



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 159, SD 1
RELATING TO VOTING

March 18, 2021

Chair Nakashima and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 159, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to require any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines; prohibits the Examiner of Drivers from transmitting information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States Citizenship; and to authorize access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation that contain driver license or identification card information to election officials and the online voter registration system.

This bill would provide more access to voter registration, as it requires the applicant for a driver license or state identification card to directly address the question of whether they want to register to vote or to opt out as part of the application process. Additionally, this bill ensures the accuracy of the voter registration rolls by electronically transmitting voter registration data between the driver licensing and identification card database and the statewide voter registration system. The electronic sharing of data between driver licensing officials and election officials helps 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. 159, SD 1.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:58:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Khara Jabola-Carolus	Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	No

Comments:

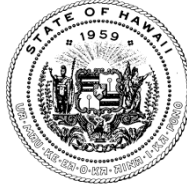
The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women supports SB159 SD1. This measure advances our mission to increase political power for women by broadening civic engagement. Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass this measure.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

Executive Director, CSW

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

March 18, 2021
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.B. 159, S.D. 1
RELATING TO VOTING**

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with amendments** S.B. 159, S.D. 1, that intends to revise the examiner of drivers' duties and responsibilities regarding voter registration.

The requirement to include an affidavit and information about the residence address confidentiality program should be removed from the driver's license and state identification (ID) card application. Information on the address confidentiality program as it relates to voter registration should be provided by the agency authorizing the program. A sample of the driver's license application form is attached. Adding further verbiage and information will only further clutter and make the application process more difficult and confusing for the vast majority of driver's license and state ID card applicants. The DOT and legislators have received complaints in the past and had looked at streamlining the form.

In SECTION 1, new §11- ___ (b), Page 2, Lines 12 thru 19 which states:

12 "The examiner of drivers shall not transmit any information
13 necessary to register an applicant as a voter nor change any
14 voter registration information, if the applicant affirmatively
15 declines to be registered to vote. The examiner of drivers
16 shall not transmit any information related to a voter
17 application or changes to the applicant's voter registration
18 information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a
19 lack of United States citizenship.",

It is unclear whether the applicant's information is to be transmitted to the election officials by the examiner of drivers if the applicant does not decline to vote and does not provide documents demonstrating United States (U.S.) citizenship.

The driver's license and state ID card application forms already have a question that asks if the applicant is a U.S. citizen with the applicant's signature certifying the

information is true and correct and may be guilty of a Class C felony. This should instead be used to identify whether or not the examiner of drivers will transmit the applicant's information to the election officials and not the verification or re-verification of U.S. citizenship documents. It would be a burden for county staff to remember to flag the application for electronic transmittal by manually verify U.S. citizenship documents. In most cases when the person is renewing a driver's license or state ID card, documents are not presented and in those situations the documents would need to be retrieved. Similar voter registration requirements are in SECTION 2 and SECTION 3 of the bill.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DOT and Office of Elections was signed by both parties in August 2017. Should there be a need to modify the voter registration form or computer systems, the counties, DOT and the Office of Elections will continue to work collaboratively as they have already demonstrated with the current application forms and MOA to ensure the driver's license and civil identification card application forms reflect all future state and federally legislated requirements.

The effective date of the act should be dependent on when the State Office of Elections and county computer programming can be completed to allow for the electronic transmittal of data. Other provisions of the bill are currently being performed and part of the driver's license and state ID card application.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk



SCOTT K. SATO
Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800
TTY: (808) 241-5116

Facsimile: (808) 241-6207
E-mail: elections@kauai.gov

**ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAI'I 96766-1819

March 18, 2021

**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 159, SD 1
RELATING TO VOTING**

Chair Nakashima and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 159, SD 1. This Bill would require any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines; it also prohibits the Examiner of Drivers from transmitting information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States Citizenship; and authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation that contains driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the online voter registration system.

Senate Bill 159, SD 1 will require any person who is eligible to vote and who applies for a driver's license or identification card to automatically be registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines. This will ensure that only applicants that want to register to vote will be entered into the voter registration database.

The Bill also proposes making databases containing driver's license and identification card information, including documents and images, accessible and provided electronically to election officials and the online voter registration system. The electronic transmission of databases will eliminate the inefficiencies inherent to the current paper-based process.

Finally, adopting automatic voter registration will significantly reduce the number of unregistered individuals appearing at voter service centers, which will help to diminish the service delay caused by the same day voter registration process.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 159, SD 1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:16:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports Senate Bill 159 SD 1.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



of Hawaii

Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday March 18, 2021 2PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of S.B. 159 SD1

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 159 SD1, which would require any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines.

Automatic Voter Registration would make our voter registration system more accurate, secure, and cost-effective. Eighteen states and Washington DC already have AVR law; twelve states and Washington DC have already implemented AVR.¹

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and over 3800 members and supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Please pass this important bill to modernize our voting system. Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Younghee Overly".

Younghee Overly

Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii

publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx>

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 159, SD 1

TO: Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: March 18, 2021 (2:00 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 159, SD 1, which provides for automatic voter registration (AVR) for anyone eligible to vote who applies for a new, renewal, or duplicate driver's license or state identification, with an opt-out provision.

Last year's elections raised issues that require legislative attention, including more voter service centers and the ongoing need to update voter addresses. The state reportedly spent considerable sums on postal charges in mailing ballots that were returned because of address changes. AVR would help streamline and safeguard the mail ballot process by capturing a good number of those who have moved.

As noted by the Brennan Center for Justice (BCJ), automatic voter registration reforms that have an opt-out provision where agencies transfer voter registration information electronically to elections officials "[increase registration rates, clean up the voter rolls, and save states money.](#)" BCJ also notes that 16 states and D.C. have approved the policy, with over a third of all Americans living in a jurisdiction that features AVR of some kind.

HHRC supports measures that facilitate increased voter registration and participation. HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Making voter registration automatic, particularly when combined with an all-mail election, would give many currently not inclined to participate in the electoral process a tangible opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

This is an important measure that will foreseeably expand registration and voter participation. It builds upon reforms, including vote-by-mail, that have been implemented in recent years. Ideally, Hawai'i would be among those states where voter information is provided to elections officials by other government agencies, including those that enroll individuals in need for social services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

March 16, 2021

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
RE: Testimony in support of SB159 SD1

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) **supports** SB159 SD1. Our organization advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i. One of those values is that an open democracy is a necessary component to ensuring a healthy society that is free of oppression.

Too often, the economic and social realities of life make participating in the democratic and civic processes unnecessarily burdensome for average citizens. Between working multiple jobs, studying to earn a degree to help us get ahead, taking care of our families—both keiki and aging kupuna—and allowing for the necessary level of social interactions we need to stay connected with our communities, young people in particular find it challenging to participate.

But recent improvements to our democratic system, including the option to testify here via zoom, as well as the state's highly successful vote by mail program have brought democracy a little closer to all of us. Democracy is not something that is ever complete—it is something we must work at and actively engage and participate in at every possible level of input if we hope to keep at bay the forces of fascism that prey on apathy and ignorance.

Passing Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) is the logical next step in strengthening our democracy through increased participation.

While AVR won't eliminate voter apathy—that will require the hard work of organizing—it will eliminate one barrier to participation. It's a quick and easy step that the state can take this year that will have dramatic results. How do we know? Because in other jurisdictions, implementation of Automatic Voter Registration policies have made huge differences in

participation rates. One early-adopting jurisdiction (Oregon), now has a 90 percent registration rate, and blew the rest of the country out of the water for voter participation in the 2018 midterm elections—68 percent compared to the national average of 49 percent. (Read more: <https://www.sightline.org/2018/12/13/voter-turnout-oregon-tops-charts-2018-midterms>).

Oregon also demonstrated that Automatic Voter Registration increases the diversity of voters too by enfranchising the very demographic groups that have the most difficulty finding time in their busy days to participate in the process: young people, struggling working class families, minorities—all of whom need to have an electoral voice and a seat at the policy table if we are to develop well-rounded, inclusive solutions to our problems that have genuine community buy-in.

If we are serious when we say that we value democracy, then let us show that we are willing to take action to live up to are values. Let us demonstrate that we mean what we say when we insist that a healthy democracy is the only practical defense against fascism. To live up to that value, we must make sure that we provide access to democracy for groups who struggle to find time to engage with the process. We lose out as a society when potential solutions to our problems are not heard. We lose out as a society when simple technical barriers keep people from participating.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron
Board President & Secretary (2020–21)
action@ypdahawaii.org

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:01:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports SB 159, SD1. Thank you!



