



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2794, SD 1, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

June 29, 2020

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2794, SD 1, HD 1. The bill makes housekeeping amendments to our election laws; prohibits agents of a candidate from providing voting assistance; allows for the criminal referral of campaign finance law violations in addition to any administrative determination; increases the disqualification period for a person convicted of certain criminal election offenses from holding elective public office; repeals the exclusion of certain persons from criminal prosecution; and changes the deadline to file nomination papers to the first Tuesday in May.

As this bill relates to housekeeping amendments to our election laws, we recommend delaying their effective date until January 1, 2021 for the 2022 Elections. Making the bill effective upon approval may lead to logistical issues related to implementing the bill and corresponding legal challenges that could compromise the 2020 Elections.

For example, Sections 8 and 14 of the bill, amend HRS §§ 11-24 and 11-102 to extend the voter registration deadline from the thirtieth day prior to an election to the tenth day and to correspondingly require that ballots be mailed to these new registrants, as opposed to requiring them to register in-person at a voter service center beginning on the tenth business day prior to an election. This may take away resources and impact a variety of logistical matters that are being executed in the last few weeks prior to election day.

Section 19 of the bill amends the timeline in HRS § 11-106 for the county clerk to determine the validity of ballots following the election from seven days to

ten days. However, this cuts into the time allowed to count and release the post-election results in a timely manner ahead of the deadline to file a contest for cause. Specifically, for the Primary Election, the contest for cause deadline is the thirteenth day following the election. HRS § 11-173.5. As such, the bill might result in candidates having as few as three days to determine if they wish to challenge the election after receiving notice of the election results.

Finally, Section 20 of the bill amends HRS §11-109 to increase the number of voter service centers on election day and places of deposit. While we defer to the county clerks on these matters, we would note that a significant amount of logistical planning has taken place over the last year to establish the current voter service center and places of deposit and it is not clear at this time where or how these additional voter service center and places of deposit would be established at this time.

1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2794, SD 1, HD

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 11:09:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosemarie Muller	LWVHC	Support	No

Comments:

LWV Hawai'i County is testifying in support of SB2794,SD1,HD1, which makes several housekeeping amendments to Hawaii Election laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail.

LWV Hawai'i County requests that SN2794, SD1,HD1 be clarified to ensure that the Cares Act Election Security funding be spent on establishing additional Voter Service Centers as provided in said HD1 for the current 2020 elections.

Thank you

Rosemarie Muller

President LWV Hawai'i County

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 2:42:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) supports the additional voter service centers provided for in this bill.

Increasing the number of voter service centers will help ensure broader participation in Hawaii's nascent vote-by-mail system by empowering those who make mistakes on their ballot, those seeking other assistance, or those who have forgotten to mail in their ballots with time sufficient to have them into elections officials by the current deadline.

HHRC is also a member of the automatic voter registration (AVR) coalition with Common Cause Hawaii, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, ACLU of Hawaii, and others. We look forward to prospective legislative efforts that will increase opportunities to register new voters when they have contact with government offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 6:45:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Shimei	Indivisible Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

IN SUPPORT

SB 2794 SD1 HD1 makes several housekeeping amendments to Hawaii's elections laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail.

SB 2794 SD1 HD1 recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be supplemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers (VSCs) which are needed because:

1. This is the first year in which essentially all voting will be done by mail. While large numbers of voters have voted by mail in the past, this is the first time it will be mandatory even for those who have traditionally voted in person. We must anticipate that there will be glitches while people adjust to the new system, and that the problems will escalate close to and particularly on election day. Further, voters with disabilities, voters needing language assistance or registering same day, voters from rural areas or who move frequently (houseless and students), and voters without easy access to a mailbox or drop box need VSCs to be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We need to ensure we have enough VSCs to serve these voters.
2. This year the coronavirus provides an extra challenge. The VSCs provide essential services before and on election day and we need to ensure we have enough VSC resources to enable voters to have their issues resolved in a safe and timely manner.

Voting is the foundation of democracy. In future years we may no longer need these additional resources but we need them now.

In addition, the following changes should also be included:

-- SB 2794 SD1 HD1 should be clarified to ensure that the available CARES Act election security funding (or some other comparable source of funding) be spent on establishing additional VSCs in 2020.

-- Section 18 of SB 2794 SD1 HD1 should be amended to delete provisions permitting voted ballots to be returned by electronic transmission (except pursuant to federal law, such as the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act). The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) all agree that there is no method to securely return votes over the internet.

-- The provision in Section 19 of SB 2794 SD1 HD1 stating that "[n]o ballots shall be validated beyond the tenth day following an election" (p. 25, lines 18-19) should be removed. If a voter followed the statutory requirements, there should be no arbitrary cutoff date for counting of ballots. Every properly cast vote should be counted.

-- Currently ballots must be received no later than election day to be counted. How long before election day must you mail your ballot to insure it will be received by the deadline? 7 days? 5 days? 3 days? This uncertainty will lead to more ballots being deposited in the drop boxes or delivered to the VSCs, with added burden on the drop boxes and VSCs in the 3-7 days immediately prior to the deadline. This should be changed so that all ballots received before or on election day, *and all ballots postmarked before or on election day and received no later than 10 calendar days after election day*, will be counted. The need for fast results must give way to the need for accurate results, and all ballots must be counted to insure the validity of the outcome.

As a pioneer in vote-by-mail, all eyes will be on Hawaii on November 3. Any glitches will be used to cast doubt on validity. We have the opportunity and obligation to do all in our power to protect our voters and our votes.

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 7:25:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	No

Comments:

All eyes are on Hawai`i as we embark on our first Vote By Mail election. And the upcoming election is one of the most important in our lifetimes. Therefore, we want to take every precaution to ensure that all eligible voters get the chance to exercise their voting rights.

Please impress upon the Office of Elections the necessity of having more Voter Service Centers. We want our voters to have every opportunity to make informed decisions and knowing the process is vital to an honest election.

Please pass SB 2794 and let's make history!



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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Alan Burdick, Vice President
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Stephen O'Harrow
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P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823

June 27, 2020

TO: Honorable Chair Luke and FIN Committee

RE: SB 2794 SD1 HD1 Relating to Elections

Support for hearing June 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 SB 2794 SD1 HD1 as it recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. Many voters, especially in communities and demographic groups with poor mail access, are used to voting in-person, prefer to do so, and will not be willing or able to vote by mail. Those voters will need safe and healthy in-person voting options. We like that this bill sets the minimum number of eight voter service centers for each election to be apportioned between the counties by the chief elections officer with the counties to be able to add more. Voter service centers allow voters to conduct in-person voting, same day register to vote, deposit voted ballots, and more. There also will be at least thirty drop boxes.

As the Democratic Party discovered in its all-mail-in Party-run Presidential Primary, people need to get used to mail-in. Provisions need to be made to increase options to decrease confusion.

This bill helps.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Monday, June 29, 2020
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of
SB 2794, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2794, SD1, HD1, which makes several housekeeping amendments to Hawaii's elections laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts. Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, enacting statewide vote by mail starting in 2020, is an excellent way to improve civic engagement and voter turnout in Hawaii, but there are still avenues to strengthen this law. To be clear, Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports all mail-in voting, and we want it to succeed.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1 recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. This is because voting by mail does not work for everyone, especially not in a pandemic. "In the ordinary course, new voting procedures typically cause disruptions and problems the first time they are used. This problem will be compounded by the sheer magnitude of the shift to mail-voting, coupled with the chaos and confusion caused by the virus. The reality is that many voters, especially in communities and demographic groups with poor mail access, are used to voting in-person, prefer to do so, and will not be willing or able to vote by mail. Those voters will need safe and healthy in-person voting options this November." <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voters-need-safe-and-sanitary-person-voting-options>; <https://www.rewire.org/what-to-know-about-voting-by-mail/> (voting by mail should not be the only option); <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/news/2020/04/20/483438/expanding-vote-mail-states-must-maintain-person-voting-options-coronavirus-pandemic/> (vote-by-mail systems must include in-person voting options).

Voters with disabilities, needing language assistance, same day registering to vote, from rural areas, who move frequently (houseless and students), from historically marginalized groups, and others need voter service centers to be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We cannot assume, especially not in Hawaii, that all voters are fluent English speakers, who do not have a disability, will

not need assistance with casting a ballot, and/or have easy access to a mailbox or a drop box. <https://www.vox.com/2020/3/20/21185184/vote-by-mail-coronavirus-pandemic-elections>.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1, understanding the need for vote-by-mail to be complemented with in-person voting options, sets at Section 20 the minimum number of 8 voter service centers for each election to be apportioned between the counties by the chief elections officer with the counties to be able to add more. Voter service centers allow voters to conduct in-person voting, same day register to vote, deposit voted ballots, and more.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1 also more importantly, at Section 20, provides that on election day that the clerk of any county with a population less than five hundred thousand shall operate one additional voter service center on each island and the clerk of any county with a population of five hundred thousand or more shall operate three additional voter service centers, one of which shall be on the Windward side; provided further that on election day all additional voter service centers shall be open until 7:00 p.m.

Without SB 2794, SD1, HD1, the County Clerks have decided for the very first time that all mail-in voting will be implemented in Hawaii and during a public health crisis that we will only have 8 voter service centers to help our State transition to a new voting process. Without SB 2794, SD1, HD1, the County Clerks have decided that we will only have 2 voter service centers on Oahu, 1 on Kauai, 1 on Maui Island, 1 on Molokai, 1 on Lanai, and 2 on Hawaii Island.

Clearly, only having the very limited number of voter service centers will create barriers to people exercising their constitutional right to vote. Voting is a fundamental right preservative of all other rights. *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886). "No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live," and "[o]ther rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined." *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 17 (1964). As recognized by the Hawaii Supreme Court in *Green Party of Hawai'i v. Nago*, 138 Hawai'i 228, 378 P.3d 944 (2016), "[t]he right to vote is of fundamental importance."

Additionally, SB 2794, SD1, HD1 sets, at Section 20, a minimum number of places of deposit (i.e., drop boxes) -- 30 -- to receive completed ballots to be apportioned by the chief elections officer. The county clerks have the discretion to add more drop boxes.

The Committee Report No. 1222-20 for SB 2794, SD1, HD1 specifically notes that there is a large amount of CARES Act funding that should and can be used for the establishment of additional voter service centers and drop boxes for the current 2020 elections. Common Cause Hawaii requests that SB 2794, SD1, HD1 be clarified to ensure that the CARES Act election security funding (or some other comparable source of funding) be spent on establishing additional voter service centers as provided in said HD1 for the current 2020 elections.

Common Cause Hawaii also suggests amending Section 18 of SB 2794, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-107) to delete any references that voted ballots may be returned by electronic transmission, except

pursuant to federal law, such as the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Department of Homeland Security all agree that no practically proven method exists to securely, verifiably, or privately return voted materials over the internet. In a recently released document entitled Risk Management for Electronic Ballot Delivery, Marking and Return, all four agencies stated, “Electronic ballot return faces significant security risks to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of voted ballots. These risks can ultimately affect the tabulation and results and can occur at scale.” Voting by email or via web portals jeopardizes the integrity of the election results; votes can be manipulated or deleted without the voter’s knowledge and the voter’s selections could be traced back to the individual voter. An after-the-fact audit will not cure this issue.

Common Cause Hawaii further questions the need for adding a provision in Section 19 of SB 2794, SD1, HD1, stating that “[n]o ballots shall be validated beyond the tenth day following an election.” Pg. 25, lines 18-19. If a voter adhered to all the requirements set forth in statutes, there should be no arbitrary cutoff date for counting of ballots. According to the U.S. Constitution, voting is a right and a privilege. Every vote should be counted. Common Cause Hawaii suggests that this provision be deleted.

In summary, Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2794, SD1, HD1, especially Section 20 creating additional voter service centers on election day. Common Cause Hawaii requests that the CARES Act election security funding (or some other comparable source of funding) be spent on establishing additional voter service centers as provided in HD1 for the current 2020 elections. Common Cause Hawaii also suggests that voted ballots not be returned via electronic transmission due to known security risks, and all properly voted ballots should be validated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2794, SD1, HD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

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



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**THE STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Monday, June 29, 2020
2:00 p.m. Room 329**

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Re: S.B. 2794, SD1,HD1 – Relating to Elections

Dear Chair Luke, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i

AARP Hawai'i **supports S.B. 2794, SD1, HD1.**

This bill makes housekeeping amendments to Hawaii's election laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail. One of the amendments includes the increase in the number of voter service centers and ballots drop boxes in each county.

This is the first election in which all Hawaii voters will vote by mail or at voter service centers. While many voters are likely to vote by mail, especially during this Covid-19 crisis, there may be others who choose to vote in person; do not get their ballots in time to fill them out and send them back; miss mail-in deadlines; or encounter other extenuating circumstances which will require them to vote in person, including people with disabilities who require assistance to exercise their right to vote or those needing to cast a provisional ballot. The original number of voter services centers and drop boxes as currently planned by the Office of Elections would not be sufficient given the number of registered voters, and there is a need to practice safe distancing. Oahu for example, has only two voter service centers and 8 drop boxes for its registered voters. Increasing the number by one additional voter center per island, and 30 drop boxes throughout the state would improve access for voters.

The additional voter service centers and drop boxes locations, especially in rural communities and focal community hubs, will help reduce large crowds of voters lining up at these voting sites. These centers and drop boxes should remain open at convenient hours and follow the CDC recommended safe distancing and infection control protocols so that voters can safely exercise their rights to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 2794, SD1, HD1.

AARP
Real Possibilities



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 29, 2020

2:00 PM

Room 329

In **SUPPORT** of **SB2794 SD2 HD1**: Relating to Elections

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 27,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports SB2794 SD1 HD1**, which makes several housekeeping amendments to Hawai'i's elections laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail.

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. We believe that protecting our air, water, climate, and communities are inexplicably linked to the protection of our democracy, and we must work toward solutions that solve these issues in lockstep.

We support SB2794 SD2 HD1 because it recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. Voter service centers allow voters to conduct in-person voting, same day voter registration, deposit ballots, and more. Section 20 of the bill establishes a minimum number of 8 voter service centers for each election to be apportioned between the counties by the chief elections officer with the counties to be able to add more. The HD1 provides that on election day that the clerk of any county with a population less than five hundred thousand shall operate one additional voter service center on each island and the clerk of any county with a population of five hundred thousand or more shall operate three additional voter service centers, one of which shall be on the Windward side; provided further that on election day all additional voter service centers shall be open until 7:00 p.m.

Multiple voting options will be vital for people without Internet and mail access, those who need assistance voting in their primary language, and people with disabilities who rely on voting machines to vote. Efforts like these not only help prepare our state for elections this year, but help to safeguard a more fair and equitable democracy moving forward.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB2794**.

