

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 29, 2020
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

**S.B. 2005
RELATING TO VOTING**

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with amendments**, S.B. 2005.

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 DOT and Office of Elections was signed by both parties on 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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2005
RELATING TO VOTING

January 29, 2020

Chair Inouye and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2005. 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.

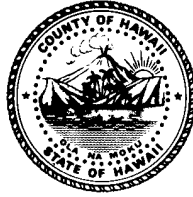
Additionally, this bill ensures the accuracy of the voter registration rolls by electronically transmitting voter registration data between the driver license and identification card database and the statewide voter registration system. The electronic sharing of data between driver licensing officials 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 Senate Bill No. 2005.

JON HENRICKS
County Clerk



AARON BROWN
Deputy County Clerk

LATE

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

ON SENATE BILL NO. 2005

RELATING TO VOTING

January 28, 2020

Chair Inouye and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2005. 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 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 registrations system.

This bill would maximize registration of eligible voters, would provide a convenient way to register, and an opportunity to decline. The bill also ensures that all applicants will meet the qualifications to register to vote.

Also, as we transition to Elections by Mail, this bill would keep the accuracy of voter registration records current and updated as every registered voter will now receive a ballot by mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2005.



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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

TESTIMONY OF JOSIAH NISHITA

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

ON SENATE BILL 2005

RELATING TO VOTING

January 28, 2020

Chair Inouye and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2005. 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 28, 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 Senate Bill No. 2005.

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
LIHU'E, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766-1819

LATE

January 29, 2020

TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2005
RELATING TO VOTING

Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2005. 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, they will be automatically registered to vote if they are not already registered to vote unless they affirmatively decline to be registered 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 Senate Bill No. 2005.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 29, 2020

S.B. 2005 – RELATING TO VOTING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2005 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 S.B. 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Room 225
SB 2005 RELATING TO AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Harimoto, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB 2005. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have passed this reform¹, and last year 10 bills were introduced in Hawaii with widespread support. The demand signal from the public is clear - they want "Opt-Out" Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

"Opt-Out" AVR builds upon Congress's findings in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that 1) voting is a fundamental right and 2) it is the duty of governments to promote the exercise of that right². This bill empowers voters by letting them affirmatively choose whether their information is used to update their registration, or to register them at all, when they interact with the Department of Motor Vehicles "Opt-Out" AVR will promote - but not mandate - registration by making it convenient and cost-effective.

"Opt-Out" AVR would also help the state keep the voter registration rolls more accurate. The same proven and secure processes are used to update a voter's information. The measure complements voting by mail, since accurate registration information avoids errors in ballot delivery and reduces demand for registration services at Voter Service Centers. The savings in time and money add up quickly

Language in the bill provides that applicants for a Provisional driver's license be automatically registered to vote. Our understanding is that such licenses are issued to citizens 16 years of age, but not yet 18. It appears that the intent of including provisional licenses was to permit drivers under 18 to preregister to vote, since they are not currently old enough to vote. The League supports this "Automatic Pre-Registration.

"Opt-Out" AVR reinforces those facts by providing a secure, convenient, and cost-effective way to get and keep voters registered. It does not guarantee that turnout will rise, but it will remove a barrier to that turnout.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

1. "Automatic Voter Registration Bills, 2015-Present". *Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law*. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/automatic-voter-registration-bills-2015-present>, accessed 28 December 2019.

2. 52 USC §20501(a).

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 9:41:18 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Hairmoto and Committee Members,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in full support of the passage of Senate Bill 2005.

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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair

Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

1:00 PM - Room 225

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2005 - AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto 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.

SB 2005 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/>.

YEAR	REGISTERED VOTERS	VOTER 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 JDC/WAM.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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

Keith Ellison



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2020
TIME: 1:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 225

SB 2005 RELATING TO VOTING

SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 49 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Life of the Land supports Automatic Voter Registration. The bill has the appropriate safeguards

"Applications for an identification card or driver's license shall not be processed until the applicant completes the portion of the application related to voter registration, including change in name or address and option to request to vote by permanent absentee ballot, or clearly indicates that the applicant declines to register to vote."

Mahalo
Henry Curtis
Executive Director

Hawaii*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATIONWednesday, January 29, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225in consideration of
SB 2005
RELATING TO VOTING.

Chair INOUE, Vice Chair HARIMOTO, and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Common Cause Hawaii is testifying in support of SB 2005, 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. SB 2005 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. SB 2005 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 in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal #16. 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 SB 2005. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,
Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2020
 TIME: 1:00 p.m.
 PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 225



Testimony in support of SB 2005, Relating to Voting



Aloha, we are testifying on behalf of the AVR Hawaii Coalition in support of SB 2005, 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.



- SB 2005 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 SB 2005.