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	John Miller	P.O. Box 23404 Honolulu Hawaii 96823
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Stephen O'Harrow	
Doug Pyle, Secretary	Jan Lubin	Lyn Pyle	

March 16, 2021

TO: Chair Nakashima and members of JHA Committee

RE: SB 159 SD1 Relating to Voting

Support for hearing on March 18

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 159 SD1 as it would automatically register for voting when one gets a driver's license. These motor voter laws have helped to increase voter registration and therefore voter turnout. Critics have correctly pointed out people even with registration need a reason to vote. Yet the classic book on the topic is Who Votes by Ray Wolfinger. He argues easier registration laws can account for up to a nine-percentage point increase in voting over more restrictive states.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President





March 17, 2021

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Scot Matayoshi and JHA committee members
From: Hawai'i Democratic Party Women's Caucus
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 159 SD1

Thank you for allowing this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 159.

In 2015, California and Oregon were the first two states initiating automatic voter registration. Today, a total of 20 states have adopted some form of automatic voter registration.

The 2017 report by the Brennan Center for Justice said, "Automatic voter registration makes two transformative, yet simple, changes to voter registration: Eligible citizens who interact with government agencies are registered to vote unless they decline, and agencies transfer voter registration information electronically to election officials. These two changes create a seamless process that is more convenient and less error-prone for both voters and government officials. This policy boosts registration rates, cleans up the rolls, makes voting more convenient, and reduces the potential for voter fraud, all while lowering costs."

In other words, applying for a driver's license or state identification would allow you to also register to vote, if you don't opt out. Automatic voter registration will eliminate the expense and labor needed to process a separate voter registration application and result in more accurate and more current voter rolls. Combined with mail-in voting, voting in Hawai'i will be easier and safer. Maintaining and updating voter rolls will be less expensive and more accurate. And our elections will see record turnouts of voters.

There are so many positive reasons to enact automatic voter registration. Please enact this in time for the 2022 election.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Amy Monk, Co-Chair
Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 18, 2021

S.B. 159, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO VOTING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 159, S.D. 1 which requires any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines.

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 turnout, the Legislature has taken appropriate steps to make it easier for residents to vote, which include implementing online voter registration in 2015, phasing in same-day registration in 2016, and establishing an all-mail election in 2019. The next logical step to improve and increase access to voting is to implement automatic voter registration, as many other states have done. Automatic voter registration reduces the time and effort it takes to register, ensures current addresses are on file, and reduces the overall costs to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 159, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 18, 2021 2:00 PM

In **SUPPORT** of **SB159 SD1**: Relating to Voting

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 27,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports SB159 SD1** to enact automatic voter registration.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to ensuring a fair, open, and transparent democratic process. We encourage our members and supporters to actively protect their right to vote, have their voices heard in government, and engage in the legislative process. Automatic voter registration would make these efforts just that much easier for many Hawai'i residents. By making registration automatic whenever someone gets a driver's license or updates their address at the DMV, voters are more likely to be engaged and ready to participate in our electoral process. We welcome that—and so should our lawmakers.

Automatic voter registration is the logical next step in modernizing our elections by eliminating needless paperwork. It has been estimated that paper registration costs 30 times more than AVR. The possibility of human error in transcribing voter information from paper forms will be reduced and the state could save the nearly \$600,000 it spent in 2016 alone in processing paper forms. Furthermore, Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the U.S. for the last twenty years. AVR will not only simplify the process to register to vote, but is likely to save us money and result in increased turnout on Election Day.

Automatic voter registration has already been approved in 23 other states and is a common sense solution for Hawai'i. AVR will strengthen our democracy, increase the security of our elections, and is simply the most cost effective, efficient, and modern system available.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB159**.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:29:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Pride @ Work - Hawaii	Support	No

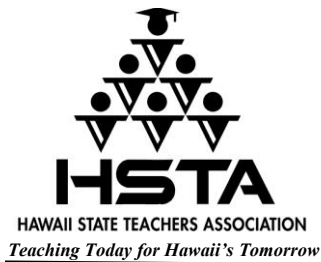
Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work - Hawai'i, the state-wide chapter of Pride At Work (a constituency group of the national AFL-CIO) and an affiliate of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO, fully supports Senate Bill 159 SD 1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Pride at Work - Hawai'i



Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui, Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

RE: SB 159, SD1 - RELATING TO VOTING

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 159, SD1**, relating to voting. This bill requires any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines. Prohibits the Examiner of Drivers from transmitting information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States Citizenship. Authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation that contains driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the online voter registration system. (SD1)

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. It will make our voter rolls more accurate and secure by helping to keep them updated. With our vote by mail system enhanced by automatic voter registration, ballots will then be mailed to people's current, correct addresses. Additionally, names on voters' ballots will match their identification for election security. Automatic voter registration would lessen the number of people who would need to go in-person to a voter service center to register to vote and, thereby, shorten the wait times.

Automatic voter registration is also cost-effective. It has been estimated that it would, save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues. Given the budget crisis facing the state as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, cost-saving from automatic voter registration is not something that we can ignore.

Lastly, automatic voter registration encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive and vibrant society. Automatic voter registration is a vital step to making sure that Hawaii U.S. citizens have access to our democracy, building a stronger democracy, by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV. **Therefore, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to support this bill.**

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:26:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support SB159. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary, Rainbow Family 808



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
The House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, March 18, 2021
2:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair

RE: S.B. 159 SD 1 Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

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

AARP Hawai'i supports S.B. 159 SD1 which requires any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines. We believe that Hawaii should adopt voter registration and voting systems and procedures that expand the range of voting choices. Public policy should encourage and promote maximum participation in the electoral process.

Requiring those who get or update a license to register to vote (or change address) – or opt-out of doing so – does indeed promote maximum participation. It doesn't require drivers to register to vote but does require them to make the affirmative choice to decline to do so, which is their right. Doing it through this opt-out process encourages participation in what AARP believes is among the most basic of all political rights – the right to vote.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support S.B. 159 SD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez".

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i
State Director



HIPHI Board

Michael
Robinson, MBA, MA
Chair
Hawaii Pacific Health

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Native Hawaiian
Research Office

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
Treasurer & Vice Chair
KM Consulting LLC

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Retired, Daniel K. Inouye
College of Pharmacy

Debbie Erskine
Kamehameha Schools

Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula, PhD
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Native Hawaiian Health

Mark Levin, JD
William S. Richardson School
of Law

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Pediatrics

Rachel Novotny,
PhD, RDN, LD
University of Hawaii at Manoa,
College of Tropical Agriculture
and Human Resources

Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente

Date: March 17, 2021

To: Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Committee

Re: Support for SB 159, SD1, Relating to Voting

Hrg: March 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of SB 159, SD1**, which would automatically register any person who is eligible to vote by default when they apply for a state driver's license or state ID.

This measure, also known as Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), will help to modernize Hawaii's elections process and complement the new "Vote by Mail" law. With AVR, the information of eligible voters that choose to register to vote are transferred electronically and automatically from the Department of Motor Vehicles to the State Office of Elections. While the current bill is an "opt-out" system, HIPHI would support the bill if it is changed to an "opt-in" system, as the difference is small and both options will save money, keep voter rolls up to date, and increase efficiency.

HIPHI supports increasing civic engagement and believes AVR will reduce barriers to participation in the democratic process, regardless of if AVR is an opt-in or opt-out system. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.



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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 18, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Room 325
SB 159 SD1 RELATING TO VOTING

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB 159 SD1. As of the start of this session, 20 states and the District of Columbia have passed this voter-friendly reform¹; 4 bills were introduced on this subject in this session. The demand signal from Hawaii's voters is clear - they want "Opt-Out" Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

"Opt-Out" AVR builds upon Congress's findings in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that 1) voting is a fundamental right and 2) it is the duty of governments to promote the exercise of that right².

This bill empowers voters by letting them affirmatively choose whether their information is used to register to vote or update their registration when they interact with the Department of Motor Vehicles. "Opt-Out" AVR promotes - but does not mandate - voter registration by making it convenient and cost-effective. Proven and secure processes are already in place to handle this information and will continue to be used to enter and update a voter's information. "Opt-Out" AVR would also help County Clerks keep the voter registration rolls more current. With registrations more accurate and more frequently updated, errors in ballot delivery and demand for registration services at Voter Service Centers could be reduced as well. The savings in time and money would add up quickly.

The League is certainly aware that "Opt-In" automatic voter registration is an alternate means of registering people to vote. We have also learned that some key members of the Legislature strongly prefer this approach, making it more politically feasible. For this reason, we could support an "opt-In" approach to passing this voting reform.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

1. "Automatic Voter Registration." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx>, accessed 25 January 2021.

2. 52 USC §20501(a).

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:41:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Neighborhood Place of Puna	Support	No

Comments:

Being an active citizen and increasing civic engagement in our community is an important part of a healthy democracy. Only a fraction of eligible citizens cast a ballot. By providing automatic voter registration we make civic engagement more accessible and improve our democracy.

Mahalo for hearing our testimony

Kaikea Kaleikini Blakemore

Community Development Specialist

Neighborhood Place of Puna

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:50:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha.

Please accept my testimony in strong support of SB159 sd1

FYI I have included my OpEd Star Advertiser 03/30/2020 in support of AVR.

