes they were automatically registered when they got their driver's license or ID card, then discovered they were not registered at all. I think that employees at the Driver's License Bureau are so busy they do not always point out that unless applicants check the right box they will not be registered.

Moreover, the electronic transmission of voter registration data between the Driver's License Bureau and the Office of Elections ensures up-to-date information. In an technological age, it is not reasonable to argue against electronic transmission.

The Department of Transportation's argument that they cannot send the data because federal law prohibits doing so just doesn;t make sense. The Office of Elections needs such information to do their job effectively.

Thank you for taking my testimony. Please vote yes on HB2119.

Susan Dursin, Captain Cok

LATE

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 3:44:21 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Richmond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Voter participation is the key to our democracy. Low voter participation undermines the legitimacy of our elected officials and the entire system of government. AVR is highly important is making voting convenient and a normative activity. If everyone a person meets in society is registered and votes the more likely they are to vote themselves. Furthermore, this would begin young voters off on the right foot by registering them when they get their first drivers licence. Habits form at a young age and voting is a terrific one to encourage!

Registering voters automatically when they renew their licenses or IDs is a low cost method also. Registering them separately is a redundant collection of their information.

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 5:32:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which will modernize the electoral system in a cost-effective and secure manner. It will help implement the vote by mail procedure. I associate with the views of Common Cause. Thank you

Martha Nakajima, Honolulu

member, Indivisible Hawaii

HB-2119-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 10:07:54 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2020 2:05:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lena Mochimaru	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Automatic Voter Registration will help breathe new life into our democracy

Nobody wants to be left behind. Hawaii used to be a place where we were ahead of the game. Somehow we have fallen behind. Who is responsible for deciding if we make progress—or not?

The answer is: all of us—and those we elect to represent us. We look to our leaders to do right by us, whoever we are. Would it be a true democracy if we do not have a say in who gets elected? Not having easy accessibility to voting silences people. Sometimes it silences whole communities, people who live in rural areas, people who cannot make the time between multiple jobs to attend to things like voter registration.

Our switch to Vote By Mail (VBM) this year is a good step forward to improving access to democracy. Enacting Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) will make VBM work better by ensuring that essential voter information is updated promptly every time someone applies for or renews their driver's license or gets a state ID. People have the choice of declining to have their information automatically transmitted to the Office of Elections. So there is NO compulsion to vote. The automatic transmission of information is efficient and saves time and money. We should welcome AVR in Hawaii. It is encouraging that HB2119 and SB2005 are being considered and have passed their first hearings.

Restoring faith in democracy

In general, in our current political climate, it is clear that people are demoralized. We are close to losing faith in our government. It shows, as voter turnout is at an all time low in Hawaii.

Those of us who are deeply and directly affected feel like the forgotten ones. We work two or more jobs to survive because our pay does not reflect the cost of living here. I am a professional with a full-time job, but I still have to work at multiple jobs to survive.

Historically some of us have reason to distrust the government. The distrust is so high that many don't even want to engage in our democracy and validate a system they see as illegitimate. But at the end of the day we live in this community together and the decisions that are made on our behalf, whether we agree with them or not, affects our lives and our livelihood. I, for one can no longer stand in the background passively allowing others to keep me on the hamster wheel. I am ready and arming myself with knowledge to help fight for all of our rights.

It is time for us to exercise our power and let more of our voices be heard. AVR can help rebuild public trust and restore faith in government by providing an efficient, user-friendly path to voting readiness. This is the 100th year of women's suffrage in America. Enacting AVR would be a great way to honor that anniversary and for our lawmakers to show that they welcome all voters.