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





AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
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 25 , 2020

TO: Chair Inouye and Committee on Transportation

RE: SB2005 Relating to Voting

Support for hearing on January 29

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 SB2005 as 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. As fewer than 4 in 10 of Hawaii's voting-eligible population voted in the 2018 general election, it put us last in the nation. Political Scientist, Ray Wolfinger, cites voter registration requirements as the biggest impediment to voter turnout. So this bill will help improve our turnout.

Sincerely,
John Bickel
President





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

January 27, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on Transportation
RE: Testimony in support of SB2005

Dear Senators,

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

January 24, 2020

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator
Breene Harimoto, Vice Senate Committee
on Transportation

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

Re: **SB 2005– Relating to Voting**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225, January 29, 2020, 1:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I am writing in support of SB 2005, 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 asks that you pass SB 2005.

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



Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 2005
RELATING TO VOTING.



Chair INOUE, Vice Chair HARIMOTO, and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Indivisible Hawaii is testifying in support of SB 2005, 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.” SB 2005 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.” SB 2005 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 SB 2005. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Lawrence Basha
AVR Team Leader, Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 1:41:37 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch, Jr.	Testifying for 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 2005 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

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 12:58:36 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Testifying for aaaw of hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 7:29:14 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Transportation
Hearing Date/Time: Wed., Jan. 29, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in strong support of S.B. 2005

Dear Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in strong support of S.B. 2005 to modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. S.B. 2005 will provide 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.

SB 2005 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. Thank you for your support for this important measure.

Sincerely,
Laurie Field
Hawaii State Director



Hawaii

Accountable Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, January 29, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 2005
RELATING TO VOTING.

Chair INOUE, Vice Chair HARIMOTO, and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Indivisible Windward supports passing SB 2005, 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.” SB 2005 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.” SB 2005 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 tax payers 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 SB 2005. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Lawrence Basha
Leadership team, Indivisible Windward



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In Support of SB 2005 – Relating to Voting
Senate Committee on Transportation
Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 1:00 PM, in conference room 225

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 2005**, 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>



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice-Chair
Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 1 p.m.
Conference Room 225**

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

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like express support of SB 2005, Relating to Voting.

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

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

SB 2005 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



LATE

Committee: Committee on Transportation
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 225
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 2005, Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, 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, S.B. 2005, 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. Limiting automatic voter registration to applications to renew or obtain a driver's license or State I.D. may disadvantage marginalized communities who are less likely to obtain licenses or I.D.s. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy Fernandes".

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

LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2005

TO: Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: Nikos Leverenz, Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: January 29, 2020 (1 PM)

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 2005, 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 to 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.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

LATE

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2020
TIME: 1:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 225

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2005 concerning automatic voter registration (AVR)

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto and members,

The Coalition is in strong support this measure, as women will greatly benefit. As a group Hawaii ranks on the bottom of voter turnout by state. Among registered voters in Hawaii women vote at lower rates than their male counterparts, and this cannot be simply attributed to apathy. The stress of working, often multiple jobs, while maintaining a household contributes greatly.

This measure will help women and men to participate on our democracy. It will also modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. It works like this: 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 is not only simple and easy it is also 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.

In addition, AVR will help vote by mail implementation, scheduled to begin statewide starting this year 2020.

Please pass this important bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Contact: annsfreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:31:03 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Testifying for Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



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

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Relating to Relating to Voting
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2005 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 SB2005**.

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

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:06:39 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support voter rights!

www.WeAreOne.cc

I support SB 2005 because I believe making it easier for communities like mine to vote is a good thing for them and for Hawai'i. My community in Nānākuli is highly under-represented. Homelessness and limited resources to address community needs are significant issues that require more discussion and better attention from our representatives. Yet the people most affected by these issues are often not at the table when policies are made. In fact, I've had relatives in the past who experienced homelessness. That needs to change. Improving access to voting by enacting automatic voter registration will allow the voices of my community to be heard.

The traditional process of registering to vote can discourage some people from voting for several reasons. Many families have to face challenges such as burdensome work schedules and just not having enough time to register. Instead of having them go to the Office of Elections, online or in person, they can be registered to vote when they visit the DMV. They cannot avoid going to the DMV to get a license or renew it or to get a state ID So having their voter registration updated at the same time makes so much sense. It becomes more convenient. That increases the likelihood that people will vote and ensures that voter rolls are updated promptly.

Rural communities will be enjoying better representation if we improve access to voting. Easing the registration process means putting people in a state of readiness to vote in both the Primary (Aug 8) and General (Nov 3) election this year. As a UH student, I hope to become more civically engaged and AVR will help. Please pass AVR: It will save the state and people like us time and money. Thank you, Senators.