Amy Agbayani,

Agbayani,Co- Chair of Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights

These are tough times. And tough times demand we do more. We must truly take seriously our responsibilities to take care of ourselves, our families and our community during the COVID 19 local and global crisis. And part of our personal and civic responsibility is to keep us functioning well as a democracy. I count making voting accessible to all communities-- regardless of ethnicity or geography or economic standing-- a critical part of the essential housekeeping that ensures the health of our democracy. That is why I am so pleased that Hawai'i has moved to Vote By Mail this year statewide. It is a smart move that saves time and money and makes it possible for everyone who wants to make their voice heard to do so. But Vote By Mail will work as it should only if our voter rolls are current and updated.

Automatic Voter Registration(AVR) is the next logical step to ensure that we, the people, are not inadvertently disenfranchised. If we enact AVR, the updated information we provide the Division of Motor Vehicles will be automatically transmitted to the Office of Elections— unless we decline to allow them to do so. All of us, no matter how busy, do make sure we renew our driving license or get a state ID. It is important to note that AVR does not compel people to vote. It simply ensures a state of readiness so that when elections are upon us, people who may have been too busy to pay attention to the status of their voter registration are in fact ready to vote.

As an educator and civil rights advocate for women, lgbt, persons with disabilities, immigrants and underrepresented ethnic groups, I support equality and inclusion. I want to remove barriers to voter participation. It is not enough to lament the poor voter turnout in Hawai'i. It is also necessary to acknowledge that when people are rushing between two or three low wage jobs, taking care of their family and putting food on the table, updating their voter registration is a task that can easily fall by the wayside. AVR is one answer to that challenge: it will make it easier for voters to update their voter registration and vote.

As we are addressing the COVID 19 crisis and everyday tasks, let's also take the opportunity to make government work better for people. I urge lawmakers to pass AVR this year. Any policy that improves community engagement and saves the state and individuals time and money is something that we should seize and implement without delay. I hope lawmakers don't take their eye off the ball relative to this smart measure to make us a more vibrant democracy. AVR can make voting just a little bit less stressful and make our state a lot more inclusive. That is something we should all welcome.

TRANSFORM
HAWAI'I GOVERNMENT
Every Citizen • Every Service • Every Island

March 18, 2021
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 159 SD1
Relating to Voting

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, 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 advocate for an accessible, accountable and responsive state government that leverages technology to help citizens, communities, and businesses throughout Hawai'i to thrive. We provide a consistent and persistent voice to keep modernization a top priority of state government.

THG is in support of SB159 SD1, requiring any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines.

We believe that this bill will facilitate and help accelerate technology transformation in the state and is consistent with the Hawaii Information Technology Strategic Plan.

We urge you to pass Senate Bill 159 SD1 and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Committee: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 18, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Via Videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 159, S.D. 1 Relating to Voting

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of S.B. 159, 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, with the option to decline registration.**

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and a fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest. 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. The automatic voter registration program created by S.B. 159, S.D. 1 would make our DMVs more efficient by electronically transmitting voter registration information from the agency to election officials. Eligible U.S. citizens will be registered to vote, unless they opt out, and people who are ineligible to vote would be protected from erroneous registration. If a person is already registered to vote, the process established by S.B. 159, S.D. 1 will update their address unless they opt out. The ACLU of Hawai'i believes that S.B. 159, S.D. 1 contains the appropriate safeguards to ensure greater access to the vote, while also protecting people against erroneous registration.

The ACLU of Hawai'i urges the Committee to pass this measure, and respectfully requests that in its committee report, the Committee recommend that in the future, the automatic voter registration program be expanded to apply to forms or applications submitted to a government office, such as applications for public assistance and intake forms at jails. Limiting automatic voter registration to applications to renew or obtain a driver's license or State ID may disadvantage marginalized communities who are less likely to obtain licenses or IDs. If the Committee is inclined to make this recommendation, we would be happy to assist in reviewing government forms that could potentially be used for automatic voter registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
March 18, 2021
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,



Hope Kerpelman
Legal and Legislative Fellow
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 over 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

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 18, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
SB 159, SD1
RELATING TO VOTING.

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

Common Cause Hawaii is testifying in support of SB 159, SD1, which (1) requires any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines, (2) prohibits the Examiner of Drivers from transmitting information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States Citizenship, and (3) authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation that contains driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the online voter registration system. SB 159, SD1 is known as Automatic Voter Registration ("AVR"), which is currently an "opt-out" bill.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts. Common Cause Hawaii supports AVR as a much-needed voter modernization tool for the benefit Hawaii.

One, AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles and either does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter or chooses to "opt-in" to being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically, electronically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the county elections offices. This does not mean that a U.S. citizen will be "automatically" registered to vote by simply enacting AVR. It will still be necessary for a U.S. citizen to interact with a government official through the DMV and affirmatively choose to be a registered voter either by not opting out of being a registered voter or by opting in to being a registered voter. Common Cause Hawaii will support either an opt-out (the current SB 159, SD1) or an opt-in AVR bill, with our preferred opt-in amendments attached.

Regardless of whether AVR is opt-out or opt-in, AVR will **not** require people to register to vote, and it will **not** require people to vote once registered to vote. Moreover, regardless of whether AVR is opt-out or opt-in, it will **not** alter long-standing Hawaii voter registration privacy laws. Hawaii Revised Statutes § 11-97 specifically provides that a voter's full name, district/precinct designation, and voter status shall be public; but all other personal information, as provided on the voter registration affidavit, shall be confidential except for election or government purposes. It is good policy for elected officials and advocates to be able to reach out to voters to ensure that they are being responsive to community concerns and to alert the community as to their efforts. Hawaii Administrative Rules § 3-177-160(c) also provides that a county clerk

may not disclose voter registration information if it compromises the privacy of voters or interferes with the operations of election.

Thus, AVR will make our voter rolls more accurate and secure by helping to keep them updated. With our vote by mail system augmented by AVR, ballots will then be mailed to people's current, correct addresses. Additionally, names on voters' ballots will match their identification for election security. AVR would lessen the number of people who would need to go in-person to a voter service center to register to vote and, thereby, shorten the wait times. Further, AVR does not alter existing voter registration privacy laws.

Two, AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues. Given the budget crisis facing the state as a result of the COVID-pandemic, cost-saving from AVR is not something that we can ignore.

Three, AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive and vibrant society. AVR is a vital step to making sure that Hawaii US citizens have access to our democracy, building a stronger democracy, by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 159, SD1, AVR whether opt-in or opt-out. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 ~~"§11-~~ Automatic registration. (a) An application for
5 voter registration, including an affidavit and information about
6 the residence address confidentiality program under section
7 11-14.5, shall be a part of the application for issuance of an
8 identification card under section 286-301 and the application
9 for issuance of a driver's license under section 286-109. Each
10 application for voter registration shall include a space to
11 request a change of name or address.

12 (b) Applications for an identification card or driver's
13 license shall not be processed until the applicant completes the
14 portion of the application related to voter registration,
15 including change in name or address, indicates v
16 the applicant's choice of whether to register to vote, or, if
already registered to vote, is offered the opportunity to decline
to change to
17 the applicant's voter registration information. v

Deleted: or clearly

Deleted: that

Deleted: declines

Deleted: make

Deleted: s

Deleted: Unless an

1 The
 2 submission of the application for the issuance of an
 3 identification card under section 286-301 and the application
 4 for a driver's license under section 286-109 shall be deemed to
 5 authorize the examiner of drivers to collect and transmit the
 6 information necessary to register the applicant as a voter or
 7 make changes to the applicant's voter registration information if
the applicant has made such a choice.

Deleted: applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote, t

8 The examiner of drivers shall electronically transmit the
 9 necessary information to the clerk of the county in which the
 10 applicant resides, election officials, and the online voter
 11 registration system pursuant to subsection (d).

12 The examiner of drivers shall not transmit any information
 13 necessary to register an applicant as a voter nor change any
 14 voter registration information, if the applicant makes a choice
not to be registered to vote. The examiner of drivers

Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 0.09", Hanging: 0.42", Space Before: 0.05 pt, Tab stops: Not at 0.51" + 0.51" + 4.13"

Deleted: affirmatively declines

15 shall not transmit any information related to a voter
 16 application or changes to the applicant's voter registration
 17 information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a
 18 lack of United States citizenship.

