

Statement Before The
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, March 12, 2020

2:45 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of

SCR 86 / SR 52

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEMORATE AUGUST 26, 2020, AS WOMEN'S
EQUALITY DAY, CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF, AND HONORING HAWAII'S ROLE IN, THE WOMAN'S
SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.**

Chairs THIELEN and TANIGUCHI, Vice Chairs INOUYE and IHARA, and Members of the Senate
Government Operations and Labor, Culture and the Arts Committees

Common Cause Hawaii provides testimony in support of SCR 86 and SR 52, requesting the governor to recognize and commemorate August 26, 2020, as women's equality day, celebrating the centennial of, and honoring Hawaii's role in, the woman's suffrage movement.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy - one that works for everyone and not just the special interests.

Common Cause Hawaii understands that women's equality is a crucial feature of successful democratic societies and effective democratic governments. Women's equality reduces barriers that have made it difficult for women to participate in our democracy. Women's equality begins with access to voting. We need to continue to support women's right to vote, which may be done by encouraging women to vote, removing barriers to voting and encouraging women to run for public office, and more. Hawaii's enactment of Vote By Mail and the legislature's consideration of SB2005 — Automatic Voter Registration— this year appropriately recognize the challenges busy women, especially women of color and with moderate to low incomes, face in participating in our democracy. Improving access to voting honors the contributions of the early suffragettes and paves the way to greater participation by women in the years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SCR 86 and SR 52. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

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