Good afternoon, my name is Lindney Acosta. I come from, and still reside in Kalihi, a town of many low-income and immigrant families. These families, including my own, work tirelessly day in and day out, most needing to work multiple jobs, just to make ends meet. They prioritize being able to put food on the table, which most of the time leaves very little to no room for voluntary civic engagement. My friend, who is an Emergency Medical Technician, works 12 hour shifts, comes home to rest, and does the same thing over and over again. Has yet to register to vote. Many simply cannot afford to take time to go register to vote.

We also live in a time where the youth of our state are hungry to make a difference. They are the driving force for a better Hawaii. Issues like climate change, gun control, affordable housing, and the handling of sacred Hawaiian land are all hot topics in social media. But, these people who are crying out for change need to first make their voices heard through the ballot box. My generation needs to vote.

I believe that Bill SB 2005 will help. Vote By Mail is a step forward. Thank you for enacting VBM. Please now take the next step and pass AVR to give more of our hard-working individuals and the youth of our state a chance by easing the task and cost of registering to vote. AVR will allow more people to become involved. It will prevent delays in processing paper registrations, and will allow equal opportunity for all the people of Hawaii to have a voice in our democracy. I'm sure that is what you as our lawmakers want as well.

As a UH student, I hope to become more civically engaged and AVR will help. Let us establish a well-engaged community by removing obstacles to participation, and by improving access to voting. Please pass SB2005. It will save time, money, and more importantly, get more people politically involved. My generation needs AVR. Thank you for your time.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:43:10 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandrya Robinson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

The United States is a democratic republic governing system, meaning that officials that create and pass laws are elected into office. Hawaii has a low voter turnout with people 18 and over making up 78.6% of Hawaii's population in 2018 - of that population only 115,406 registered to vote, that is a 9.67% registration for general elections. That does not count those incarcerated at the time, but such a low fraction is still significant. I support SB 2005 because I believe making it easier for communities like mine to vote is a good thing for them and for Hawaii. As a college student that also works finding time to register to vote is near impossible, with automatic voter registration it would make voting more accessible for those like me who cannot make it register.

Without automatic voter registration the accessibility for voting is low. For me my school and work schedule directly conflict with times that I can go in to register. I cannot afford to miss work in order to register to vote, and most days I am not allowed to. If I had access to automatic voter registration the accessibility to vote and participate in my civic duty is far easier and would help others just like me. To get more people who don't have the time, money, or even ability to go out to register to vote automatic voter registration would be beneficial not only to them but to the state. With more ease there will be an increase in voter turnout from just the fractional proportion of Hawaii residence. Please pass automatic voter registration; It will save the state and people like us time and money.

I thank you for your time and your patients as I stand before you. I hope that you have heard my words and take them into consideration. Thank you again and please have a good rest of your day.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 9:08:46 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Griffin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hello, my name is Maile Griffin and I support SB2005 because I believe Automatic Voting Registration (AVR) would greatly ease the voting registration process for my community and Hawaii. I live in Downtown, Honolulu with a significant homeless population. Everyday, I walk by at least 3 people sleeping on sidewalks with holes in their blankets, soiled newspapers as bedding, and insects crawling at their bare feet scorched by the burning sidewalks under Hawaii's sun.

The current voting registration process can deter the houseless and other low-income earners from voting because they have no time to register as they juggle family and work to make their living. By making the transfer of information for voter registration automatic when one goes to the DMV, the process becomes more convenient and keeps voter polls updated. People are free to say NO if they do not want to have their information transmitted to the Office of Elections. That is important.

The homeless and other low-income earners below the federal poverty line are 47% of Hawaii's population -- a statistic our own senators acknowledged during this year's Legislative Opening Session. It is important for these groups to represent themselves in deciding their own future in this state and country. AVR would make registration easier and increase the chance that people will vote in both the Primary and General election this year. This would ensure that those who vote will better represent Hawaii's population.

As a UH student, I hope to become more civically engaged and AVR will help. Please pass AVR: it will save the state and people like us time and money. It will help families from disadvantaged communities have a voice. I hope to serve families as a psychologist when I graduate. Thank you for your time, Senators.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 9:31:43 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2005 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 SB2005 forward so that all of Hawaii will be better positioned to participate in our elections.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 9:33:35 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senate Transportation Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 2005.

Automatic Voter Registration

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 so much for your time and consideration on this matter.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

Chair Lorraine Inouye
Vice Chair Breene Harimoto
Senate Committee on Transportation

Wednesday, January 29, 2020
1:00 PM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2005 RELATING TO VOTING

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, Members of the Senate 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 SB2005**, 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 SB2005 and request for this measure to be **passed** through your committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

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

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 7:20:27 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please, pass SB 2005, automatic voter registration.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 9:59:57 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Salisbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

People with disabilities face many threats to our opportunity to vote. For us, it is often because accessibility barriers spring up on us and block us at some point in the process. Enacting automatic voter registration will help us to have one fewer barrier to our equal participation in the voting process.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 10:16:13 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I strongly support Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) because:

1. It 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.
2. It 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.
3. It 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.
4. 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.