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 9:08:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a proponent of VOTE BY MAIL and was pleased to see Hawaii adopt this process. It seems particularly fortuitous in light of COVID-19 and possible voter reluctance to vote in person. Unfortunately the timing is also problematic since, in spite of the fact that this is the first time Hawaii voters will be experiencing an all VOTE BY MAIL election, the number of walk-in Voter Service Centers on Hawaii Island will be two only. For me, the driving time to Kona is about an hour, to Hilo closer to 1.5 hours. Since much of the Big Island is rural and the transportation infrastructure is limited, others would have a considerably longer drive. Although there has been a lot of publicity about how to register, voting by mail, et cetera I know that many potential voters still are unaware of the changes or haven't really thought about what they might mean to them. Old habits (going to poll) die hard plus many have been much more focused on COVID-19, whether they have food to eat, and other essentials!

I think it's critical that all citizens have equitable access to voting and that everything possible be done to facilitate high voter turnout. Proposed revisions of SB2794, SD1, HD1 would provide another walk-in Voter Service Center on Hawaii Island, will help ensure that more voters have reasonable access to voting. In reality, one more service center is not enough but 3 for this island is certainly better than 2! Since the state has received federal CARES funding to help underwrite voting security there should be adequate monies available to support the proposed revisions in HD1.

I urge the Finance Committee to recommend approval of SB 2794, SD1, HD1 Relating to Elections.

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 10:36:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 11:58:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I've supported Common Cause for years and they submitted lengthy testimony which my husband and I endorse. (This issue is right up their alley.)

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 1:11:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Gust	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please assure that we have sufficient voter service locations in order to accommodate the transportation needs and accessibility needs of all HI citizens.

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 1:13:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phil Barnes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Finance Committee

RE: SB2794 SD1 HD2

With our transition to mail in voting I am sure that many voters will not yet be clear on how the voting procedures will be managed.

I would urge you to support the proposed revisions - most notably mandating additional walk-in Voter Service Centers statewide including an additional one (for a total of 3) for our very large Hawai'i Island. I concur that the third walk-in site does not have to be open the full 10 days prior to election day. I also concur that CARES funding received by the State and shared with the County should be used to underwrite this additional expense and support voter education about new VOTE BY MAIL procedures including walk-in locations and secure ballot drop boxes.

It is imperative that you use your authority to encourage County Clerks statewide to follow the letter of the law - as revised - when/if SB2794 HD1 is authorized by the full 2020 Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. These revisions ensure enhanced accessibility, transparency and security - all critical in these uncertain times and with the added cloud of Covid safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Phil Barnes

Hilo, HI 96720

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 2:54:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I am writing in support of SB2749, SD1, HD1 with comments.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1 recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. This is because voting by mail does not work for everyone, especially not in a pandemic. "In the ordinary course, new voting procedures typically cause disruptions and problems the first time they are used. This problem will be compounded by the sheer magnitude of the shift to mail-voting, coupled with the chaos and confusion caused by the virus. The reality is that many voters, especially in communities and demographic groups with poor mail access, are used to voting in-person, prefer to do so, and will not be willing or able to vote by mail. Those voters will need safe and healthy in-person voting options this November." <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voters-need-safe-and-sanitary-person-voting-options>; <https://www.rewire.org/what-to-know-about-voting-by-mail/> (voting by mail should not be the only option); <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/news/2020/04/20/483438/expanding-vote-mail-states-must-maintain-person-voting-options-coronavirus-pandemic/> (vote-by-mail systems must include in-person voting options).

The Committee Report No. 1222-20 for SB 2794, SD1, HD1 specifically notes that there is a large amount of CARES Act funding that should and can be used for the establishment of additional voter service centers and drop boxes for the current 2020 elections. I request that SB 2794, SD1, HD1 be clarified to ensure that the CARES Act election security funding (or some other comparable source of funding) be spent on establishing additional voter service centers as provided in said HD1 for the current 2020 elections.

Please pass this bill to secure funding for additional voter service centers. Please also ensure that the voted ballots are not returned via electronic transmission due to known security risks and all properly voted ballot should be validated.

Respectfully yours,

Caroline Kunitake

PATTI COOK

64-5246 Iokua Pl., Kamuela, HI 96743 - Cell: 808-937-2833

June 28, 2020

RE: SUPPORTING SB2794 SD1 HD1

HEARING: 2 p.m., June 29, 2020 – Hawai'i State House Finance Committee

Aloha Rep. Sylvia Luke and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for scheduling this hearing to address critical voting issues for the residents of all of Hawai'i prior to the August 8, 2020 Primary Election – and applicable to future elections, too.

I support the proposed revisions – most importantly, the mandate for additional walk-in Voter Service Centers (VSC) including a third one for Hawai'i County. As it is, I live 45+ miles from the planned West Hawai'i VSC and 55+ miles from the planned East Hawai'i VSC and there are many who live another 20-30 miles further away. As you know too, our island has very limited public transit. While I fully intend to vote by mail, the transition to virtually all VOTE BY MAIL is substantial and many who I know “pay attention” as serious voters still haven't really grasped the changes in play. Also, many of our kupuna love walk-in voting – it's a proud and satisfying way of doing their civic duty. While we have gone to our Senior Centers prior to the Covid shutdown to try to brief them on the changes, it is still not really on their radar. Further, Covid safety concerns add a new kink and we don't even know yet what that may be like come August – or November.