19 (c) Upon receipt of the completed voter registration
 20 application or changes to the applicant's voter registration

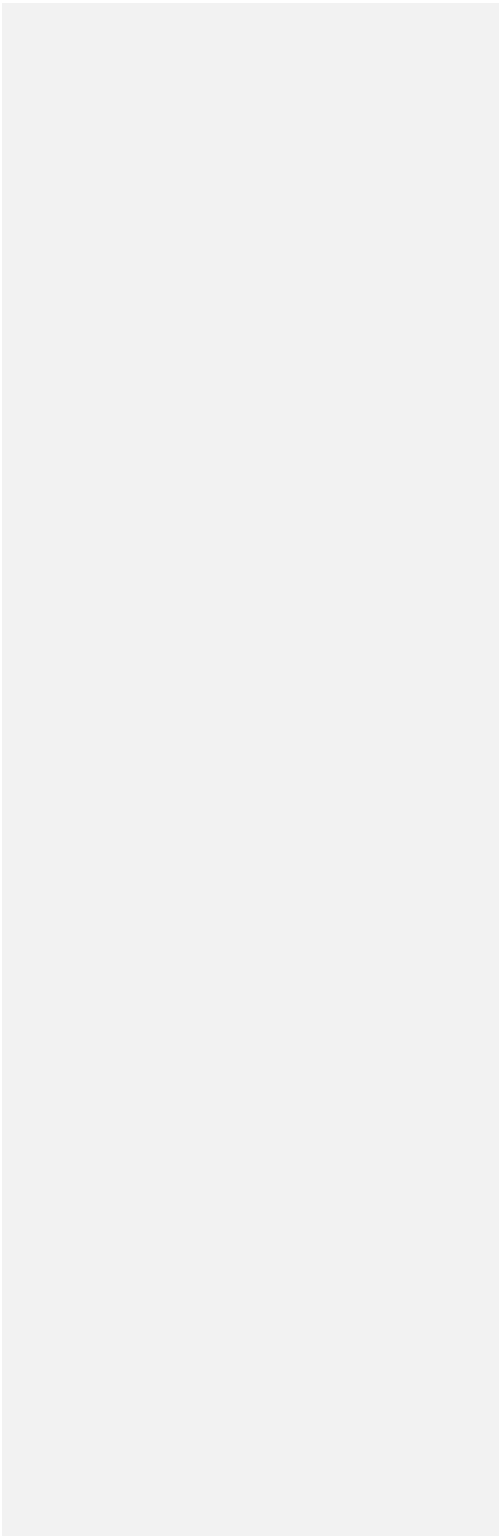


S.B. NO. 159
S.D. 1

1 information transmitted from the examiner of drivers, the clerk
2 shall review and either approve or reject the voter registration
3 application in accordance with this part; provided that approved
4 voter registration applications received from the examiner of
5 drivers pursuant to this section shall be treated as having a
6 valid signature for purposes of section 11-1S(c), whether
7 transmitted electronically or by facsimile transmission. Upon
8 approval of the voter registration application, including a
9 request for change of voter registration information, the clerk
10 shall proceed to number the application and register the name of
11 the voter in the general county register as provided in section
12 11-14 or make approved changes to the voter's existing voter
13 registration information as applicable.

14 (d) Databases maintained or operated by the counties or
15 the department of transportation containing driver's license or
16 identification card information, including any documents or
17 images, shall be accessible and provided electronically to
18 election officials and the online voter registration system to
19 allow for the timely processing of voter applications, ensure
20 the integrity of the voter registration polls, and for any other

|||||



1 voter registration or election purposes, as determined by the
2 director of transportation."

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to part VI to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 **"§286-A Voter registration.** (a) A qualified applicant
7 for a new or renewed motor vehicle driver's license, provisional
8 license, or instruction permit shall automatically be registered
9 to vote with the clerk of the appropriate county upon completion
10 of the license or permit application and the affidavit and
11 application for voter registration, including information about
12 the residence address confidentiality program under section
13 11-14.5, as required in section 11- , if the qualified
14 applicant makes a choice to register to vote on the application
form, to be
15 registered to vote. The qualified applicant may choose on the
16 same form that a change be made to the qualified applicant's
17 name or address in the case of existing voter registration
18 information.

19 (b) Unless a qualified applicant affirmatively declines to
20 be registered to vote, the submission of the affidavit and
21 application for voter registration together with the license or

Deleted: unless

Deleted: affirmatively declines,

Deleted: request on the



1 permit application shall be deemed to authorize the examiner of
2 drivers to collect and transmit the information necessary to
3 register the qualified applicant as a voter or make changes to
4 the qualified applicant's voter registration information, and
5 the examiner of drivers shall electronically transmit the
6 necessary information to the clerk of the county in which the
7 qualified applicant resides, election officials, and the online
8 voter registration system pursuant to section 1- (d).

9 The examiner of drivers shall not transmit any information
10 necessary to register a qualified applicant as a voter or make
11 changes to the applicant's voter registration information if the
12 qualified applicant makes a choice not to be registered to
13 vote. The examiner of drivers shall not transmit any
14 information related to a voter application or changes to the
15 applicant's voter registration information if the applicant
16 presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States
17 citizenship.

18 (C) For the purposes of this section, "qualified
19 applicant" means a person who qualifies to register as a voter
20 by law."

Deleted: affirmatively declines



1 SECTION 3. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part XVI to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§286-B Voter registration. (a) A qualified applicant
5 for a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card shall
6 automatically be registered to vote with the clerk of the
7 appropriate county upon completion of an application for
8 identification card and the affidavit and application for voter
9 registration, including information about the residence address
10 confidentiality program under section 11-14.5, as required by

21 section 11- ~~if the qualified applicant~~
22 makes a choice to be registered to

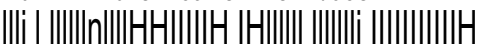
Deleted: unless

1 vote.

Deleted: affirmatively
declines, on the application form, to
be registered to vote

2 The qualified applicant may request on the same form that a
3 change be made to the qualified applicant's name or address in
4 the case of existing voter registration information.

5 (b) Unless a qualified applicant affirmatively declines to
6 be registered to vote, the submission of the affidavit and
7 application for voter registration together with the application
8 for the identification card shall be deemed to authorize the
9 examiner of drivers to collect and transmit the information
10 necessary to register the qualified applicant as a voter or make



1 changes to the applicant's voter registration information, and
2 the examiner of drivers shall electronically transmit the
3 necessary information to the clerk of the county in which the
4 applicant resides, election officials, and the online voter
5 registration system pursuant to section 11- (d).

6 The examiner of drivers shall not transmit any information
7 necessary to register a qualified applicant as a voter or make
8 changes to the applicant's voter registration information if the
9 qualified applicant ~~makes a choice not to be registered to~~
10 vote. The examiner of drivers shall not transmit any
11 information related to a voter application or changes to the
12 applicant's voter registration information if the applicant
13 presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States
14 citizenship.

Deleted: affirmatively declines

15 (C) For the purposes of this section, "qualified
16 applicant" means a person who qualifies to register as a voter
17 by law."

18 SECTION 4. Section 286-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) Except as provided in section 286-107.S(a), the
21 examiner of drivers shall examine every applicant for a driver's

1 license, except as otherwise provided in this part. The

2 examination shall include a test of:

3 (1) The applicant's eyesight and any further physical

4 examination that the examiner of drivers finds

5 necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to

6 operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways;

7 (2) The applicant's ability to understand highway signs

8 regulating, warning, and directing traffic;

9 (3) The applicant's knowledge of the rules of the road

10 based on the traffic laws of the State and the traffic

11 ordinances of the county where the applicant resides

12 or intends to operate a motor vehicle; provided that

13 the examination shall specifically test the

14 applicant's knowledge of the provisions of section

15 291C-121.5 and section 291C-137; and

16 (4) The actual demonstration of ability to exercise

17 ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a

18 motor vehicle.

19 The examinations shall be appropriate to the operation of the

20 category of motor vehicle for which the applicant seeks to be

21 licensed and shall be conducted as required by the director.



1 The examiner of drivers shall require every applicant to
2 comply with section 286-102.5.

3 The examiner of drivers may waive the actual demonstration
4 of ability to operate a motorcycle or motor scooter for any
5 person who furnishes evidence, to the satisfaction of the
6 examiner of drivers, that the person has completed the
7 motorcycle education course approved by the director in
8 accordance with section 431:10G-104.

9 [At the time of examination, an application for voter
10 registration by mail shall be made available to every applicant
11 for a driver's license.]

12 For the purposes of this section, the term "applicant" does
13 not include any person reactivating a license under section
14 286-107.5(a)."