Please pass SB 2005. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching (concerned citizen)

Honolulu (makikirandy@yahoo.com)

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 5:07:45 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 5:53:07 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 10:15:42 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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, having been estimated to save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

US citizens would not be 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, takes effect statewide starting this year. AVR will ensure that Hawaii’s voter rolls are accurate and up to date.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:36:01 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I submit this testimony in support of SB2005. I associate with the testimony of Common Cause previously submitted. Thank you.

Martha Nakajima

member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 11:02:52 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support implementation of a system of automatic voter registration for two reasons. First and foremost, it will streamline the process of civic participation and eliminate an unnecessary barrier for everyday working folks who already have more than enough to worry about in their busy lives without making registering to vote one of them. Secondly, AVR will increase the security of our election system through more frequent updating of voter rolls and secure, electronic transfer of information from the Department of Transportation to the Office of Elections.

There is no good reason why we should not give our citizens a default position of "registered." It doesn't mean they have to vote, but it does mean that the option is already present. And if someone truly does not wish to be registered, they can easily opt-out. Real-world experience proves that AVR policies dramatically increase voter participation, which is a cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Now, more than ever, we desperately need an engaged electorate and secure elections. This measure is one step in the right direction. Please pass SB2005.

Mahalo!

Hawaii
Holding Power Accountable

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, January 29, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 2005
RELATING TO VOTING.

Chair INOUE, Vice Chair HARIMOTO, and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2005 to institute Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). 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 money from 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

4 [SB2005](#), AVR bill, will be heard before the Senate Transportation Committee on Weds., 1/29/2020, at 1:00 pm in room 225. SUPPORT

TP: 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.

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.

TP: 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.

TP 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.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 4:26:47 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Concur with Common Cause Hawaii support for SB2005, 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 and current voter roles.

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 1:55:14 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 1:55:30 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
autumn ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:11:47 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Tippett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this legislation regarding mail in voting in total. Way too many ways to cheat. Families of deceased or senile relatives can vote for them. Mail carriers can walk off with ballot and use them, it goes on and on. Voting is a privilege and should be honored as such.

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:25:56 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:56:57 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Janik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Everyone should automatically be registered to vote and penalized if they do not vote.

Richard J Janik, MD

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:59:40 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff vesci	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Voting is a crucial part of our democracy and anything that can help get people to participate should be implemented.

Mahalo,

Jeffrey Vesce

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 3:05:44 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's just make it easier for people to vote.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 3:41:40 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM



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

Comments:

I am writing in support of Bill SB 2005 because it seems an efficient and simple method to make sure each resident is given the right to register without hassle or extra paperwork. While some residents may have a reason why they choose not to vote, all should be registered so that they may complete their civil duties with the greatest ease possible, should they choose to do so until the last moment possible. Automatic registration with vehicle registration or licensing will also reduce last-minute voter registration efforts and, over time as the measure goes into effect, allow all residents to know they are registered voters, only needing to file a change of address as needed. Please consider this automatic method a way to streamline the process and remove obstacles from people completing their civil duties.

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 4:10:51 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an important measure to pass this year. I am submitting my testimony from Kauai. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 4:26:04 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul McKimmy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure makes great sense and encourages voter participation

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 5:26:47 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 6:08

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/20

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in because I am and continue to be a full supporter of automatic voter registration. I believe that with the times we need to stay present and innovative in capturing all of our voters in Hawai'i. Please support this bill as well.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 7:25:52 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:07:05 PM
Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and respected Committee Members,

Unfortunately this testimony is a couple hours late, but I wanted to briefly say before the hearing on SB2005 that this bill is a no-brainer. In our democratic republic, there is no reason why all eligible citizens shouldn't be automatically registered to vote. The only argument against this I could even conceive of is that in the United States, people should have the liberty to choose whether or not to register, and in a libertarian sense I may agree with that logic. However, I firmly believe that voting is a civic duty that all Americans should care about, and in the case of voter registration, this should be as mandatory as taxes and jury duty. AVR doesn't force people to vote, it only guarantees their constitutional right to do so. Please pass this common-sense legislation as a way to protect everyone's right to vote and to encourage more states around the country to follow our example.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-2005

Submitted on [redacted] PM
Testimony for [redacted]:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Newman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support AVR!!!

It is in everone's best interest to make it as easy as possible for every eligible citizen to vote. Automatic Voting Registration will help. Period.

Mahalo

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:24:42 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:29:13

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:53:01 AM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in support of the automatic voter registration in Hawaii. We need all of our citizens represented.

Mahalo,

Susan

LATE

SB-2005

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:18:44 PM

Testimony for TRS on 1/29/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	No

Comments: