

**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 JUDICIARY
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 412, SD 1
RELATING TO VOTING

February 26, 2019

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to require any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a driver license or state identification card be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines.

The Office of Elections believes that 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 wish to register to vote, or to opt out as part of the driver license and identification card application process. We will work with the examiner of drivers along with the Department of Transportation, and County Election Divisions to update the driver license and state identification applications to accomplish the purpose of this bill.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412, SD 1.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

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

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

February 26, 2019
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

S.B. 412, S.D.1
RELATING TO VOTING.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill with the following amendment.

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.

Therefore, DOT suggests amending Section 1, 11- (d) on page 3, lines 10-18 to read as follows: "Databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information, including any documents or images, shall be directly accessible and provided electronically to election officials and the statewide voter registration system to allow for the timely processing of voter applications, ensure the integrity of the voter registration polls, and for any other [government] voter registration purpose, [as determined] requested of the director of transportation by the chief election officer."

Further, should there be a need to modify the voter registration form, DOT and the Office of Elections will need to work collaboratively to ensure the driver's license application form and civil identification card application form reflects the legislated requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE

‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

Prepared for the Senate Committees on Judiciary & Ways and Means

In Support of SB412 SD1

Tuesday, February 62, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 211

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Wakai, and Honorable Members,

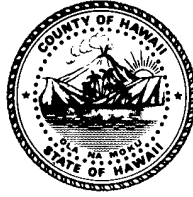
The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports SB412 SD1, which would automatically register eligible voters who apply State driver’s license or State ID card, unless they decline. SB412 would also provide a convenient way for registered voters to update voter contact information.

This proposal would be important to produce greater Hawai‘i voter participation, and solve the state’s progressively plummeting voter turnout. This proposal would also assist the Commission in its long-range program of educating women in their political rights and voting duties (H.R.S. § 367-3 (4)). Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committees pass SB412 SD1.

Mahalo,

Khara Jabola-Carolus
Executive Director

JON HENRICKS
County Clerk



AARON BROWN
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elections Division
County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

LATE

TESTIMONY OF JON HENRICKS

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

ON SENATE BILL NO. 412, SD 1

RELATING TO VOTING

February 25, 2019

Chair Rhodes and Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412, SD 1. This bill makes completion of a voter registration affidavit a mandatory part of all driver license and identification card applications; automatically registers each applicant for voting; and requires the sharing of data among the driver license and identification card database with election personnel.

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

Additionally, this bill will ensure that voters are registered by Election Day, and will help to eliminate delays for voters at the polls.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412, SD 1.

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 3:53:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Gilbreath	Testifying for Hawaiian Community Assets	Support	No

Comments:



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	Ken Farm	Stephen O'Harrow	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Guy Archer	Chuck Huxel	Doug Pyle	Honolulu
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer	Juliet Begley	Jan Lubin		Hawai'i
96823				
Dylan Armstrong, Secretary	Gloria Borland	Jenny Nomura		

Feb. 21, 2019

TO: Honorable Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz & JDC/WAM Committee Members

RE: SB 412 SD1 Relating to Voting

Support for Decision Making on Feb 26

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 412 SD1 as it 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. Automatic voter registration eliminates unnecessary barriers to voting via the time and effort needed from other registration methods. Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the US for the last twenty years. Automatic voter registration is one step in ensuring an easy, convenient, and accessible democratic process for all.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President





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 Judiciary
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 26, 2019

S.B. 412, S.D. 1– RELATING TO VOTING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 412, S.D. 1 which requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, instruction permit, or identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote.

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy and essential to protect all other rights, therefore we must ensure that the voting process is easy to understand and participate in. Given Hawaii's infamously low voter turn out, the Legislature has taken appropriate steps to make it easier for residents to vote, which include permitting permanent absentee voter status, implementing online voter registration in 2015, and phasing in same-day registration in 2016. 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. 412, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 11:17:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jalem Correia	Testifying for YPDA Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY/COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TUESDAY, February 26, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Room 211
SB412, SD1 RELATING TO VOTING

TESTIMONY

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

Chairs Rhoads and Delacruz, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB412 SD1 providing that when eligible voters apply for a State driver's license or State ID card, they will automatically be signed up to vote, unless they decline. For voters already registered, this would also provide a convenient way to update voter contact information (such as a new mailing address).

It is well established that Hawaii suffers from both poor voter registration rates and poor voter turnout. One estimate is that 25% of those eligible to vote haven't registered. The League supports each of the different approaches to improved registration in the measures under consideration in the Legislature: 1) Automatic Voter Registration through tax returns and public assistance applications; 2) automatic pre-registration of 16-year-old public high school students eligible to preregister and 3) automatic voter registration through the driver's license and State ID process. These approaches don't conflict and have been implemented in other jurisdictions such as Massachusetts. Since the target population of SB412 SD1 is very broad (nearly universal) and since preparation work is already well underway, it makes sense to begin this reform with a "driver's license-automatic voter registration" bill.

SB412 HD1 informs the individual of their right to decline to register during the initial registration transaction and prohibits the examiner of drivers licenses from transmitting voter registration affidavits to the County Clerk under these circumstances. We believe this is an adequate and efficient procedure.

There are several public stakeholders involved with this bill. We thank the State Department of Transportation, County licensing examiners, and the Honolulu County Department of Information Technology for work already done to prepare for implementation of this measure.



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

There were 10 “Automatic Voter Registration” bills before this Legislature, and no testimony in opposition to HB412 when it was heard by your Committee on Transportation. These are good indications that the public wants this reform. We urge you to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In Support of SB 412 SD1 – Relating to Voting
Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 10:00 AM, in Conference Room 211

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 412 SD1**, 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 17 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>



Honolulu County Republican Party

725 Kapiolani Blvd. Ste C105

Honolulu, HI 96813

To: **COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Time: 10:00am

Place: Conference Room 211
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Re: **S.B. 412 SD1 RELATING TO VOTING**

The Honolulu County Republican Party **OPPOSES** automatic voting registration.

Mandating voter registration is like a solution in search of a problem. Mandatory voter registration (MVR), previously termed "universal" registration, could significantly damage the integrity of Hawaii's voter registration system. The concept of automatically registering individuals through information contained in various existing government databases (i.e. DMV) would throw the current voter registration system into chaos.

Lack of registration is not the reason people do not vote. Ideological organizations is support of automatically registering all individuals to vote using existing government databases. Base their support on the false premise that large numbers of Hawaii residents do not vote "for no other reason than they are not registered to vote." Yet after every federal election, the U.S. Census Bureau publishes reports on the levels of registration and voting, including surveys of individuals who do not vote, that disprove the claims that the major reason individuals do not vote is a lack of registration opportunities.

With regard to those individuals who are not registered to vote, the Census Bureau's 2008 report demonstrated that the major reason individuals failed to register was that they were not "interested in the election/not involved in politics. In fact, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 showed that voter registration is not a barrier to voting. The push to pass the National

Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993 was based on the same, similarly flawed premise: that voter registration is a barrier to voting.

Requiring individuals who would not register on their own to “opt-out” from registration if they want to remain unregistered for whatever reason interferes with the basic right of individuals to decide whether—and to what extent—to participate in the political and democratic process. While we might hope that all citizens will exercise their right to vote, each and every American has the liberty not to do so for whatever reason. Hawaii residents who choose not to vote should not have to act every time they make a transaction with the DMV or other government agency to avoid registration or to remove themselves from a government list that they had no interest in joining in the first place, particularly if it involves investigation of their citizenship, felon status, and other factors that are important to eligibility.

Even if individuals can ask to be removed from the registration list after the database information has been transferred to election officials, such automatic registration raises serious privacy concerns. Voter registration lists are public documents that are (and should be) accessible to journalists, candidates, political parties, and individual citizens. In fact, this transparency is an important component of our election process since these lists are often bought by candidates and political parties for the purposes of identifying voters for political campaigns and organizing get-out-the-vote programs for Election Day.

Requiring automatic registration risks the integrity of the election process and improperly shifts the responsibility for registering from the individual to the government, which in our opinion is a violation of our State Constitution Article II Section 4, that states “The Legislature shall provide for voter registration...,” not “mandate” it.

Respectfully,
Brett Kulbis
Chairman
Honolulu County Republican Party



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

January 26, 2019 10:00 AM Room 211

In **SUPPORT** of **SB 412 SD 1**: Relating to Voting

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **strongly supports SB 412 SD 1**. This bill requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. It 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 and goes into effect on 1/1/2020.

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 consistently engage in the legislative process. Automatic voter registration would make these efforts just that much easier for many residents.

Automatic voter registration eliminates unnecessary barriers to voting via the time and effort needed from other registration methods. Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the US for the last twenty years. Automatic voter registration is one step in ensuring a easy, convenient, and accessible democratic process for all.

This measure strengthens our democracy, increases the security of our elections, and is simply more cost effective than paper applications. An automatic voter registration system gives us the opportunity to modernize our elections so that they work for *all* eligible residents of Hawai'i, particularly for working families, homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 412**.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:16:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Testifying for Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha State Association of the Deaf fully supports this bill. For every election, we reach out to our community by having them to sign up to be a registered voter. This bill will bring more voters to vote for State of Hawaii. That is an important event we celebrate to make many wonderful changes for our state by voting. This bill will not have any negative impact on any residents.

Mahalo,

Darlene Ewan

President



Hawai'i

LATE

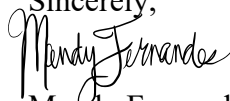
Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 412, S.D. 1, Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of S.B. 412, S.D.1, which would automatically register eligible people to vote or update voter information when they apply for or renew a state identification card or driver's license.**

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

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

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

February 26, 2019

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Conference Room 211
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in support of SB 412 SD1, Relating to Voting

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

My name is Christine Sakuda and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who believe in improving government services and business practices through technology to ensure that policymakers, State employees, local residents and businesses have convenient and secure access to reliable information and data on demand.

THG supports Senate Bill 412 SD1, Relating to Voting, which 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. The bill also authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system.

This measure represents the logical next step following the implementation of online voter registration in 2015 and the phasing in of same-day registration that started in 2016.

Potential benefits of SB 412 SD1 include:

- Reduction of unnecessary barriers by minimizing bureaucracy and the time and effort required to participate in the voting process.
- Increased security of elections by improving maintenance of accurate voter addresses so ballots are sent to the correct location and correct voter.
- Cost-effectiveness because having up-to-date voter rolls reduces the cost of sending ballots to wrong addresses.
- Protection of privacy and freedom by preserving the opportunity to opt-out.

Hawai'i has the lowest voter turnout in the country, and we believe this bill is a necessary component of helping to turn that around by increasing convenience and improving security and access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Sakuda
Executive Director
Transform Hawai'i Government
email: csakuda@TransformHawaiiGov.org | phone: (808) 321-2811

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2019
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 211



Testimony in support of SB 412 SD1, Relating to Voting

Aloha, my name is Melissa Pavlicek and I'm testifying on behalf of AVR Hawaii in **support** of SB 412 SD1 which 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.

We are in support of this measure. Automatic voter registration is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii. Hawaii implemented Online Voter Registration in 2015 and phased in same-day registration starting in 2016. Automatic Voter Registration is the logical next step. Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. This measure is intended to turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting.

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

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 2:59:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:



Hawaii

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Hawaii • 307A Kamani St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.275.6275

To: The Senate Committees on Judiciary, and Ways and Means
From: Brodie Lockard for the Common Cause Hawaii Board
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 10:00 am

LATE

In strong support of SB 412

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, and Committee Members—

Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports SB 412.