15 SECTION 5. Section 286-109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

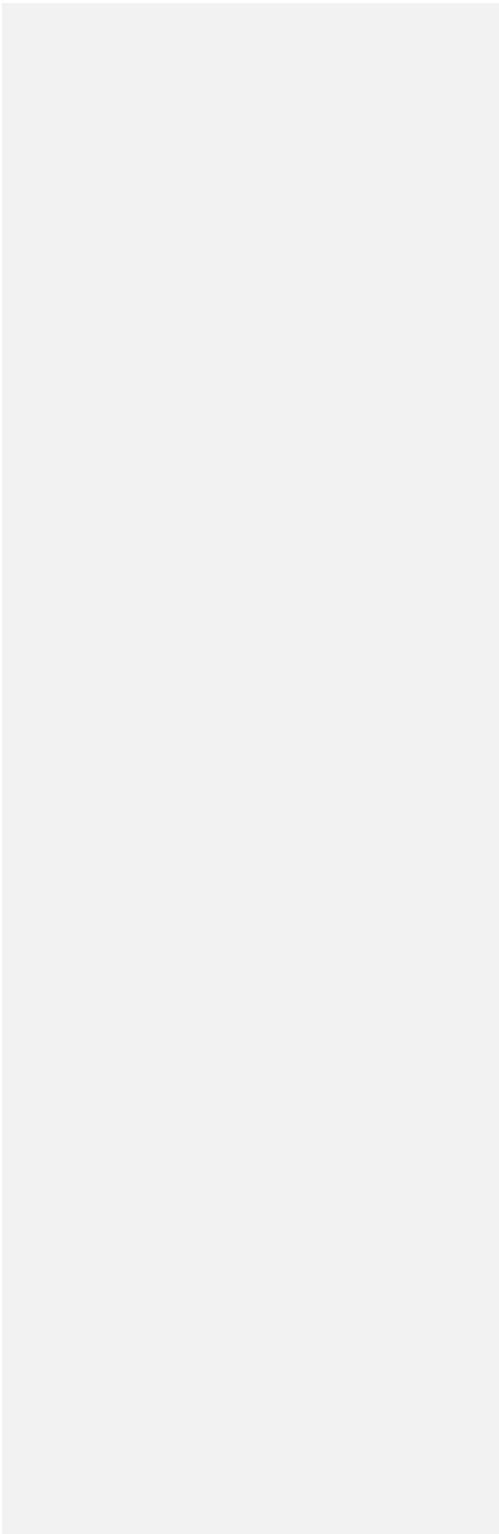
17 "**§286-109 General provision governing the issuance of**
18 **licenses.** (a) Upon payment of the required fee and upon
19 demonstrating the ability to operate a certain category or
20 categories of motor vehicles to the satisfaction of the examiner
21 of drivers, an applicant for a driver's license shall be issued



1 "Veteran" means any person who served in any of the
 2 uniformed services of the United States, including veterans of
 3 the Korean conflict and persons who served in the armed forces
 4 of the Republic of Korea, who fought under the command of the
 5 United Nations led by the United States, during the Korean
 6 conflict and are currently United States citizens, and was
 7 discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

8 (b) The examiner of drivers shall not issue or renew any
 9 driver's license using the driver's social security number on
 10 the driver's license.

11 (c) Statutes of limitations and other provisions of this
 12 chapter notwithstanding, no driver's license or instruction
 13 permit shall be issued or renewed under this section, where the
 14 examiner of drivers is notified by the district judge, traffic
 15 violations bureaus of the district courts, or the judge of the
 16 circuit court that the applicant has failed to respond to a
 17 traffic citation or summons, or failed to appear in court after
 18 an arrest for the violation of any traffic laws of a county,
 19 this chapter or chapter 286G, 287, 290, 291, or 291C, or of any
 20 motor vehicle insurance laws under article 10C of chapter 431,
 21 or of any motorcycle or motor scooter insurance laws under



1 article 10G of chapter 431, and the same remains delinquent and
2 outstanding, or the applicant, has as of the time of the
3 application, failed to comply in full with all orders of the
4 court; provided that the district court with whose order an
5 applicant has failed to comply in full, may approve the issuance
6 or renewal of a driver's license or instruction permit other
7 than a commercial driver's license upon conditions imposed by
8 the court for the satisfaction of the outstanding court order
9 and any other conditions as may be imposed by the court, if one
10 or more of the following conditions are met:

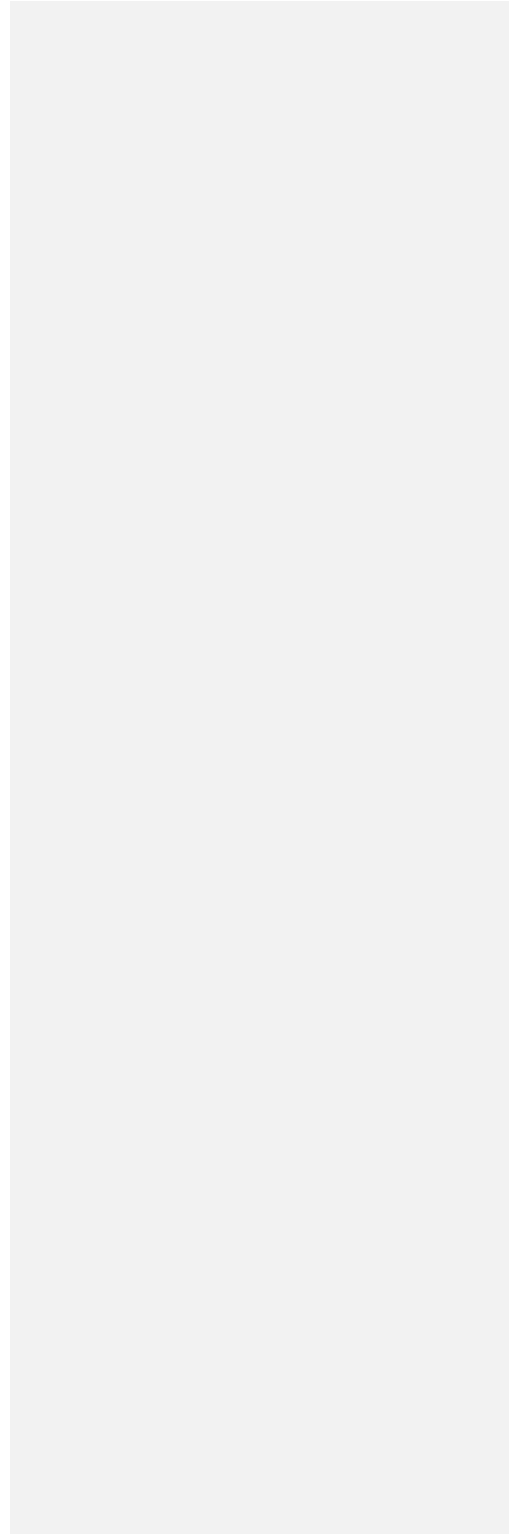
11 (1) The applicant is gainfully employed in a position that
12 requires driving and will be discharged if the
13 applicant is unable to drive; or

14 (2) The applicant has no access to alternative

15 transportation and therefore must drive to work;
16 provided further that if the applicant has failed to comply in
17 full with orders of the district court of more than one circuit,
18 the applicant shall obtain the approval of the district court of
19 each circuit in which the applicant has an outstanding court
20 order before a driver's license or instruction permit may be
21 issued or renewed under this subsection.



S.B. NO. 159
S.D. 1



1 A driver's license or instruction permit issued or renewed
 2 under this subsection shall be subject to immediate suspension
 3 by the court upon the applicant's failure to remain in full
 4 compliance with all conditions imposed by the court for the
 5 issuance or renewal of the driver's license or instruction
 6 permit. The examiner of drivers may place an indication of
 7 restriction upon a driver's license or instruction permit issued
 8 or renewed under this subsection. Proof of financial
 9 responsibility under section 287-20 shall not apply to the
 10 issuance or renewal of driver's licenses or instruction permits
 11 under this subsection.

12 (d) An application for a driver's license shall include
 13 the affidavit and voter registration application required under
 14 section 11-_____"

15 SECTION 6. Section 286-301, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 16 amended to read as follows:

17 "~~fl §286-301~~-3-1 **Issuance of identification card or**
 18 **temporary card.** (a) To obtain an identification card from the
 19 examiner of drivers, an individual shall complete an application
 20 pursuant to section 286-303.



1 (b) The examiner of drivers, upon receipt of the
2 application by any individual who is a resident or a temporary
3 resident of this State, shall issue an identification card to
4 that individual upon receipt of any appropriate fee established
5 pursuant to section 286-309.

6 (c) The identification card shall be similar in size,
7 shape, and design to a driver's license, but shall not entitle
8 the individual to whom it is issued to operate a motor vehicle.

9 (d) The issuance of an identification card pursuant to
10 this section shall not place upon the State of Hawaii or any
11 agency any liability for the misuse or the acceptance of the
12 identification card as valid identification, which shall be left
13 entirely to the discretion of any individual to whom such card
14 is presented.

15 (e) An application for an identification card from the
16 examiner of drivers shall include the affidavit and voter
17 registration application required under section 11- _____ "

18 SECTION 7. Section 286-311, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) All information and records acquired by the examiner
21 of drivers under this part shall be confidential[]; provided



1 that the examiner may transmit voter registration information as
 2 required under sections 286-A, 286-B, 286-109, and 286-301. All
 3 information and records shall be maintained in an appropriate
 4 form and in an appropriate office in the custody and under the
 5 control of the examiner. The information shall be available
 6 only to authorized individuals under such restrictions as the
 7 director shall prescribe. The examiner may dispose of any
 8 application or identification card, or information or record
 9 relating to the application or identification card, which does
 10 not include a social security number, without regard to
 11 chapter 94, whenever, in the examiner's discretion, retention of
 12 the information or record is no longer required or practicable."

