

TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

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

LATE

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

January 31, 2020
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 423

H. B. 2119
RELATING TO VOTING

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 2119 with amendments.

Pursuant to Section 286-172, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Director of Transportation has the authority to determine the distribution of the personal information contained in the driver license and civil identification statewide traffic records system. 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 in SECTION 1 (d) of the bill. This will result in a direct conflict with Federal and existing State laws.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of Transportation and Office of Elections was signed by both parties in August 2017. SECTIONS 1, 2, 5 and 6 are addressed in the agreement. Therefore, the bill only needs to include SECTIONS 3, 4 and 7.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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 TRANSPORTATION
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2119
RELATING TO VOTING

January 31, 2020

Chair Aquino and members of the House Committee on Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2119. 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; 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.

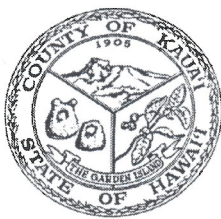
Finally, as we transition to elections by mail, we would propose the bill be amended to remove the references to requesting a permanent absentee ballot as

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.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800
TTY: (808) 241-5116



SCOTT K. SATO
Deputy County Clerk

Facsimile: (808) 241-6207
E-mail: elections@kauai.gov

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

January 31, 2020

TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2119
RELATING TO VOTING

Chair Aquino and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2119. This Bill would require that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or tries to renew their motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or tries to obtain a new, or renews, or obtains a duplicate identification card, will automatically be registered to vote if that person is not a registered voter, unless they affirmatively declined to register to vote. Additionally, the Bill authorizes access to an electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information which would be provided to election officials and the statewide voter registration system.

The Bill will establish an efficient and reliable means for transferring voter registration information from the examiner of drivers to the county clerks, and will also simplify the registration process for individuals obtaining a new or renewing a Hawai'i driver license, provisional license, instruction permit, or State identification card. Requiring applicants to affirmatively decline to register vote will ensure that only the registration information from individuals wishing to register will be transmitted to the respective county clerk.

Since the State of Hawai'i will be transitioning to elections administered primarily by mail beginning with the 2020 Elections, we propose eliminating references to a permanent absentee ballot as this concept is no longer applicable.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 2119.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
County Clerk



MARGARET C. CLARK
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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

TESTIMONY OF JOSIAH NISHITA

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

ON HOUSE BILL 2119

RELATING TO VOTING

January 31, 2020

Chair Aquino and members of the House Committee on Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2119. This bill will require 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 would also authorize 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 will help to ensure the accuracy of the voter registration rolls by electronically sharing data between driver licensing officials and election officials. This will not only support timely compliance with laws on the federal level (National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act), but will also provide additional opportunities to ensure voter's addresses are up to date – a critical component of the implementation of Act 136 (SLH 2019), voting by mail.

Additionally, this bill will provide another opportunity for individuals to register to vote, by requiring that they address the matter as part of the driver license and identification card application process. Providing opportunities to register to vote during other civic and routine activities, such as obtaining a license or identification, can help increase voter registration and reduces barriers to participation in the election process.

January 31, 2020
Page 2

Please also consider the proposed amendments suggested by the Office of Elections to remove references to requesting a permanent absentee ballot. Beginning in 2020, all voters will be sent a ballot to their mailing address associated with their voter registration, pursuant to Act 136 (SLH 2019).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 2119.

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 9:13:46 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto and Committee Members,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in full support of the passage of House Bill 2119.

Being able to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. By switching Hawai'i over to automatic voter registration will ensure that all eligible residents in Hawai'i are able to vote. Especially with Hawai'i going to all-mail in voting.

By removing the barrier of requiring people to register to vote it is our belief that it will encourage and enable more voter participation, which will in turn strengthen our democratic society.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



of Hawaii

Hawaii State House of Representative Committee on Transportation

Hearing Date/Time: Friday January 31, 2020 10:00AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 423

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2119

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2119, 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>




Committee: Committee on Transportation
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, January 31, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 423
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of H.B. 2119, Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of, with a suggested amendment to, H.B. 2119, 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
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E: office@acluhawaii.org
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AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

| OFFICERS | DIRECTORS | | | MAILING ADDRESS |
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| John Bickel, President | Melodie Aduja | Chuck Huxel | Stephen O'Harrow | P.O. Box 23404 |
| Alan Burdick, Vice President | Juliet Begley | Jan Lubin | Lyn Pyle | Honolulu |
| Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer | Ken Farm | Jenny Nomura | | Hawai'i 96823 |
| Doug Pyle, Secretary | Stephanie Fitzpatrick | Dave Nagaji | | |