With Automatic Voter Registration, eligible citizens are automatically registered to vote, or their voter registration is updated, when they apply or renew their State ID or Driver's License, unless they decline. Voter information is electronically transferred between licensing and election officials, resulting in a less expensive, and more efficient, secure, and convenient process.

* AVR will save us money. Paper registration typically costs **30 times** more than AVR! Processing paper forms in Hawaii during the 2016 election cycle cost nearly \$575,000 for labor. This does not include the printing of voter registration forms, mailings related to duplicate registration entries, and the postage of forwarding registration forms to the proper recipient. Up-to-date voter rolls will help reduce the cost of sending ballots to wrong addresses.

* Data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

* AVR will enhance the security of our elections, by increasing the accuracy of voter rolls, and using an encrypted system to transfer data, rather than paper forms. It helps ensure that all eligible voters in Hawaii are registered to vote at their current address, increasing the security of our elections because we know that ballots are sent to the correct location and correct voter.

* AVR improves access to voting, especially for working and military families who move frequently, as well as homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas.

Please pass SB 412 and bring Hawaii to the forefront of modern election practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 1:35:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:45:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz,

I support Automatic Voter Registration. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii. Hawaii is using out-of-date systems and decades-old technology. It's time to modernize. Hawaii, implemented Online Voter Registration in 2015 and phased in same day registration starting in 2016. Automatic Voter Registration is the logical next step.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. This will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting.

As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

AVR will also enhance the security of our elections. Recent court challenges surrounding local races highlight the need for greater security. Elections will be more secure due to the increased accuracy of voter rolls, and use of an encrypted system, rather than paper forms, to transfer data Automatic Voter Registration helps to make sure that all eligible voters in Hawaii are registered to vote at their current address. This increases the security of our elections because we know that ballots are sent to the correct location and correct voter. Privacy and freedom are protected, as people may choose to opt-out.

Automatic Voter Registration will save us money. Traditional paper registration typically costs 30 times more than AVR. The cost of implementing AVR is outweighed by the long-term savings it will yield. Processing paper forms in Hawaii during the 2016 election cycle cost nearly \$575,000 for labor. This does not include the printing of voter registration forms, mailings related to duplicate registration entries, and the postage of forwarding registration forms to the proper recipient. It does not include more than 33,000 applications submitted during the 2016 election cycle that the state did not categorize when reporting the data. Up-to-date voter rolls will help reduce the cost of sending ballots to wrong addresses.

AVR improves access to voting for eligible voters in Hawaii. AVR helps ensure that voting isn't needlessly difficult for working and military families who move frequently, as well as homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas. AVR reduces unnecessary barriers to voting and time demands on people holding two jobs or who are juggling school, work and family.

For these reasons, establishing AVR in Hawai'i is a badly needed reform, and one that will only strengthen our democracy.

Mahalo,

Will Caron
Palolo resident and neighborhood board member

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 8:14:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, members of the committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means,

I am writing to SUPPORT SB412 SD1 that would establish and implement a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii.

AVR would help modernize elections procedures in Hawaii.

Studies have shown that AVR improves the likelihood of higher voter turnout because by minimizing bureaucracy, and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

AVR will also enhance the security of elections and be more cost effective than the status quo. Another advantage is that voting access will be expanded for traditionally under-represented people.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 8:51:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support **SB412 SD1** because it will get more people registered to vote.

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 10:37:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 8:20:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, members of the committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means,

I strongly support SB412 SD1. Our State of Hawaii needs to modernize its elections, and the establishment and implementation of an automatic voter (AVR) registration system would help do that.

Other advantages of AVR:

- it will increase the likelihood of higher voter turnout by minimizing bureaucracy, and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters;
- it will enhance the security of elections;
- it will cost less than the current registration process; and
- it will expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.

Respectfully yours,

Kim Jorgensen

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 8:27:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran and members of the committees,

I support SB412 SD1. Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnouts in the country. We should encourage more voting by making it as easy as possible to register. AVR will do this.