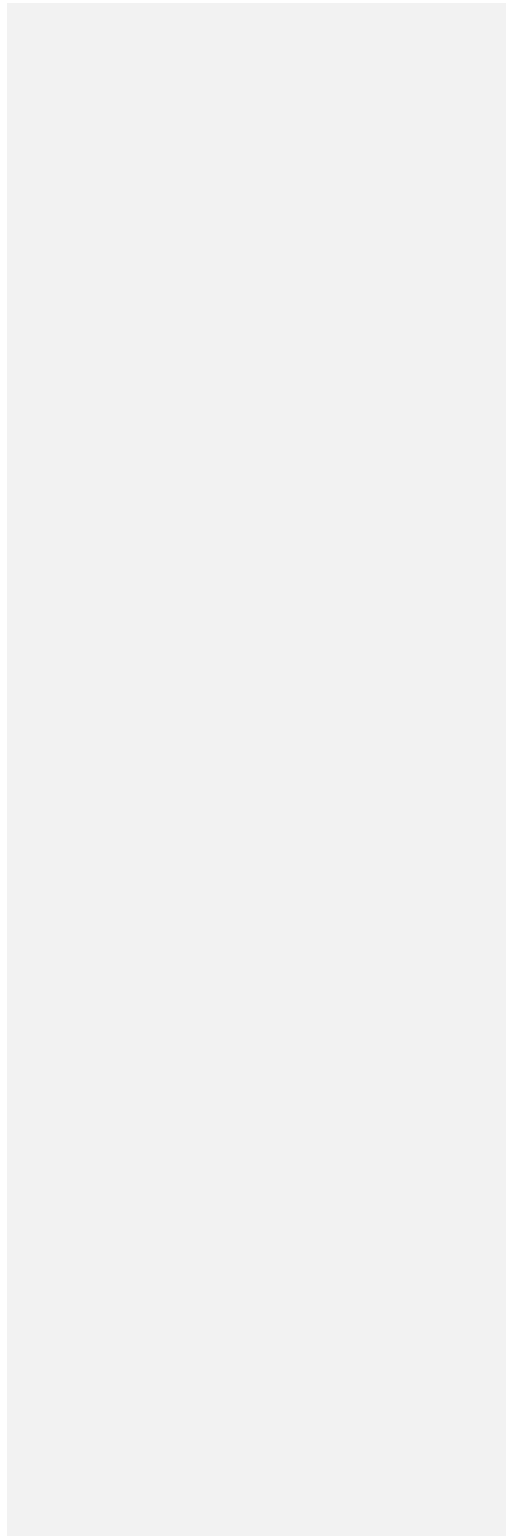
13 SECTION 8. The examiner of drivers in each county shall
 14 cooperate with the office of elections to develop such forms,
 15 applications, and affidavits necessary to effectuate the
 16 purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 9. In codifying the new sections added by sections
 18 2 and 3 of this Act, the reviser of statutes shall substitute
 19 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
 20 the new sections in this Act.



S.B. NO. 159
S.D. 1

1 SECTION 10. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
3 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 159
S.D. 1

Report Title:

Automatic Voter Registration; Driver's License; Identification Card; Affirmative Opt-out

Description:

Requires any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote if the applicant chooses to be registered. Prohibits the Examiner of Drivers from transmitting information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States Citizenship. Authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation that contains driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the online voter registration system. (SD1)

Deleted: unless the applicant affirmatively declines

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021
 TIME: 2:00 p.m.
 PLACE: Via Videoconference



Testimony in support of SB 159, SD1, Relating to Voting



Aloha, we are testifying on behalf of the AVR Hawaii Coalition in support of SB159, which provides for automatic voter registration in the state of Hawaii. With AVR, voter registration has the ability to take place through the Department of Motor Vehicles of any U.S. citizen who is eligible to vote and for those who would like to register. Through this process, voters have the option to register to vote when they apply for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification. This bill also authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation to election officials.



As SB159 is written now, Hawaii residents will be able to opt-out of registration at the DMV—however, we support AVR regardless of its form whether registrants decline to register or opt-in to registration. It's important to note that regardless of opt-out or opt-in, AVR will not alter long-standing existing privacy laws and cause the disclosure of voter registration information.



This past year during the pandemic, we saw that mail-in voting allowed registered voters to more conveniently exercise their right to vote. As voters become more comfortable using mail ballots, it becomes even more important for us to have a system in place to ensure eligible voters in Hawaii are registered at the proper address to streamline and safeguard the mail ballot process. Hawaii's voter rolls need to be accurate, secure, and complete for voting by mail to function properly, and automatic voter registration, whether voters opt-in or opt-out, helps to achieve these goals. Ultimately, this policy improves our democracy and our voter participation rates.



- Automatic voter registration will give voters the opportunity to register to vote or update their address at the same time they complete their driver license application or application for a state identification card. They will also have the choice to refrain from registering to vote, regardless of an opt-in or opt-out method. For any applicant who does not decline, the driver licensing office then transmits application information securely and electronically to election officials. Please be assured that no U.S. citizen is “automatically” registered to vote simply by the passing of this legislation, therein protecting the privacy of all Hawaii citizens. It will be necessary for the U.S. citizen to interact with a government official—and either opt-in or opt-out of registration—to be registered to vote or to update their address.
- Each unregistered client has the opportunity to choose whether to become registered to vote as part of their DMV transaction. “Automatic” simply refers to the transfer of information and data between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections for those who want to vote.



If voting is the cornerstone of democracy, voter registration is its bedrock. ‘A ‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia – no task is too big when done together by all. Please support automatic voter registration.



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



SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:33:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Alice	HOPE Services Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Hope Services Hawai'i strongly supports Automatic Voter Registration.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scott Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 18, 2021

2:00 PM

SUPPORT FOR SB 159 SD1 - AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 4,100 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,000 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. A vibrant democracy demands participation and voting is an expression of that sacred right and responsibility. Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) will modernize our voter registration system making it more accurate and secure by keeping our voter rolls more updated and secure.

We support AVR regardless of whether AVR is opt-out or opt-in because, as Common Cause has articulated in their testimony, the difference between opt-in and opt-out is not great. AVR will **NOT** alter long-standing existing privacy laws¹ and cause the disclosure of voter registration information².

Our 2020 election during this public health pandemic is evidence that mail-in voting allowed registered voters to more conveniently exercise their right and responsibility to vote. As voters become more comfortable using mail ballots, it becomes even more

¹ Hawaii Revised Statutes § 11-97(a)

² Hawaii Administrative Rules § 3-177-160(c)

important for us to have a system in place to ensure eligible voters in Hawai`i are registered at the proper address to streamline and safeguard the mail ballot process.

Hawaii’s voter rolls need to be accurate, secure, and complete for voting by mail to function properly, and automatic voter registration helps to achieve these goals.

AVR WILL NOT	AVR WILL
<p>AVR WILL NOT force people to register to vote.</p> <p>AVR WILL NOT force people to vote once registered or if already registered.</p>	<p>AVR WILL improve election security by updating our voter rolls.</p> <p>AVR WILL improve election security by making sure our ballots go to the correct, current addresses.</p> <p>AVR WILL save money by reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies and mail delivery problems with either opt-out or opt-in.</p>

AVR has been estimated to save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail that is related to registration issues.

Ultimately, this policy improves our democracy and our voter participation rates. Especially during this challenging time for Hawai`i – AVR strives toward a more vibrant democracy!

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks the committee to pass this measure onto FIN so that the people of Hawai`i are reassured that their votes truly do count. Please give the people hope.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

“Voting is a civic sacrament.”

Theodore Hesburgh



Hawaii Women's Coalition

To: Hawai'i State House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Hearing Date/Time: Thurs., March 18, 2021, 2 pm

Place: Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony of Hawai'i Women's Coalition in strong support of SB 159, SD1

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is testifying in support of SB 159, SD1, which (1) requires any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines, (2) prohibits the Examiner of Drivers from transmitting information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States Citizenship, and (3) authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation that contains driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the online voter registration system. SB 159, SD1 is known as Automatic Voter Registration ("AVR"), which is currently an "opt-out" bill.

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. Members currently include 29 organizations and agencies (private, public, membership) as well as individuals. The coalition encourages the inclusion of interested parties and in achieving equitable representation.

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition supports AVR, regardless of whether it is opt-out or opt-in, because it will ease the barriers to registering to vote and help Hawaii's people, especially women, achieve civic equality. People have to obtain driver's licenses and state identifications to open bank accounts, to travel, for employment verification, and more. Allowing women to register to vote while interacting at the DMV and then having the electronic transfer of the voter registration data to the elections offices, will mean time savings, money savings, and accuracy of voter registration data. Women have to shoulder enough burdens, please have registering to vote not be one more.

