



Testimony in SUPPORT of  
**HCR63 Relating to Lowering the Voting Age**

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Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

My name is Dyson Chee, I am 19 years old, and on behalf of the Vote16HI coalition I am submitting testimony in **support of HCR63, urging the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections from 18 to 16 years of age.**

A common misconception is that 16 and 17-year-olds lack the mental capacity to vote. Yet these same youth can pay taxes, drive, get married, and be tried as an adult at the age of 16, all the while the right to vote is withheld from them. Our society provides the opportunity for 16 and 17-year-olds to contribute to our economy and pay taxes that are then used by government officials who these youth cannot vote for. The founding American ideal of “No Taxation Without Representation,” so commonly taught to these same youth in school, rings hollow.

In addition, real-world case studies show us that 16 and 17-year-olds make *equal, or better, voters than those 18 and older both in terms of quantity and quality.*

In 2013, when Takoma Park, Maryland, lowered its voting age to 16, registered voters under 18 had a turnout rate *four times higher* than voters over 18. And again in Hyattsville, Maryland (the second place in the U.S. to lower the voting age to 16), registered 16- and 17-year-old voters had a higher turnout rate than older voters.

Research done by the Department of Methods in the Social Sciences at the University of Vienna studied the quality of votes cast by people under 18 by comparing how well their votes aligned with their stated values. Voters aged 16-17 were found to have made choices that were “more congruent with party positions” leaving the researchers to conclude that “*lowering the voting age does not appear to have a negative impact on input legitimacy and the quality of democratic decisions.*”

Another study published in the Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties similarly examined voter turnout of 16 and 17-year-olds in Austria. The results found evidence that the first-time voting boost “is even stronger among the youngest voters as turnout was (a) higher compared to 18- to 20-year-old first-time voters and (b) not substantially lower than the average

turnout rate. ***We conclude that our findings are encouraging for the idea of lowering voting age as a means to establish higher turnout rates in the future.***”

Lowering the voting age to 16 provides another benefit to our community and democracy: positive habits. It is common knowledge that younger people build habits more easily than adults. This is one reason why the vaping industry targets their products towards youth. Once the customer has developed a habit, less time, energy, and money is needed advertising your product towards them because they will voluntarily return to buy your products. ***We are adapting the same science that the vaping industry uses, but to strengthen our democracy by building a generation of engaged voters.*** By lowering the voting age to 16, nearly all students in Hawai‘i will have the opportunity, should they choose it, to vote at least once and build that habit before they leave for the chaos of college.

Other than increasing turnout and building positive habits in youth, lowering the voting age to 16 can also boost civics education. Education is more meaningful when it is authentic, and students usually care more about things that are real rather than hypothetical. While high school students learning about civics and participating in a mock election is far better than nothing, their inability to exercise the right to vote makes it inconsequential. Especially in Hawai‘i, where elections occur every other year, this means that it is possible for youth to be unable to vote in a meaningful election until they are 19 or 20.

However, if the voting age is lowered to 16, nearly all students will have the opportunity to vote at least once before they leave high school. Now, the civics classes and voting are no longer a hypothetical exercise—it is a real-world decision that is ***authentic, impactful, and relevant.***

The challenges that threaten our precious islands, whether they be climate change, cost of living, or the lack of affordable housing, will disproportionately impact youth. As the state addresses these serious issues, ***we urge you to give 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote and an institutionalized voice in our democracy.***

Thank you for your consideration, and we sincerely hope that this committee will pass HCR63.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Dyson Chee, Vote16HI

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 1:00:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jester Jersey	National Youth Rights Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Jester Jersey and I'm a resident of the United States. I'm a supporter of lowering the voting age to 16 in all of the United States, but I am writing in regards to HCR63 specifically.

The reason I am a big supporter of lowering the voting age to 16 is because in 2015, I walked across the mainland United States to promote the idea. Not only have there been very few people to do so, but during my walk, U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi even first endorsed the idea in [August of 2015](#)- just days after the photo below. I have included the link below that shows I was interviewed on the first day of August in 2015 while Speaker Pelosi's statement was made public on August 6th. By that time, I had already been three months into a nearly four-month journey.

I support lowering the voting age because not only do several nations in the world already have it, but I think it is time to enfranchise more youth. Even in the United States, there are already cities that do so. There are too many issues that affect youth today that they have very little say in, which is why I decided almost 6 years ago to advocate on their behalf. I think not only can youth contribute politically to the world around them, but they are also ready to do so. I implore the Hawaii State Legislature to not only lower the voting age to 16 and make efforts to do so succeed, but I also ask for Hawaii to be a pioneer in youth rights so a new generation of voices can be heard. Thank you and Mahalo to all.