I agree that this third VSC does not have to be open the full 10 days prior to election day. I also concur that CARES funding that was shared with Hawai'i County should be used in part to help underwrite this additional expense and also fund voter education about VOTE BY MAIL including walk-in locations and secure ballot drop boxes.

In addition to passing this bill out and helping move it thru for final Legislative authorization this session, I ask you to please do all within your authority to encourage the various County Clerks to follow the law as revised by this bill to reduce vote suppression by ensuring accessibility, transparency, security and safety.

MAHALO again for focusing on this during such challenging times. We do appreciate your commitment to all of the people of Hawai'i.

Patricia Anne (Patti) Cook
cookshi@aol.com

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 7:56:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
vivienne aronowitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Sylvia Luke and members of the House Finance Committee:

RE: SB2794 SD1 HD2

Hearing: 2 p.m., Mon., June 29, 2020

THANK YOU for scheduling this hearing to address critical voting issues for the residents of Hawai'i prior to the rapidly approaching Aug. 8, 2020 Hawai'i Primary Election.

I support the proposed revisions - most notably mandating additional walk-in Voter Service Centers statewide including an additional one (for a total of 3) for our very large Hawai'i Island. I concur that the third walk-in site does not have to be open the full 10 days prior to election day. I also concur that CARES funding received by the State and shared with the County should be used to underwrite this additional expense and support voter education about new VOTE BY MAIL procedures including walk-in locations and secure ballot drop boxes.

Please do everything within your authority to encourage County Clerks statewide to follow the letter of the law - as revised - when/if SB2794 HD1 is authorized by the full 2020 Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. These revisions ensure enhanced accessibility, transparency and security - all critical in these uncertain times and with the added cloud of Covid safety.

MAKING IT AS EASY AS POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO VOTE IS CRITICAL AT THIS TIME.

Thank you again for addressing this at this time.

Vivienne Aronowitz

65-1241 Pomaikai Pl

Kamuela 96743

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 9:34:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this Vote by Mail bill with housekeeping amendments to Hawaii's elections laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1 recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. This is because voting by mail does not work for everyone, especially not in a pandemic. "In the ordinary course, new voting procedures typically cause disruptions and problems the first time they are used. This problem will be compounded by the sheer magnitude of the shift to mail-voting, coupled with the chaos and confusion caused by the virus. The reality is that many voters, especially in communities and demographic groups with poor mail access, are used to voting in-person, prefer to do so, and will not be willing or able to vote by mail. Those voters will need safe and healthy in-person voting options this November." <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voters-need-safe-and-sanitary-person-voting-options>; <https://www.rewire.org/what-to-know-about-voting-by-mail/> (voting by mail should not be the only option); <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/news/2020/04/20/483438/expanding-vote-mail-states-must-maintain-person-voting-options-coronavirus-pandemic/> (vote-by-mail systems must include in-person voting options).

Thank you,

Tlaloc Tokuda

73-4599 Kukuki St

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 11:46:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments.

I have 40 years experience incorporating new Automatic Data Programs (ADP) and Information Technology (IT) systems in various Federal Government and Department of Defense environments. I cannot recall one time in which implementation of such systems went smoothly without needing additional adjustments or confronting unforeseen complications. To expect no problems or mishap with the initial state shift to voting by mail defies common sense. As least for this initial effort, voter service centers should be available to assist and cover voters who experience difficulties with the new system. Let us avoid the embarrassment of faulty voting systems recently seen in state elections on the mainland.

To: The House Committees on Finance
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Board Member
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020, 2:00 pm

In strong support of SB2794, SD1, HD1, with comments

Dear Chair Luke, and members:

I strongly support SB2794, SD1, HD1, with comments.

In 24 days, a potential 750,000 registered Hawaii voters will begin voting by mail (VBM) for the very first time. We're in the midst of a pandemic causing unprecedented social disruption and unpredictability.

Many voters will not understand the new VBM process, or even be aware of it until days or hours before it begins.

The eight Voter Service Centers (VSCs) planned by the County Clerk election administrators will be incapacitated by not just the usual in-person voting, same day voter registration, and collection of voted ballots, but also the lost, undelivered, misdelivered and spoiled ballots, and the confusion, mistakes, mistrust, mishaps, misunderstandings and countless questions that VBM's launch will inevitably bring.

Voters with disabilities, needing language assistance, registering to vote that day, wanting to walk in, from rural areas, who move frequently (houseless and students), from historically marginalized groups, and others need VSCs to be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

VSCs allow voters to conduct in-person voting, same-day register to vote, deposit voted ballots, and get issues resolved. But without this bill, there won't be enough of them.

The County Clerks have decided that all mail-in voting will be implemented in Hawaii for the first time--and during a public health crisis--with just eight VSCs. They somehow have been given this authority, and now four individuals are misusing it to the detriment of three-quarters of a million registered voters.