January 29 , 2020

TO: Honorable Chair Aquino and Members of the TRN Committee

RE: HB 2119 Relating to Voting

Support for hearing on Jan. 31

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 as it would automatically register people to vote as they apply for a driver's license or license renewal with an opt-out option. We have one of the lowest voter turn out rates in the country. Ray Wolfinger in the book, Who Votes, argues that the best way to increase the number of voters is to reduce registration impediments. This bills should increase turnout.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President



DATE: Friday, January 31, 2020
 TIME: 10:00 a.m.
 PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 423



Testimony in support of HB 2119, Relating to Voting



Aloha, we are testifying on behalf of the AVR Hawaii Coalition in support of HB 2119, which provides for the voter registration of any U.S. Citizen 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 ensure that voters are registered at the proper address so that they can receive their ballot or increase voter registration. Hawaii's voter rolls still need to be accurate, secure, and complete for voting by mail to function properly, improving our voter participation rates.



- HB 2119 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—and not decline voter registration—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.

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.

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



HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 9:43:36 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawaii*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Friday, January 31, 2020

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of

HB 423**RELATING TO VOTING.**

Chair AQUINO, Vice Chair HASHIMOTO, and Members of the House Transportation Committee

Common Cause 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").

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.

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. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma

Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:34:03 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashleigh Loa | Faith Action for Community Equity | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, Faith Action for Community Equity is writing in support of HB 2119. 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. AVR is cost-effective. 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. AVR does not mean US citizens are “automatically” registered to vote if they have a driver’s license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not “opt-out” to be a registered voter. With AVR, this 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 update to date. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation
Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
Representative Troy Hashimoto, Vice-Chair
Friday, January 31, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 423**

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Hashimoto and members of the TRN Committee:

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



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In Support of HB 2119 – Relating to Voting
House Committee on Transportation
Friday, January 31, 2020, 10:00 AM, in conference room 423

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 2119**, which would automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they apply for or renew their Hawai‘i Drivers’ License or State ID, unless they choose to opt out.

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

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

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

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

We need to act to get more than 4 in 10 of our eligible voters to vote in our elections. Hawai‘i should join the 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>



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!

January 29, 2020

To: Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair
Rep. Troy Hashimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Transportation

From: Laura Nevitt, Community Engagement and Training Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!

Re: SB 2119– Relating to Voting

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 423, January 31, 2020, 10:00 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of HB 2119, which would require 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. 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 1/1/2021.

As an organization that strives to make sure families have the resources and support necessary to make sure all of our keiki are healthy, safe and ready to learn, it is important to us they be able to participate in the political process where many of these decisions are made.

AVR will help to make sure there is one less barrier for our busy and struggling families.

The other benefits of AVR for the state are that it will make our system more streamlined, more efficient, more accurate and more secure. It will also help the state save money - an estimate of over \$1 million each election cycle

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! asks that you pass HB 2119.

HCAN Speaks! is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.



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 Transportation

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 31, 2020

H.B. 2119 – RELATING TO VOTING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2119 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2119

TO: House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: January 31, 2020 (10:00 AM)

Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 2119, which provides for automatic voter registration (AVR) for anyone eligible to vote who applies for a new, renewal, or duplicate driver's license or state identification, with an opt-out provision. This measure also expressly authorizes access to relevant databases by the Office of Elections.

HHRC supports measures that facilitate increased voter registration and participation. HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Making voter registration automatic, particularly when combined with an all-mail election, would give many currently not inclined to participate in the electoral process a tangible opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

As noted by the Brennan Center for Justice (BCJ), automatic voter registration reforms that have an opt-out provision where agencies transfer voter registration information electronically to elections officials "[increase registration rates, clean up the voter rolls, and save states money.](#)" BCJ also notes that 16 states and D.C. have approved the policy, with over a third of all Americans living in a jurisdiction that features AVR of some kind.

This is an important measure that will foreseeably expand registration and voter participation. It builds upon reforms, including vote-by-mail, enacted by the Hawai'i Legislature and signed into law in recent years. Ideally, Hawai'i would be among those seven states where voter information is provided to elections officials by other social service agencies. [Earlier this month New York's state Senate passed a measure that would create an AVR system that includes its DMV and its Department of Health.](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Friday, January 31, 2020
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of
HB 2119
RELATING TO VOTING.



Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the House Transportation 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

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 11:10:39 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruth Robison | Dr. Ruth Robison, Member of Board of Directors, League of Women Voters of Hawaii County | Support | No |

Comments:

HB2119 is a priority for the League of Women Voters of Hawai`i County. Automatic Voter Registration will help vote by mail implementation and will ensure that Hawaii's voter rolls are accurate and update to date. The person's information and data are automatically transferred from the County Department of Motor Vehicles to the State Office of Elections unless a person chooses to opt out of being a registered voter. AVR would be efficient, effective, and save the State money. Making the system more "user friendly" in this way could also improve the dismal voter turn-out in our state. Thank you.

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 9:17:31 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of Pride At Work which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i fully supports House Bill 2119 as it will ensure that all those that are eligible to vote will receive a ballot. We need to lower the barrier for voters.

We humbly ask for your support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

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

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Relating to Relating to Voting
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB2119 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.

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**.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:18:25 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| 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

January 29, 2020

TO: House Committee on Transportation
RE: Testimony in support of HB2119

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@YPDHawaii.org



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 31, 2020 10:00 AM Room 423

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

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, 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**.

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:28:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna Ambrose | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Hawai'i has one of the lowest percentages of residents registered to vote in the country. Automatic voter registration through the drivers license and state ID issuance process is a cost-effective way to increase voter registration. In addition to adding more voters to the rolls, modernizing the system will make it more accurate by updating existing registrations with current addresses. This will cut down the use of provisional ballots. Thank you for considering this important bill.

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:59:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto and members of the committee,

I support HB2119, Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) because:

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.

AVR is cost-effective. 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.

AVR does not mean US citizens are “automatically” registered to vote if they have a driver’s license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not “opt-out” to be a registered voter.

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.

Please pass HB2119. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu (makikirandy@yahoo.com)

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:47:18 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Concur with Common Cause support of HB2119 Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

AVR will streamline Hawaii's voter registration process. It should be cost effective. It requires interaction with a Government official to make a final affirmative decision to register or not. It will support Hawaii's transition to voting by mail and help to maintain accurate an current voter roles.

-- 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.

-- AVR is cost-effective. 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.

-- AVR does not mean US citizens are "automatically" registered to vote if they have a driver's license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not "opt-out" to be a registered voter.

-- With AVR, this 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 update to date.

TO: Members of the Committee on Transportation

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

HEARING: 10:00 a.m. Friday, January 31, 2020

SUBJECT: HB2119 Automatic Voter Registration - **OPPOSED**

LATE

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.

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 vote **"no"** on HB2119.

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 5:29:37 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair of the House Transportation Committee and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB2119. I believe that the Automatic Voter Registration bill 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.

AVR is cost-effective. 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.

AVR does not mean US citizens are “automatically” registered to vote if they have a driver’s license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not “opt-out” to be a registered voter.

With AVR, this 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 update to date.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

In strong support of HB 2119

To: The House Committee on Transportation
From: Brodie Lockard
Date: Friday, January 31, 2020, 10:00 am



Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members:

I strongly support HB 2119, Automatic Voter Registration. It would require registration to vote by applicants for drivers' licenses and state ID cards, unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. And it would automatically transfer voter data between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections.

In addition to increasing voter turnout, AVR is an opportunity to update voter registration information, since people often forget to do so when they move or change their names.

By no longer entering registration information by hand, and wasting less postage delivering mail to obsolete addresses, AVR could save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle.

With more accurate voter rolls, Vote-By-Mail will also work better and save money.

Finally, it is important that every qualified voter understands that the State of Hawaii feels voting is important and should be available to everyone.

AVR and the use of electronic means to transmit information to elections officers will increase turnout, improve the security of our elections, and save money.

Brodie Lockard
Kailua

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 4:54:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Doris Segal Matsunaga | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 6:33:47 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joy Marshall | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:28:49 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I support this bill and associate with the testimony of Common Cause. Thank you.

Martha NAKAJIMA, Honolulu

member of Indivisible-Hawaii

Chair Henry Aquino
Vice Chair Troy Hashimoto
House Committee on Transportation

Friday, January 31, 2020
10:00 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2119 RELATING TO VOTING

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

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**, 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 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

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 12:25:34 PM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| tlaloc tokuda | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure.

TP: AVR is cost-effective. 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.

AVR does not mean US citizens are “automatically” registered to vote if they have a driver’s license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not “opt-out” to be a registered voter.

With AVR, this 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 update to date.

LATE

HB-2119

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 8:17:32 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/31/2020 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D. | Individual | Support | No |

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 have been 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 this bill forward so that all of Hawaii will be better positioned to participate in our elections.