Jester Jersey



<http://web.archive.org/web/20150811224915/http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Kiwonian-walks-coast-to-coast-for-Tetanus-awareness-320347551.html>

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Monday, March 22, 2021

2:15 PM

Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

**HCR 63 / HR 52**

**URGING THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE CIVIC EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FEASIBILITY AND IMPLICATIONS OF LOWERING THE VOTING AGE FOR STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS FROM EIGHTEEN TO SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.**

Chair NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HCR 63 / HR 52, urging the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education (PACE Commission) to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts that increase civic engagement, voter turnout, and voter participation in our democratic processes.

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>. Knowing that voting is habit which starts when young, a comprehensive analysis by the PACE Commission, as urged by HCR 63 / HR 52, will be able to assist with determining the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age to promote long-term and sustained civic engagement, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy. “We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.” Thomas Jefferson.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HCR 63 / HR 52. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



To: The House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021, 2:15pm

**In strong support of HCR63/HR52**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. On behalf of our 6,000 members and supporters, 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports HCR63/HR52** that urges the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age.

**Expanding the voting age makes good sense.** Studies show adolescents in this age range are developmentally ready to vote. In fact, other municipalities in the U.S. have already lowered their voting age. Moreover, our youth shoulder the consequences of the decisions our politicians make. They're the population most affected. They deserve a political voice.

A wealth of data supports the wisdom of enfranchising young voters. It is a misconception that 16 and 17-year-olds lack the capacity to vote. The argument that certain groups of people lack the knowledge or maturity to vote has been used throughout history. It is important to remember that in this country the vote originally was only extended to white land-owning men. The subsequent expansions of voting rights to what exists today, and that many now take for granted, were bitterly opposed at the time they were proposed. In hindsight, these expansions were all clearly moral and necessary.

Conducting a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections is an important effort that should be supported. Please pass HCR63/HR52!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this very important resolution.  
Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 10:34:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pualii Ann Zidek	Vote16HI	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

My name is Pualii Ann Zidek, I am a 16 year old resident of Kaneohe, and I am submitting testimony in support of HCR63.

I support lowering the voting age to 16 because 16 year olds can have almost every right/responsibility 18 year olds have. A common misconception is that 16 and 17-year-olds lack the mental capacity to vote. But 16 year olds can already pay taxes, drive, get married, be tried as an adult, all the while the right to vote is withheld from them. When 16 year olds pay taxes, they are contributing to the government and to the economy, while that money is used by government officials these people cannot vote for. Therefore, the founding American ideal of “No Taxation Without Representation,” so commonly taught to these same youth in school, rings hollow.

Furthermore, over 20 countries and five municipalities in the U.S. have lowered the voting age to 16 including, but not limited to, Takoma Park, Maryland, Hyattsville, Maryland, and Austria. Not only have they lowered their voting age, but they have seen the positive effects of this legislature in their communities. In Takoma Park, Maryland registered voters under 18 had a turnout rate four times higher than voters over 18, in Hyattsville, Maryland registered 16- and 17-year-old voters had a higher turnout rate than older voters, and in Austria first time voting boost is greater in 16 and 17-year-olds compared to 18 to 20-year-olds and 16 and 17-year old voters were more aligned with their political beliefs compared to 18-20 year olds.

Also, voting at a young age builds positive habits in youth. Younger people build habits more easily than adults and once the habit is built, less energy/resources are needed to ensure that it is continued. An example of this is how the vaping industry uses this logic and markets their products toward youth. Success brought by this strategy is backed by science so lowering the voting age uses this science in a positive way. Lowering the voting age to 16 would build a habit for younger people and create a generation of proactive citizens and engaged voters. It would provide the chance for younger people to build the habit of voting at least once before going off to college or into their career.

Lastly, lowering the voting age boosts civic education. Education means more when the topics are tangible and when students can see them happen. Students are learning civic

education in high school but do not actually use it until they turn 18. In Hawai'i, elections occur every other year which means that it is possible for youth not to vote in a meaningful election until they are 19 or 20. If the voting age is lowered to 16, nearly all students will have the opportunity to vote at least once before they leave high school. Voting goes from a hypothetical exercise to a real world decision that makes an impact.

I decided to join the Vote16HI coalition because I wanted the youth in Hawaii to have an opportunity to make an impact on their own communities. Many youth feel apathetic towards voting, politics, and government in general because they feel as though they have no way to make a real impact on anything. By allowing 16-year-olds to vote, we allow our youth to access these opportunities and encourage them to do so for the rest of their lives. Youth voice is extremely pertinent to a more inclusive and progressive society in a world that is constantly evolving. I hope that after hearing the kind of impact you would be making on not only our youth but on our community, and quite possibly the world, you pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration, and I sincerely hope that you will pass HCR63.

Mahalo,

Pualii Ann Zidek





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

March 22, 2021  
2:15PM

**TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**  
**RE: Testimony in Support of HCR63/HR52**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a Junior at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and currently serve as an at-large board member for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). YPDA advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i. YPDA is in **SUPPORT** of **HCR63/HR52**, which urges the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voter age for state and local elections from the current age of 18 to 16.

While YPDA prefers a bill that will actually lower the voting age, rather than a non-binding resolution, we are hopeful that this resolution will begin the conversation needed to build political and public support for lowering the voting age to 16. We are hopeful that the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education will understand that allowing 16 year olds to vote can be very positive to the community. When high schoolers are taking civics, it will not simply be just another class. There will now be a real world application in the form of voting, and curriculums can be built around helping students to understand the issues and the decisions they'll be making. Once we help 16 year olds start to vote early, it'll become a positive habit that they will carry on for the rest of their lives.

It's also important to point out that there are 16 year olds already taking on, or having the potential to take on what can be perceived as "adult responsibilities". Why is suffrage not one of them? Currently in the State of Hawai'i, 16 year olds are in a legal position to drive and get married, even taxes are not limited to age as well. Politicians whom 16 year olds can't even vote for, will determine how the money they as workers pay in taxes gets spent. YPDA strongly believes that this is inherently unfair and undemocratic.

We request for you to pass **HCR63/HR52** out of your committee for full consideration by the House of Representatives. Please expand access to the political process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
Board Member At-Large  
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com  
CC: action@ypdahawaii.org

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:01:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Younghi Overly	AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii strongly support HCR63/HR52 which requests that the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implication of lowering the voting age from 18 to 16.

Not only is it fair since 16 year olds are expected to pay taxes, lowering the voting age to 16 would likely increase the voter turnout in Hawaii. While Hawaii's new "all vote by mail" increased Hawaii's voter turnout from 39.5% in 2018 to 57.5% in 2020 (source: [US Elections Project](#)), Hawaii still came second to last in that nation with 2020 voter turnout. Compared to the 84% voter turnout we had back in 1959 (source: [Civil Beat](#)), we still have much work to do increase voter engagement. Lowering the voting age to 16 would build a habit for younger people we need to recreate engaged voter population in Hawaii.

Please pass these two resolutions and the members of AAUW of Hawaii also hope to see the voting age being lowered to the age of 16 in near future. Mahalo.

Younghee Overly, Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii



Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

*Pō'ahā, Malaki 22, 2021*

*Via Wikiō*

*Ke Kapikala Moku'āina*

415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HCR 63/HR 52 - URGING THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE CIVIC EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FEASIBILITY AND IMPLICATIONS OF LOWERING THE VOTING AGE FOR STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS FROM EIGHTEEN TO SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE

*Aloha Luna Ho'omalua* Mark M. Nakashima, *Hope Luna Ho'omalua* Scot Z. Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HCR 63/HR 52. These resolutions urge the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implication of lowering the voting age for local elections to sixteen and to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature prior to the 2022 legislative session. At its 60th annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2019-24, urging the State of Hawai'i to extend the voting franchise to eligible residents aged sixteen and seventeen to support a culture of civic engagement.

Hawai'i faces a crisis of civic engagement and ranks 48th in the nation in voter turnout. Voting is a habit and a person's first election is critical to establishing that habit. In fact, voting in one election can increase the probability that a person will vote in the next election by over fifty percent. Evidence from cities, counties, and countries that have lowered the voting age supports the argument that the age of sixteen is a better time to start the habit of voting than eighteen. Sixteen and seventeen year-olds work and pay taxes on their income, can drive, and in some

cases, are tried in adult courts. Lowering the age of enfranchisement is fair and will create a culture of voting in our state, eventually leading to higher turnout among all age groups.

Researching and understanding the potential positive impacts of lowering the voting age is an important first step towards enacting a policy of sixteen year-old voting. Thus, the Association respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR 63/HR 52.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawaiʻi and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

*Mahalo* for allowing us to share our *mana* ʻo.

*Me ka ʻoia ʻi ʻo,*

Hailama Farden  
*Pelekikena*

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

No. 2019 -24

### **URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I TO EXTEND THE VOTING FRANCHISE TO ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS AGED SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN TO SUPPORT A CULTURE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over 60 Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Prince Kūhiō, as the embodiment of the values of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, began his civic life at a young age, and at seventeen he represented the Kingdom of Hawai‘i as a diplomat to Japan, and he continued to serve with honor and distinction throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, only 52.7 percent of registered voters cast ballots during Hawai‘i’s 2018 general election; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Elections Project, since 1986, young voters aged 18 to 29 have had the lowest tendency to vote of any age demographic, and in 2018, just 32.6 percent of young voters cast ballots, compared to 45.8 percent for voters aged 30 to 44, 56.2 percent for voters aged 45 to 59, and 65.5 percent for voters age 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, according to *Lowering the Voting Age for Local Elections in 2017 and Beyond, Generation Citizen, Ver. 2.0 – Jan. 2017*, voting is a habit and a person’s first election is critical to establishing that habit, and evidence from cities, counties, and countries that have lowered the voting age supports the argument that the age of 16 is a better time to start the habit of voting than 18; and