I would like to be able to ask a question about this brand-new process without having to drive halfway across Oahu and stand in line for hours, six feet apart. And I'd like my fellow voters to have that ability too.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1 makes eight VSCs the minimum for the state, and requires six more: three on Oahu, and one in each of the other counties. I applaud this significant improvement. But this draft bill only requires the extra six VSCs to be open on Election Day. One day! It certainly helps, but it's entirely inadequate. It will turn a catastrophe into a mere major disaster.

The HSCR1222-20 Committee Report states that, "The Chief Election Officer informed your Committee that the Chief Election Officer has made funds available to the clerks of each county to increase the number of voter service centers and places of deposit, and has encouraged them to establish additional locations."

So the money is there. We need more VSCs. The Office of Elections has encouraged the Clerks to use the money to open more VSCs. The only step left is to pass this bill and make it happen.

Additionally, Section 20 of SB 2794 sets a minimum number of places of deposit (i.e., drop boxes) to receive completed ballots: 30. That's one box per 25,000 registered voters. Again, this is completely inadequate. The County Clerks also have the discretion to add more drop boxes.

The more drop boxes, the less wasted time and gas for voters, the shorter the COVID-fearing lines at VSCs, the more time VSC workers will have to put out fires, and the better the chance of a smooth election. Thirty is a small help. Sixty might suffice. More would be better.

I also request that you amend Section 18 of SB 2794, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-107) to delete any allowance for voted ballots to be returned by electronic transmission, except pursuant to federal law. We must not compromise voting security if we are to have confidence in our method of maintaining a functional democracy.

Finally, I see no reason or justification for an arbitrary cutoff date for counting ballots. Please dismiss this strange notion by deleting, in lines 18-19 on page 25, the sentence, "No ballots shall be validated beyond the tenth day following an election."

Without SB 2794, SD1, HD1, and the amendments above, Hawaii voters' introduction to VBM will be a train wreck fit for the national news. Not only will there be disgusted voters and contested results—Hawaii's voters could be so disillusioned that turnout actually drops, furthering our reputation as The State That Won't Vote.

You can turn this election from a potential statewide fiasco into a triumph for the democratic process. Please amend this bill, and pass it.

Thank you for your attention.

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Board Member

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 1:02:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick OKiersey	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Sylvia Luke and members of the House Finance Committee:

RE: SB2794 SD1 HD2

Hearing: 2 p.m., Mon., June 29, 2020

THANK YOU for scheduling this hearing to address critical voting issues for the residents of Hawai'i prior to the rapidly approaching Aug. 8, 2020 Hawai'i Primary Election.

I support the proposed revisions - most notably mandating additional walk-in Voter Service Centers statewide including an additional one (for a total of 3) for our very large Hawai'i Island. I concur that the third walk-in site does not have to be open the full 10 days prior to election day. I also concur that CARES funding received by the State and shared with the County should be used to underwrite this additional expense and support voter education about new VOTE BY MAIL procedures including walk-in locations and secure ballot drop boxes.

Please do everything within your authority to encourage County Clerks statewide to follow the letter of the law - as revised - when/if SB2794 HD1 is authorized by the full 2020 Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. These revisions ensure enhanced accessibility, transparency and security - all critical in these uncertain times and with the added cloud of Covid safety.

Thank you again for addressing this at this time.

Patrick O'Kiersey

46-3775 Old Mamalahoa Hwy Street Address,

Honokaa, 96727

patrickmok1@hotmail.com

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 1:46:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm testifying in support of SB2794! SB 2794, SD1, HD1 recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. This is because voting by mail does not work for everyone, especially not in a pandemic. In the ordinary course, new voting procedures typically cause disruptions and problems the first time they are used. This problem will be compounded by the sheer magnitude of the shift to mail-voting, coupled with the chaos and confusion caused by the virus. The reality is that many voters, especially in communities and demographic groups with poor mail access, are used to voting in-person, prefer to do so, and will not be willing or able to vote by mail. Those voters will need safe and healthy in-person voting options this November.

Also, voters with disabilities, needing language assistance, same day registering to vote, from rural areas, who move frequently (houseless and students), from historically marginalized groups, and others need voter service centers to be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We cannot assume, especially not in Hawaii, that all voters are fluent English speakers, who do not have a disability, will not need assistance with casting a ballot, and/or have easy access to a mailbox or a drop box.

Clearly, only having the very limited number of voter service centers will create barriers to people exercising their constitutional right to vote. Voting is a fundamental right preservative of all other rights.

I support SB 2794, SD1, HD1, especially Section 20 creating additional voter service centers on election day. Common Cause Hawaii requests that the CARES Act election security funding (or some other comparable source of funding) be spent on establishing additional voter service centers as provided in HD1 for the current 2020 elections. It should be noted that Common Cause Hawaii also suggests that voted ballots not be returned via electronic transmission due to known security risks, and all properly voted ballots should be validated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2794, SD1, HD1.

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 12:37:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2794, which would clarify and improve the administration of Vote by Mail in Hawaii.

Having worked for years to advance a total vote-by-mail system, I am gratified to see it finally take effect. Given the Covid situation, the passage of Vote by Mail proved serendipitous. At the same time, the 2020 elections, particularly the general election, are likely to generate greater voter interest and turnout than any in recent history, which may be a mixed blessing when it comes to the elimination of physical polling places.

The transition to total mail-in-voting needs to be as smooth as possible. Voter service centers provide a transitional tool to aid the voter who is handicapped, who has poor mail delivery, who just doesn't understand that their old polling place is no longer there to serve them. Upwards of forty percent of voters in Hawaii have never voted by mail (absentee.) The process, especially in this first, tumultuous election year, needs to offer voters as much assistance as possible.

The number of voter service centers currently called for is not sufficient. Two centers on the Big Island do not ensure voter access. Please support SB2794 by adding more voter service centers.

Mahalo,

Susan Dursin, Captain Cook

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 1:14:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill and endorse the comments of Common Cause. We need stronger backup in this first all-mail election. Thank you. Martha NAKAJIMA. Member, Indivisible Hawaii

LATE

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 4:24:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Mcknight	Democratic party of Hawaii-Hawaii County Committee	Support	No

Comments:

The Democratic Party of Hawaii-Hawaii County Committee is testifying in support of SB 2794, SD1, HD1, which makes several housekeeping amendments to Hawaii's elections laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1 recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. This is because voting by mail does not work for everyone, especially not in a pandemic. "In the ordinary course, new voting procedures typically cause disruptions and problems the first time they are used. This problem will be compounded by the sheer magnitude of the shift to mail-voting, coupled with the chaos and confusion caused by the virus. The reality is that many voters, especially in communities and demographic groups with poor mail access, are used to voting in-person, prefer to do so, and will not be willing or able to vote by mail. Those voters will need safe and healthy in-person voting options this November." <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voters-need-safe-and-sanitary-person-voting-options>; <https://www.rewire.org/what-to-know-about-voting-by-mail/> (voting by mail should not be the only option); <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/news/2020/04/20/483438/expanding-vote-mail-states-must-maintain-person-voting-options-coronavirus-pandemic/> (vote-by-mail systems must include in-person voting options).

Voters with disabilities, needing language assistance, same day registering to vote, from rural areas, who move frequently (houseless and students), from historically marginalized groups, and others need voter service centers to be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We cannot assume, especially not in Hawaii, that all voters are fluent English speakers, who do not have a disability, will not need assistance with casting a ballot, and/or have easy access to a mailbox or a drop box. <https://www.vox.com/2020/3/20/21185184/vote-by-mail-coronavirus-pandemic-elections>.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1, understanding the need for vote-by-mail to be complemented with in-person voting options, sets at Section 20 the minimum number of 8 voter service centers for each election to be apportioned between the counties by the chief elections officer with the counties to be able to add more. Voter service centers allow voters to conduct in-person voting, same day register to vote, deposit voted ballots, and more.

SB 2794, SD1, HD1 also more importantly, at Section 20, provides that on election day that the clerk of any county with a population less than five hundred thousand shall operate one additional voter service center on each island and the clerk of any county with a population of five hundred thousand or more shall operate three additional voter service centers, one of which shall be on the Windward side; provided further that on election day all additional voter service centers shall be open until 7:00 p.m.

Without SB 2794, SD1, HD1, the County Clerks have decided for the very first time that all mail-in voting will be implemented in Hawaii and during a public health crisis that we will only have 8 voter service centers to help our State transition to a new voting process. Without SB 2794, SD1, HD1, the County Clerks have decided that we will only have 2 voter service centers on Oahu, 1 on Kauai, 1 on Maui Island, 1 on Molokai, 1 on Lanai, and 2 on Hawaii Island.

Clearly, only having the very limited number of voter service centers will create barriers to people exercising their constitutional right to vote. Voting is a fundamental right preservative of all other rights. *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886). "No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live," and "[o]ther rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined." *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 17 (1964). As recognized by the Hawaii Supreme Court in *Green Party of Hawai'i v. Nago*, 138 Hawai'i 228, 378 P.3d 944 (2016), "[t]he right to vote is of fundamental importance."

Additionally, SB 2794, SD1, HD1 sets, at Section 20, a minimum number of places of deposit (i.e., drop boxes) -- 30 -- to receive completed ballots to be apportioned by the chief elections officer. The county clerks have the discretion to add more drop boxes.

The Committee Report No. 1222-20 for SB 2794, SD1, HD1 specifically notes that there is a large amount of CARES Act funding that should and can be used for the establishment of additional voter service centers and drop boxes for the current 2020 elections. I / my organization requests that SB 2794, SD1, HD1 be clarified to ensure that the CARES Act election security funding (or some other comparable source of funding) be spent on establishing additional voter service centers as provided in said HD1 for the current 2020 elections.