Please pass SB412 SD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Randy Ching (Honolulu)

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:44:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SUSAN P HUGHES	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 6:58:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kai Lorinc	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

With voter fraud in many jurisdictions at epidemic proportion. We must find solutions that address this actual problem instead of imposing policies that make it easier to improperly vote. It is important to protect the integrity of our elections. Say NO to voter fraud! Say No to SB 412 .

Kai Lorinc

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:22:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracey Clay-Whitehurst	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:37:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Quentin Whitehurst	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:03:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB 412 is a terrible idea. Not everyone wants to or should vote. Low voter turnout is a signal to improve the quality of candidates and ballot issues. It should not be a signal to encourage people to vote who don't know what is going on. Some chose not to vote because they don't have time to study the candidates or the issues. Others choose not to vote because they believe that they cannot make a difference, or because they don't support any of the candidates. If any legal resident and US citizen wants to vote, voting is already easy enough for legal citizens and Hawai'i residents of voting age. Vote NO on SB 412.

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:27:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a very important bill that we need ASAP. We have known for the longest time that our voter turnout is low and we all want to do something about it. This is one way to solve this, by modernizing our election system. We have to face it that people are busy, taking care of their kids, taking care of their elderly parents, working several jobs, going to school, etc, etc. We have the needed information already from paperwork for State IDs to Driver's License that people fill out constantly that we can apply to insure that people are ready to go when elections roll around, and update any necessary changes. By having them automatically registered with the option of opting out, we can improve the likelihood of more people willing to vote and keep voting without feeling that they have to give up too much time with more applications, especially applications that you need to constantly update. It's efficient and its good government. Let's improve democracy and continue to create a system, culture, and environment that encourages citizens to be a part of civic society.

LATE

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:32:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a smart bill that takes the logical next step towards modernizing our elections and increasing voter participation. It makes life easier for people juggling job schedules, it encourages students to vote, and brings in those whose voices are often not heard to participate in our democracy. It saves money, and improves efficiency and accuracy. And the wheels are already turning to make this happen as the Dept of Transportation and the Office of Elections have been in conversation and collaborating on improving how information can be shared electronically. Please move this bill forward and let's improve access to voting by reducing the roadblocks that reduce civic engagement. Thank you.

From: [Nathan Yuen Yuen](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412 - Nathan Yuen Yuen
Date: Friday, February 22, 2019 3:36:55 PM

 **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412**

Name	Nathan Yuen Yuen
Zip Code	Street Address Line 2: 91233 Hanapouli Cir Apt 29T City: Ewa Beach State / Province: HI Postal / Zip Code: 96706 Country: United States
Email	808nateyuen@gmail.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412
Testimony	<p>Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, members of the committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means,</p> <p>I support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.</p> <p>Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. AVR will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo, Nathan Yuen</p>

- 1 Nathan Braulick
- 2 Frank DeGiacomo
- 3 David Sofio
- 4 Diane Ware
- 5 Dawn Morais Webster
- 6 Ron Lew
- 7 Philipp LaHaela Walter
- 8 Michele Nihipali
- 9 Sarah Catino
- 10 Kimiko LaHaela Walter
- 11 James McDonough
- 12 Randy Gonce

LATE

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:02:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB412, which will help reverse the pathetic voter turnout we've seen in recent elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

LATE

SB-412-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:51:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stefani jeremiah	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

From: [Sharain Naylor](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412 - Sharain Naylor
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 6:42:49 PM

LATE

 **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412**

Name	Sharain Naylor
Zip Code	Postal / Zip Code: 96822
Email	sasheir@yahoo.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of SB412
Testimony	<p>Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, members of the committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means,</p> <p>I support establishment and implementation of a system of automatic voter (AVR) registration in the State of Hawaii. AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.</p> <p>Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. AVR will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting. As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.</p> <p>Additionally, AVR will enhance the security of our elections, save the state money, and expand voting access for traditionally under-represented people.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p>

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