WHEREAS, the same article indicates voting in one election can increase the probability that a person will vote in the next election by over fifty percent and that shows that early voting experiences are an important determinant of future voting behavior; and

WHEREAS, 16- and 17-year-olds work and pay taxes on their income, can drive, and in some cases, are tried in adult courts; and

WHEREAS, seventeen nations have implemented policies of sixteen and seventeen-year-olds voting in some or all elections, including Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Malta, Nicaragua, Norway, Scotland, and Sudan; and

WHEREAS, Takoma Park, Hyattsville, and Greenbelt in Maryland have lowered the voting age to 16 for local elections, and Berkeley, California, has lowered the voting age to 16 for school board elections; and

WHEREAS, extending the voting franchise to Hawai'i residents aged sixteen and seventeen in local elections statewide coupled with programs like robust civic education at the high school levels will likely increase the civic engagement of young people and help to instill a culture of voting, eventually leading to higher turnout among all demographics.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 60th Annual Convention in Lahaina, Maui, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Lā'au Pau, this 16th day of November 2019, urging the State of Hawai'i to extend the voting franchise to eligible residents aged sixteen and seventeen to support a culture of civic engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Lā'au Pau on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019, at the 60th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Lahaina, Maui.

  
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Hailama V. K. K. Farden, President

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:53:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jahren Pintor	Vote 16 Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,**

**My name is Jahren Pintor. I am a 16 years old resident of Kalihi-Kapā• lama, I am a part of Vote 16 Hawai'i, and I am submitting testimony in support of HCR63.**

**I support lowering the voting age to 16 because, during my experience with campaigning in the 2020 primary and general election, I found it my goal to help get the word out of who I support and why. However, while working and trying my best to help everyone register to vote, it turns out that many people did not know much about many of the local positions or questions. I do not mind helping anyone understand the elections, but I had to teach what all the local and national positions do and what each question means. If we lower the voting age to 16, it will give youth a better understanding of the elections as early as possible. It will also motivate them to keep on voting to get a higher turnout rate over time.**

**One concern I would like to bring up when talking about this issue was that 18-year-olds or people near that age have the worst voter turnout. This fact bugged me. They have the worst turnout rate because they did not get the knowledge needed to understand the election. Even if they wanted to understand the election, they do not have the time due to their job or college work that will consume their time. The earlier we can start teaching and giving youth the option the vote, the higher the turnout rate will be.**

**Mahalo, for your consideration, and I sincerely hope that you will pass HCR63.**

**Mahalo,**

**Jahren Pintor**





**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:54:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
amy agbayani	Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support this resolution requesting the Commission to study the feasibility and implication for lowering the voting age to 16. I believe that it is important to get more information about ways we can encourage and expand voting rights to young members of our community because they have a stake in our community and our future.

Amy Agbayani, co-chair Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:57:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR63.

The first important thing to note is that this resolution does not lower the voting age to 16, it only directs that a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections from 18 to 16, so for that reason alone there is no logical or practical reason to not pass it.

For the bigger picture I can share my personal experience, along with 10s of thousands of other young American's why collecting data and substantiating data on lowering the voting age is essential, and the moral thing to do.

When I was a teenager in the 1960s the national voting age was 21, and all the same reasons they give today as to why the voting age should not be lowered were used then. They said then and now that we weren't adult enough, experienced enough, or educated enough to make rational decisions on what and who we should vote for.

When I became 18 the brutal illegal Vietnam War was raging. They were drafting young men like me and thousands of others from 18 to 26 years. Young men were undemocratically being forced into the military to fight in a war we didn't believe in or support, had no say in, and had no right to vote for politicians who would represent us or stand up for our rights. We were adult enough to kill and be killed, but we weren't old enough to vote for or against the war. This was not only unfair and unjust, it was

undemocratic. Eventually the voting age was lowered and we voted to end the war, and it did end because we now had the right to protect our rights and our future.

Currently politicians around the world are acting irresponsibly in their lack of taking effective action to prevent perpetual Climate Chaos. The vast majority of the world's scientific community has asserted that worldwide politicians are not responding fast enough or effectively enough to prevent runaway Climate Chaos.

Youth today have a lot to say about Climate Change, because they know it can completely destroy their future, but like when I was their age, they currently have no say, and no right to vote for politicians who will fight the fossil fuel industry and for their future. Just like when I was a teenager these youth are not seen as adult enough to vote, but they are adult enough to suffer from the devastating effects of Climate Chaos. Once again this is unfair, unjust, and undemocratic.