The Democratic Party of Hawaii-Hawaii Count Committee also suggests amending Section 18 of SB 2794, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-107) to delete any references that voted ballots may be returned by electronic transmission, except pursuant to federal law, such as the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Department of Homeland Security all agree that no practically proven method exists to securely, verifiably, or privately return voted materials over the internet. In a recently released document entitled Risk Management for Electronic Ballot Delivery, Marking and Return, all four agencies stated, "Electronic ballot return faces significant security risks to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of voted ballots. These risks can ultimately affect the tabulation and results and can occur at scale." Voting by email or via web portals jeopardizes the integrity of the election results; votes can be manipulated or deleted without the voter's knowledge and the voter's selections could be traced back to the individual voter. An after-the-fact audit will not cure this issue.

The Democratic Party of Hawaii-Hawaii County Committee further questions the need for adding a provision in Section 19 of SB 2794, SD1, HD1, stating that "[n]o ballots shall be validated beyond the tenth day following an election." Pg. 25, lines 18-19. If a voter adhered to all the requirements set forth in statutes, there should be no arbitrary cutoff date for counting of ballots. According to the U.S. Constitution, voting is a right and a privilege. Every vote should be counted. I / my organization suggests that this provision be deleted.

In summary, the Democratic Party of Hawaii-Hawaii County Committee supports SB 2794, SD1, HD1, especially Section 20 creating additional voter service centers on election day. Common Cause Hawaii requests that the CARES Act election security funding (or some other comparable source of funding) be spent on establishing additional voter service centers as provided in HD1 for the current 2020 elections. Common Cause Hawaii also suggests that voted ballots not be returned via electronic transmission due to known security risks, and all properly voted ballots should be validated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2794, SD1, HD1

Sincerely,

Jeff McKnight, Secretary, DPH Hawaii County Committee

LATE

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

June 29, 2020

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director^{KEI}
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2794, SD1, HD1, Relating to Elections**

Monday, June 29, 2020
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports Section 28, Section 29, and Section 30 of this bill.

In Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1222-20, the Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary ("JUD") noted that JUD amended SD1 of this measure by, among other things, inserting the contents of S.B. No. 804. The Commission had fully supported S.B. No. 840. This bill makes several amendments to the civil and criminal remedies provisions of the Campaign Finance Law. Section 28 of this bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-410(h) by deleting criminal prosecution from the language stipulating that the administrative fine provision does not apply to any person who, prior to the commencement of any proceeding, has paid or agreed to pay fines related to report filing violations and advertisement disclaimer violations. Section 29 of this bill amends HRS §11-411 to allow the Commission to refer a complaint for criminal prosecution in addition to any administrative determination made by the Commission and deletes the requirement that the Commission must believe that a person recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally committed a violation prior to referral. Finally, Section 30 of this measure amends HRS §11-412 (Criminal Prosecution) by amending subsection (c) to increase the disqualification to hold public elective office from four years to ten years after a conviction, and by deleting subsection (g), the language stipulating that the criminal prosecution provision does not apply to

any person who, prior to the commencement of any proceeding, has paid or agreed to pay fines related to report filing violations and advertisement disclaimer violations.

If these sections are passed, this bill will give the Commission flexibility in dealing with serious violations. The Commission will be able to issue an administrative fine against a violator and order injunctive relief prior to, or at the same time, a referral for prosecution is made. Presently, if the Commission wanted to refer a complaint for prosecution, it could not also apply any civil remedies. Only if the prosecuting authority declines prosecution and refers the case back to the Commission, could the Commission then take civil action which could be years after the complaint was referred for prosecution.

The Commission requests that the Committee pass Section 28, Section 29, and Section 30 of this measure.

LATE

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 11:56:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sam kippen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB 2794, SD1, HD1, which makes several housekeeping amendments to Hawaii's elections laws to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail. SB 2794, SD1, HD1 recognizes that for voting by mail to succeed, it must be complemented with a sufficient number of voter service centers. Voter service centers allow voters to conduct in-person voting, register to vote same-day, deposit voted ballots, and more. Voters with disabilities, needing language assistance, registering to vote, from rural areas, who move frequently (houseless and students), from historically marginalized groups, and others need voter service centers to be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2794, SD1, HD1.

LATE

SB-2794-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/29/2020 8:33:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francine Roby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Sylvia Luke and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Mahalo nui loa for scheduling this hearing related to the Aug. 8, 2020 Hawai'i Primary Election.

I support the proposed revisions for 3 additional walk-in Voter Service Centers on Hawai'i Island. You may not understand how difficult it can be to get all the way around to the far sides (Hilo and Kona) of this island sometimes, between road work or obstacles, weather, medical or other appointments on the other side, or in my case, the lack of functioning electric vehicle charging stations. Access to options to vote is critical in a healthy democracy. I understand this expense of additional sites as well as voter education materials—which are critical because of all the changes this year with vote by mail, walk-ins, and drop boxes--could be handled by using the CARES funding received by the State and shared with the County.

It seems to me that there are often 'disconnects' with legislative intentions in Hawaii because measures are passed without follow up enforcement mechanisms added. Therefore, I also urge you all to do everything you can to support and require County Clerks statewide to follow the letter of the revised law when SB2794 HD1 is authorized by the full 2020 Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. These revisions ensure enhanced accessibility, transparency, and security.

With respect and gratitude,

Francine Roby

46-3875 Old Mamalahoa Hw., Honokaa HI 96727