BTW the international Climate Change Movement is largely organized and led by youth from 16 years of age and up. They were responsible for founding, building, and organizing a national movement that registered millions of voters, got them to the polls to vote, and were crucial to Joe Biden being elected president. They are more informed and motivated to act on Climate Change than their elders. They have a right to have a say in their future.

Please vote in support of this resolution.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dave Mulinix, Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



March 21, 2021

From: Brandon Klugman, Generation Citizen  
Re: Testimony in Support of HCR63

I write on behalf of Generation Citizen, a national organization dedicated to increasing youth civic engagement and ensuring young people have access to opportunities to build their civic knowledge and skills, to express strong support for HCR63.

Hawaii has already taken important steps to encourage youth civic engagement, including allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote. This resolution builds on previous efforts by commissioning a study on another promising policy idea. Extending voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds is a policy that has been effective in the dozen countries that allow voting by citizens under age 18, and in the municipalities in the United States that have taken such a step. Evidence from countries around the world and from United States municipalities that have implemented voting at ages 16 or 17 shows that, when given the opportunity, 16- and 17-year-olds turn out to vote at higher rates than 18- and 19-year-olds, indicating that it is indeed a better time to establish the habit of voting. Many 18-year olds are in a time of intense transition, but at 16, young people can cast their crucial first votes on the local level, at a time when they are connected to their schools, homes, and communities in which they have deep roots. HCR63 would allow for further study of this policy idea.

I am inspired by the young people who are advocating for HCR63, and Generation Citizen is proud to support their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Klugman, Associate Director of Campaigns  
Generation Citizen

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:27:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

My name is Mio Chee and I live in Ala Moana. I am in support of HCR63 because I think 16 and 17 year olds are critical members of our society. I have homeschooled my two sons and as part of our homeschooling journey, I have met numerous youth who fall in that age range and they have demonstrated outstanding social, academic, and problem solving skills that exceed some adults. Also, many of them are brave enough to take big tasks that most adults are too afraid to face such as plastic pollution and climate change. Not only have they shown that they are brave enough, but also they have proven to us that they are capable of solving real world problems. We need to listed to those who are deserving and give them a voice to let them vote.

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:38:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nina Faye Lin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

My name is Nina Faye Lin, I am a 32 years old resident of Ewa Beach, and I am submitting testimony in support of HCR63.

I support lowering the voting age to 16 because the voice of our youth matters to the well-being of our communities today and tomorrow.

As shown in real-world case studies such as Austria and the Maryland municipalities, 16 and 17-year-olds have the mental capacity to vote. They are coming out in higher numbers and with votes that align with their political beliefs.

We allow these same youth to work and pay taxes, yet these youth cannot vote for the government officials who use their taxpayer dollars. 16 and 17-year-olds can also be tried as adults for certain crimes, which means that they are expected to know and understand the law—aka., “adult rules.” It is a matter of fairness that we give these youth the right to vote.

Plus, there are benefits to lowering the voting age to 16. It is common knowledge that voting is habitual. Since younger people build habits more easily than adults, we have a chance to strengthen our democracy by building a generation of engaged voters. By lowering the voting age to 16, nearly all students in Hawai'i will have the opportunity, should they choose it, to vote at least once and build that habit before they leave for the chaos of college.

Finally, we can make civics education more meaningful. Learning about civics and participating in a mock election is great, but students usually care more about things that are real rather than hypothetical. With a voting age of 16, the civics classes and voting are no longer a hypothetical exercise—if the students choose so, it can be translated into a real-world decision that is authentic, impactful, and relevant.

Mahalo,

Nina Faye Lin



**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:03:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and all the members of the JHA Committee,

My name is David Chee. I am a 47 year old resident of Ala Moana/Makiki and I strongly support HCR63.

I support lowering the voting age to 16 because I strongly believe that the youth in our community should be offered the right to elect government officials since 16 and 17 year olds are being made to carry the burden of dealing with so many difficult issues (like climate change).

I also believe that lowering the voting age would promote positive voting habits, which would increase overall voter turnout and civic engagement throughout one's life.

Finally, lowering the voting age would boost the overall civic education and awareness of our entire community. High school students learn civic education. Give them the change to actually put it in practice and use it.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope that you will pass HCR63.

Mahalo,

David Chee



**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:13:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ezra Levinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and JHA Committee members,

My name is Ezra Levinson. I'm 16 years old, a Kailua resident, and I have been organizing with Vote16 Hawaii since early 2018. Some members of this committee may remember corresponding with me during previous legislative sessions as I pushed for the voting age for state and local elections to be lowered from eighteen to sixteen.

I won't include talking points in favor of lowering the voting age in this testimony, as Vote16 HI's coalition has expanded drastically over the past year and I have no doubt that testimony on this resolution from other youth will cover that territory thoroughly.

Instead, I simply want to use this brief message to encourage you to support HCR63 and the conduction of an analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age. As young people like me grow older and become more aware of the world around us, we inherit the responsibility of interacting with that world and doing our best to make it better. Voting is one tool for doing so, but it's a tool that is denied from a huge number of youth as a result of decisions that were made decades ago and without scientific backing. Today we have scientific evidence suggesting that sixteen is a better voting age than eighteen, and it's past time to start acting on that evidence. This resolution is a way for you to do so, and can provide us all with another resource to inform our decisions beginning with the next legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ezra Levinson

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

My name is Daniel Pruder, I am a 16-year-old resident of Mō'ili'ili, and I am submitting testimony in **support** of HCR63.

I support lowering the voting age to 16 because as a person of that age, I believe myself, and others of 16 and 17 years of age, more than competent and capable of partaking in the vital democratic tradition and civic duty of voting. Many of us are already practicing civic engagement through our participation in political discourse and involvement in supporting our communities. We have voices that we would like to be heard and considered, which we believe can best be achieved through the right to vote. If we are mature enough to develop and advocate for our own beliefs, we should be allowed to vote to ensure that we are represented well. Granting 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote would make us feel as though our voices matter through encouraging good voting habits and spurring higher turnout for generations to come. I wouldn't be testifying before the committee today if I didn't believe I was ready to vote, and this youth-led movement only proves that all of us are ready for that massive responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration, and I sincerely hope that you will pass HCR63.

Mahalo,  
Daniel Pruder

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 11:21:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matyoshi, and members of the JHA committee,

My name is John Fitzpatrick, I am 38 years old resident of Makawao Hi, and I am in strong support of HCR63.

As an educator, I support lowering the voting age to 16 because I feel our students should be able to get involved in their civic right to choose who they want representing them because at 16 are young adults and want to see positive changes that will affect them their entire lives.

Here in Hawaii we have lackluster voter participation and this is a great way to teach students the power of voting and let their voices be heard before they graduate high school. Civics classes will be able to register them to vote and they will be able to learn how to critique candidates and research candidates to see which one best aligns with their values so they can make informed decisions.

I was lucky to have parents that taught helped me get registered and taught me how the system works. Not every young adult has this type of support and if students learn how to vote before they graduate then we will have a stronger and more perfect union.

There are so many reasons to let 16 year olds vote because two years from this age they are eligible for the draft. They should have a say in whether they support wars that will send them off to violence or not.

If you can drive a car you should be able to vote!

Mahalo,

Fitz

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 11:44:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colby Takeda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee Members:

It's extremely to better engage young adults in our democratic process and encourage civic engagement through voting. This resolution highlights a few key elements towards lowering the voting age, particularly the emphasis on civic education and conducting a feasibility analysis. Thank you for supporting this bill.

-Colby Takeda

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 6:30:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kawaiolaakealii Kili Kapuni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Kawai Kapuni. I attend Kamehameha Schools Maui as a senior and am in full support of this Bill. We need to keep our youth involved with genuinely having a seat at the table and inviting new input within our government.

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 6:39:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyler Jessica Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha,**

**My name is Tyler Levine, I am 16 years old and live on the island of Oahu in the town of Kailua. I support HCR63 because youth should have a voice in the law, which directly affects their lives and their future as youth are the future.**

**Young people who are 16 and 17-years-old have adult responsibilities but are denied the same rights. People under 18 are contributing as active members of society as well as an endless array of incredible feats. So certainly we as the next generation have the capacity to vote, for the candidate that best represents our interests as well as for the strength of our democracy.**

**Young people are already participating in politics. As we see today in every chapter of the world young people are not defined by the line and limits that this society has cast upon them. Their voices are heard, but imagine if we could vote... We are the leaders of today and we deserve a proper say!!!!!!**

**We have strong roots in our local community, having lived all of my life I have established many connections. This connection sprouts an awareness and appreciation of local issues.**

**You have a VOICE, you have a CHOICE- stand up and VOTE**

**We need to lower the voting age so that youth, our world's future can have a voice.**

**Thank you for listening to my voice and counting my vote!!!**

**Tyler**



**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 6:41:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clara Ontal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

My name is Clara Ontal, I am a 16 year old resident of Honolulu, and I am submitting testimony in *support* of HCR63.

I support lowering the voting age to 16 because it would boost youth civic engagement and is a necessary step to making politics more inclusive and representative of the whole community. Over 20 countries and five municipalities in the U.S. have lowered the voting age to 16, and they have seen the benefits of doing so. Votes by 16-17 year olds in Austria were found to be more aligned with their political views compared to 18-20 year olds, showing the ability youth have in making thoughtful votes.

Since younger people build habits more easily than adults, we have a chance to strengthen our democracy by building a generation of engaged voters. By lowering the voting age to 16, nearly all students in Hawai'i will have the opportunity, should they choose it, to vote at least once and build that habit before they leave for the chaos of college.

Finally, we can make civics education more meaningful. Learning about civics and participating in a mock election is great, but students usually care more about things that are real rather than hypothetical. With a voting age of 16, the civics classes and voting are no longer a hypothetical exercise—if the students choose so, it can be translated into a real-world decision that is authentic, impactful, and relevant.

Thank you for your consideration, and I sincerely hope that you will pass HCR63.

Mahalo,

Clara Ontal

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 10:39:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rylee Brooke Kamahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Rylee Brooke Kamahele from Mililani and I strongly support HCR63. I have been paying my own taxes since the age of 8 and I believe those who pay taxes should have a right to vote and a say in who gets to control their tax money. I am also a homeschooled eighth grader, I believe that lowering the voting age to 16 would also boost civic education. As an former student who attended Kipapa Elementary it was very important that I had hands on learning and that's exactly what HCR63 would help with.

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 11:23:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear JHA Committee Members,

- Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>.
- Knowing that voting is habit which starts when young, a comprehensive analysis by the PACE Commission, as urged by HCR 63 / HR 52, will be able to assist with determining the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age to promote long-term and sustained civic engagement, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:17:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kori Oros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

I am Kori Oros, I am 39 years old resident of the North Shore of Oahu, and I am submitting testimony in support of HCR63.

I support lowering the voting age to 16 because as a public school teacher I see benefit to students being able to show their civic engagement through voting. It could make so many social, economic and political issues relevant to these teenagers and hopefully help them care more about these topics in public school.

A 16 year old can also be tried as an adult in our judicial system...so it would make sense to give him or her the power to vote for the people who run the system judging him/her.

Thank you,

Kori Oros

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:46:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's study this bill which potentially can increase voters

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 5:17:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosemarie Muller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Voting is a habit which needs to be molded in our youth today. This bill can help it be developed and will promote more civic opportunities and community involvement in our youth with voter education. Voter education and civic education is very lacking in today's high schools. We need to instill long term and sustainable civic education which will then carry through their adulthood.

This will also make our democracy stronger.

Thank you

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 10:37:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

My name is Sam Kippen and I **SUPPORT** HCR 63/HR 52. These resolutions urge the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for local elections to sixteen and to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature prior to the 2022 legislative session.

Hawai'i is at a crossroads. Lacking opportunity and unable to imagine a sustainable future here at home, many of our young people are moving away. Meanwhile, our islands face a crisis of civic engagement, and Hawai'i ranks 48th in the nation in voter turnout. Without a civic avenue to make meaningful change, our next generation will continue to vote with their feet.

Lowering the voting age to sixteen for local elections will help to create a culture of political participation among all residents. Studies show that early voting experiences significantly improve turnout and inspire lifelong civic engagement. When young people have a place at the political table, they will also have a stake in building Hawai'i's future.

As a member of Vote 16 Hawai'i, Common Cause Hawai'i, and the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HCR 63/HR 52.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Sam Kippen

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 12:55:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Please support HCR63.

We need more civic education to strengthen our democracy.

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>.

Knowing that voting is habit which starts when young, a comprehensive analysis by the PACE Commission, as urged by HCR 63 / HR 52, will be able to assist with determining the feasibility and implications of lowering the voting age for state and local elections from eighteen to sixteen years of age to promote long-term and sustained civic engagement, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake



**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 12:57:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucy Fagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and JHA committee,

My name is Lucy Fagan and I am a 17 year-old student living in Kaimuki. I would like to voice my support for HCR63 that would study lowering the voting age in Hawai'i, something I strongly believe in.

I see lowering the voting age as a great way to educate and involve youth in local decision making. I have interacted with countless adults who know nothing about local government and the positions they vote on, by educating youth we are creating students who will grow up and understand these roles, and become quality voters. Voting is an important aspect of a healthy democracy and expanding that right and building that habit is a great way to continue building on the momentum of the last election where we saw monumental involvement. We should continue to strive to increase voter turnout, and allow communities the opportunity to hold elected officials accountable for the decisions they make on behalf of ALL community members. Youth are capable and passionate, lets continue providing them tools to get involved and be proactive about the future of the island they live on.

Mahalo for looking out for and uplifting all voices,  
Lucy Fagan

## **HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:33:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

Hello, my name is Kristen Young and I am a Honolulu resident and voter. I am 26 years old and currently the youth director at Central Union Church of Honolulu where part of my role (as I see it) is to empower youth to put their faith in action and use their voice to speak up for what's right—and encourage others to listen. I believe HCR63 will do just that by supporting the lowering of the voting age in Hawai'i from 18 to 16, which will allow more young people to have a say in what happens in/to the communities they are living in and growing up in.

As people of faith, we are called to love our neighbors and we are taught that our neighbors go beyond those who live next door or those we personally know. Voting is a way we can impact our wider community. My experience working with youth (and being a youth myself not long ago) has showed me that youth absolutely have the capacity to care and act with their values in mind—what I believe makes a good voter.

We have seen youth take the lead on issues like climate change and gun control because adults in charge have failed to do so. Youth are taking on problems created/worsened by older generations and they should have the opportunity to have their voices count in decisions that are being made for their communities.

Sixteen and 17-year-olds can contribute to our economy and must pay taxes, they can drive, get married, and be tried as an adult. But they aren't given the right to vote. I stand with [Vote16HI](#), a coalition of youth, adult allies, and organizations, that support lowering the voting age to 16 in Hawai'i. Lowering the voting age will create lifelong voters, increase civic engagement, give youth a voice, and create a fairer democracy.

I talked about this in our youth group of middle and high school students and they all expressed their support of lowering the voting age to 16 and that they would vote now if they could. These are some things they shared:

- "I support lowering the voting age because kids who are sixteen years old are pretty mature and wise enough to be able to vote for politics and understand them as well."
- So I can vote for someone I want and have a say in who leads.
- There are things we want to speak up on, laws that affect our generation. We need hope.

- 2020 has revealed so much. We need good leaders.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter. I support HCR63 and I hope you will, too.

March 21, 2021

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha e Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

‘O Phoenix Maimiti Valentine ko‘u inoa. Ua hānai ‘ia au o ka moku o Wai‘anae, kahi kaulana ke akua wāhine ‘o Kaiona ka savoir o nā ‘uhane nalowale. He haumāna au. He ‘umikūmāhiku ‘ou makahiki. Welina!

My name is Phoenix Maimiti Valentine. I was raised in the district of Wai‘anae, famous for the Goddess Kaiona, the Savior of helping lost souls find their way. I am a 17-year-old Homeschooler. Greetings!

I write in support of HCR63 which would lower the voting age to 16 years old. In my lifetime, students such as myself shall carry the burdens of the fate of this planet. My generation is directly affected by the climate crisis, increasing natural disasters, extinction of species, diminishing biodiversity, world-wide plagues (like the one that grips us today), as well as the next more deadly forthcoming pandemic.

Although I am not yet 18, I want the best for our planet. As a student I have the opportunity and kuleana to learn and prepare for the future. All students have this kuleana. In the state of Hawai‘i we are being taught about our connection with ‘Āina, ‘Ohana, and the importance of taking a stand like Ki‘ai (guardians) to protect that which is scared, endangered, endemic and worthy of having a voice for representation. HCR63 gives us a right to vote and express our voice!

As residents in the state of Hawai‘i, we can look to the history of our beloved Kings & Queens. Our Ali‘i planned for the future beyond their lifetimes. They established plans

for future generations. There was a balance and respect for nature and life. Unified, we thrive.

Students want a future where there is hope. We are capable of creating positive change. We have a voice and solutions to share. We are not lost souls. We have a purpose. Please lower the voting age to 16.

Please vote in favor of HCR63.

Mahalo nui loa, Phoenix Maimiti Valentine

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 6:36:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Lynn Dickerson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I was actively encouraged by my middle school teacher to learn and debate the issues of the Goldwater/Johnson campaign. I was hearing the opinions of my classmate's parents and they heard those of mine as we looked at the political process. This had a very big impression on my developing civics education. I believe the earlier voting age would allow students to learn how to disagree and discuss more effectively.

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:23:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamuela Werner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha:

I support HCR63.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 2:13:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and committee members,

I support HR 52/ HCR63. I encourage your support for a feasibility study on lowering the voting age in our state to 16 years old. Voting is a habit that is better picked up at 16 when additional years of relevant high school education in civics can occur. Many 18 to 29 year-olds do not vote because they aren't in the habit, don't quite know how it impacts them, and various other reasons. Youth enjoy practical and relatable experiences, and voting between ages 16 and 18 would give them practical experience in democracy. First-time voting is something that should come at an earlier age. Lowering the voting age will give them an incentive to learn and exercise the tools necessary to participate in our republic. More of our citizenry will find the tools they need like writing, speaking out, researching, asking questions of elected officials, forming coalitions, and finding strength in their voice and the work of their cohort. With significant local to global challenges like climate change, budget choices, community health concerns like COVID-19, inequity in education consequences mounting, we need 16 to 18-year-olds to come up to speed quickly and stay involved. If we lower the age to vote to 16, our education system would be reenergized by students excited about democracy just like it was by students coming out of schools in the 1940s and 1950s. Those of us over 18 would be happy to have those 16 to 18 join us in the voting citizenry. We need all the help, perspective, diversity, and representation of ideas we can to improve decisions and directions in our community. We may overcome these critical challenges in our lives today. We can do it together as we have always done before.

Please support HR 52/ HCR63.

Mahalo,

Christopher Edwards  
Honolulu, HI 96822