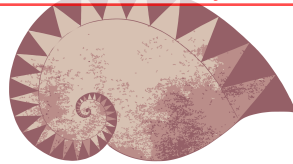
When the people of Hawaii can easily register to vote to achieve equitable representation, this will have the effect of a healthy, vibrant democracy. For these reasons, Hawai'i Women's Coalition supports SB 159, SD1 and AVR, regardless of whether AVR is opt-out or opt-in.

Thank you for your consideration and support for this important bill.

Sincerely,

Sandy Ma

Hawai'i Women's Coalition Community Member



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Thursday, March 18, 2021

SB159 SD1 Relating to Voting
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB159 SD1 Relating to Voting. This measure creates an automatic registration for all persons who are eligible to vote and apply for a motor vehicle driver's license or ID card unless the applicant declines.** This small change means that a person would be automatically registered to vote unless they actively affirm not to be.

Improving access to voting is fundamental to the democratic process. The more accessible and available we can make voting the better our community will be. Upgrading how we encourage voter registration is the foundation to reforming and improving our elections.

Hawai'i struggles with voter turnout, November 2018 (a general election in a Presidential voting year) saw that only 39% of those eligible actually voted. Arguably that election should be the higher turnout than any of the elections since it contained a major race. One can assume primary elections in non-presidential voting years would yield and even lower turnout. If we can increase the number of those registered, that is the first step in right direction of increasing Hawaii's voter turnout.

This measure will create a seamless modernized system with the information collected from the licensing officials being electronically transferred and linked to the elections offices resulting in a more efficient, secure, convenient process that saves money. Hawai'i is presently using out-of-date systems and decades-old technology. It is time to modernize both the system and the process in which people vote.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **vote in favor of SB159 SD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:32:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 SB159 regarding Automatic Voter Registration.

Hawaii's has one of the smallest voter turnouts in the U.S., which hampers our democratic process. Citizen involvement is essential for a functioning Democracy. Automatic Voter Registration has proven to increase voter turnout and citizen involvement. Passing this legislation is just good common sense.

Please pass SB159.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dave Mulinix

Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:46:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Comments /supporting

The changes made to allow people to decline as well as thinking about non-US citizens is a positive addition to this bill.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:26:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LIBRADO COBIAN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The only people allowed to vote are U.S. citizens.
We should keep it that way.

There is no citizenship requirement for anyone to apply for or receive a Hawaii driver license. The GOLD star (that is required to show either citizenship or legal status) is only required to travel through the airlines . So you can still be a non Citizen and and get a drivers license or state ID and register to vote .

If you allow someone to become a registered voter merely because they have applied for a driver license, you WILL be allowing people to become registered voters despite the fact that they are not citizens.

THIS IS ILLEGAL period !!!

Anyone who wants to become a registered voter should be required to provide proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or documents proving citizenship through naturalization. Furthermore, voter registration should require a voluntary affirmative action; it should not be merely an accident that happens by default due to failure of opting out .

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:23:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The only people allowed to vote are U.S. citizens.

We should keep it that way.

There is no citizenship requirement for anyone to apply for or receive a Hawaii driver license.

If you allow someone to become a registered voter merely because they have applied for a driver license, you WILL be allowing people to become registered voters despite the fact that they are not citizens.

If the application for driver license provides only a checkbox to confirm or to deny that the applicant is a citizen of the United States and of the State of Hawaii, such a checkbox is too easy to ignore or misinterpret (especially for people with limited English proficiency).

Stop this nonsense!

Anyone who wants to become a registered voter should be required to provide proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or documents proving citizenship through naturalization. Furthermore, voter registration should require a voluntary affirmative action; it should not be merely an accident that happens by default due to failure of someone to opt out.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:42:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB159.

- Automatic Voter Registration is a natural extension of voting by mail. It will facilitate voting by mail. **AVR would help update the voter rolls to ensure that ballots are mailed to people's current, correct addresses.** AVR would, additionally, ensure that the names of voters' ballots match their identification for voter security.
- Automatic Voter Registration helps to make sure that **all eligible voters in Hawai'i 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.**
- Up-to-date voter rolls will help **reduce the cost of sending ballots to wrong addresses.**

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:58:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB159.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:28:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB159, SD1. I support AVR as either an opt-out or opt-in. We need to make it as seamless as possible for Hawai`i's citizens to participate in our democracy!

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:44:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

Please pass SB 159 AVR. There is no risk of privacy invasion or undue pressure on voters who, because of language barriers, might be forced to register! They can opt in or opt put depeneding on th elanguage you choose.

Hawaii statutes already provide privacy protections.

Faced with the option of registering to vote or not, we adults are perfectly able to make that decision when getting or renewing our driver's license or state ID. AVR enhances election security because ballots will go to the correct updated addresses. Being registered does not translate into any kind of compulsion to vote.

We trust that Automatic Voter Registration has been gathering momentum because many realize that AVR, already enacted by 23 red and blue states and the District of Columbia, saves money. Please do not fail to enact this measure at this time of tremendous challenge to our democracy.

Sincerely,

John Webster

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:07:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear JHA committee,

- I support AVR, regardless of whether AVR is an “opt-in” or “opt-out” system.
- AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles and either does not “opt-out” of being a registered voter or chooses to “opt-in” to being a registered voter, the person’s information and data are automatically, electronically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the county elections offices.
- This does not mean that a U.S. citizen will be “automatically” registered to vote by simply enacting AVR. It will still be necessary for a U.S. citizen to interact with a government official through the DMV and affirmatively choose to be a registered voter either by not opting out of being a registered voter or by opting in to being a registered voter.
- AVR will make our voter rolls more accurate and secure by helping to keep them updated. With our vote by mail system augmented by AVR, ballots will then be mailed to people’s current, correct addresses. Additionally, names on voters’ ballots will match their identification for election security. AVR would lessen the number of people who would need to go in-person to a voter service center to register to vote and, thereby, shorten the wait times.
- AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues. Given the budget crisis facing the state as a result of the COVID-pandemic, cost-saving from AVR is not something that we can ignore.
- AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive and vibrant society. AVR is a vital step to making sure that Hawaii US citizens have access to our democracy, building a stronger democracy, by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 159, SD1, AVR whether opt-in or opt-out.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:50:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi & Committee members:

In the aftermath of the 2020 election, Republicans have mounted an all-out effort to restrict voting rights. I believe there are 253 bills in 43 states where Republicans are trying to make it more difficult to register to vote, to access the ballot, and to get that ballot counted. In the face of this brazen assault on democracy, at a time when lawmakers in DC are struggling to find ways to pass HR1--the "For the People" Act to protect voting rights and improve access to the ballot, the least lawmakers in this bluest of blue states can do is to facilitate access to registration. That is what SB159 does. Contrary to some of the reservations that have been publicly expressed by some, this AVR bill, whether it invites people to opt-in or opt-out, does NOT force anyone to vote. And any concern about privacy protection has always been addressed through statutes that are already on the books. It DOES save money--an estimated million dollars per election cycle. Because voter addresses will get updated automatically every time someone visits the DMV to renew their license or state ID, there will be significant savings on labor and postage. Please move this bill forward and make AVR a reality in Hawaii. It is the right thing to do: for our people and for our democracy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:43:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support AVR, regardless of whether AVR is an “opt-in” or “opt-out” system.

AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles and either does not “opt-out” of being a registered voter or chooses to “opt-in” to being a registered voter, the person’s information and data are automatically, electronically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the county elections offices.

This does not mean that a U.S. citizen will be “automatically” registered to vote by simply enacting AVR. It will still be necessary for a U.S. citizen to interact with a government official through the DMV and affirmatively choose to be a registered voter either by not opting out of being a registered voter or by opting in to being a registered voter.

AVR will make our voter rolls more accurate and secure by helping to keep them updated. With our vote by mail system augmented by AVR, ballots will then be mailed to people’s current, correct addresses. Additionally, names on voters’ ballots will match their identification for election security. AVR would lessen the number of people who would need to go in-person to a voter service center to register to vote and, thereby, shorten the wait times.

AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues. Given the budget crisis facing the state as a result of the COVID-pandemic, cost-saving from AVR is not something that we can ignore.

AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive and vibrant society. AVR is a vital step to making sure that Hawaii US citizens have access to our democracy, building a stronger democracy, by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, whether AVR is opt-in or opt-out.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:56:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MARIAN MILLER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I was so thrilled to see the increase in voter turnout in 2020. Lets make Hawai'i AVR seamless and accountable. I strongly support this bill. Mahalo!

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:12:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support AVR because it will election security by making sure our ballots go to the correct addresses.

I support AVR because it will increase voter Registration and democracy works best with maximum participation.

Mahalo

Rosemarie Muller

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:44:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB159 SD1.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) is an opportunity to modernize our elections in Hawaii. AVR will promote voter registration during non-election years and renew public interest in our local elections. Hawaii has taken great strides implementing Vote By Mail and the next logical step is the adoption of AVR.

AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues. Given the budget crisis facing the state as a result of the COVID-pandemic, cost-saving from AVR is not something that we can ignore.

AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive and vibrant society. AVR is a vital step to making sure that Hawaii US citizens have access to our democracy, building a stronger democracy, by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 159, SD1, AVR whether opt-in or opt-out.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:22:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support sb159 sd1

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:08:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair Nakamura Committee Members,

I strongly support Senate Bill 159, S.D. 1.

I moved to Hawai'i from Lima, Peru a few years ago and recently became an American citizen. I am so proud that I will be able to vote in the next federal and state elections. Voting is a right and a responsibility of all citizens, and I think voter registration should be more convenient and accessible. In my native country, voter registration is not necessary. Any citizen is able and expected to vote after they reach the age of 18 years old. They just need to keep their addresses updated in the Documento Nacional de Identidad (National Identity Card) system so that they can vote at an official polling place close to where they live; and because of this, voter turnout is over 80%.

For the last two U.S. federal elections, I was surprised to learn how low the voter turnout was in Hawai'i—about 51% for the Primary and nearly 70% for the General in 2020. In 2016 that was about 35% for the Primary and more than 58% for the General. It appears that the higher turnout in the recent election may have been linked to the added convenience of registered voters receiving a mail-in ballot automatically at their home addresses. This simple convenience contributed to a significant increase in civic engagement, something that is very good for our democracy.

Since most adults, even in the U.S., need a government identification card, providing the option to register to vote when an eligible citizen applies for, or updates a Hawai'i driver's license or state identification card makes very good sense. There is no reason not to include an option for all eligible voters to register to vote, or make the voter registration automatic, unless the person decides to opt-out of registering to vote. Having implemented Vote by Mail so successfully, it is time to take the next step of enacting automatic voter registration.

I recognize how having the convenience of automatic voter registration will help Hawai'i's citizens participate in the political process by reducing barriers to access. Voting is the most basic right of all citizens. Anything we can do to make voting more accessible will only contribute to more citizens' voices being heard. It is time for Hawai'i to join the growing number of states nationwide who recognize the efficiency and cost savings in automatic voter registration and have made it a law. As a new American, I

am one of those aspiring voters who would welcome the convenience of automatic voter registration because I believe it will help strengthen our democracy.

I strongly support Senate Bill 159, S.D. 1.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify,

Erika Johnson

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:49:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This will make voter registration more accurate and secure and cost-effective. It's good policy and more inclusive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, whether it becomes opt-in or opt-out.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021
TIME: 2 p.m.

SB 159, SD1 RELATING TO VOTING

Bart Dame, Testifying as an Individual, in **STRONG SUPPORT**

SB159 is a step forward in the responsibility of the State to make it easy for all qualified Hawaii residents to exercise their right to vote.

I recognize for the bill to pass it must include the ability for a resident to OPT OUT from registration. I suggest the State has an interest in developing a database of all those IT regards as qualified to cast a vote in our elections and the inclusion of a person's name in such a database does not impose an involuntary burden upon that person. The potential voter retains complete freedom on their part to cast of vote or not. Their inclusion on the voter roll only means the State is has pre-qualified them to vote SHOULD THEY CHOSE to do so.

I suggest including as Opt-Out option arises from a mistaken idea of the purpose of the voter roll. It is a list of those who are pre-qualified to vote, not people are obligated to vote.

It is my belief that people who affirmatively refuse to register to vote do so for several reasons. Some believe if they are registered to vote it will make them more likely to be called for jury duty. Some think they can remain "below the radar" of the government, often the IRS, sometimes because they owe child support or have unpaid traffic court tickets. In Hawaii, there are a lot of people of Hawaiian ancestry who resent the domination of the United States over the Nation of Hawaii, so they refuse to register to vote as part of their refusal to consent to that illegal occupation. I am sympathetic to that view.

If we see the voter roll as a list of those the State recognizes as eligible to vote, should they so choose to do so, rather than a list of those who have ASKED to be voters, I think that allows us to include all those eligible whether they ask to be on the list or not. It does not invalidate the ability of individuals to refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the US government's control over the islands.

As I have said, I recognize my views on the Opt Out feature are not (yet) shared by many others so I support passage of the bill as currently written. I hope we will soon move towards the automatic registration of high school students while they are still in school as the next step in making voter registration completely automatic and universal for all qualified voters.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please pass SB159.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:18:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Meacham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony SUPPORTING SB 159, SD2 Automatic Voter Registration

Thank you to the Chair and the Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony.

In this age of attacks on the legitimacy of our elections, we need to safeguard and enhance everyone's ability to vote. One important tool is Automatic Voter Registration. AVR has several advantages:

-It will modernize voter registration and make it more accurate and secure, by allowing everyone who gets their driver's license at the DMV to register, rather than requiring people to go through an extra procedure to vote.

-It obtains their current address and matches their voter and ID information.

-In this time of budget austerity, it saves money versus paper registration and reduces undeliverable mail.

-It is more inclusive by increasing access to voting.

-It will prevent the long lines we saw last November of people lining up to register.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:42:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Piilani Kaopuiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB159 SD1. The goal is for each eligible voter to participate in our treasured democracy. This bill would improve the ability to do that by providing a mechanism for a deliberate decision on registration. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:48:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support AVR regardless of whether AVR is opt-out or opt-in. The difference between the opt-in and opt-out is not great. In either case, AVR will **NOT** alter long-standing existing privacy laws and cause the disclosure of voter registration information.

Hawaii Revised Statutes § 11-97(a) provides that “A voter's full name, district/precinct designation, and voter status shall be public; but all other personal information, as provided on the voter registration affidavit, shall be confidential except for election or government purposes in accordance with rules adopted by the chief election officer, pursuant to chapter 91.”

Candidates and advocates should have access to voter registration data so they may communicate with voters to make sure that voters’ concerns are being addressed and to inform voters of their actions.

Please help support Democracy by giving more people access to the vote.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN

Kailua

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:13:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Ambrose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Automatic Voter Registration will enhance participation in elections, provide more security and save money in the process by means of the following:

- 1) Most residents interact with the Dept. of Motor Vehicles at some point. If they do not "opt-out" or do "opt-in" to register to vote, their information is automatically transferred to the county election offices.
- 2) Updated address information submitted by an already-registered voter to the DMV will flow through to the elections office, who will mail future ballots to that voter's correct address.
- 3) Automatic data transfer will cut down on paper-based registrations and updates and decrease undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

Thank you for considering my testimony to support SB159, SD2.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:28:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift towards normalcy, it's hard to ignore the importance of the pros and cons that the pandemic has done for us. It's taught us the importance of staying at home and the benefits of doing so for the aina and the world. It's taught us the importance of ohana and the people we love and care about. Lastly, it has taught us the importance of having a vote, particularly automatic voting registration, for those who must stay at home to protect their kupuna. When the people of Hawai'i are able to have AVR, it allows for a multitude of benefits - it ensures that all people, regardless of age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status, have a vote, reduces the amount of mail waste, and promotes a future sustainable for the next generations. We need AVR so our voices can be heard, to connect with our community, and interact with the government that supports us the most. Just like the pandemic, if we work together for our community and for the benefits of all than of personal gain and pleasures, we are able to create a world worth living in. Please consider all the people you are affecting with your votes toward AVR today - all of the kupuna, our ancestors, our future generations, and the world. The people of Hawai'i are waiting to be heard.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:52:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Slovak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e,

My name is Jasmine Slovak, I strongly urge the Committee and our legislature to pass Bill SB159 SD1 into law, in support of our democratic values and behalf of the people who deserve access to voting.

This is an accessibility issue that affects the lowest of socio-economic classes: physical, intellectual, and timely access. Those of us that work multiple jobs, who sometimes don't have enough time to spare to do all our annual Dr. appointments, raise our kids, help with school, and ensure that we're caring for ourselves. While voting is a priority for many of us, there are logistics and urgent everyday needs that pull at our attention too. By combining these civic tasks the government will be acknowledging that it understands the challenges of this time, of working families, and supporting us by creating a little more ease in trying to get it all completed on time. This Bill is for those that want to vote that are struggling to make all life's ends meet, those that do not want to vote will have their chance to opt-out. I again, strongly urge you to pass this bill on behalf of those that want to vote and deserve the acknowledgment that civic demands should recognize that we need support too!

If voting is the cornerstone of democracy, voter registration is its bedrock. 'A 'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia – no task is too big when done together by all. Please support automatic voter registration.

Mahalo for your service.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:11:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support!

Douglas Meller
dougasmeller@gmail.com
2615 Aaliamanu Place
Honolulu, HI 96813

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thursday, March 18, 2021, 2 pm, State Capitol Room 325

Testimony in Support of
SB 159, SD 1
RELATING TO VOTING.

Chair Nakashima and Committee Members:

According to some randomly selected internet website on “automatic voter registration”, state legislatures in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia have already done something to improve voter registration that the Hawaii Legislature has not:

Electronic registration is a key building block of automatic registration. It gives citizens the choice to be electronically registered to vote at the same time they do business with a government office, such as apply for a driver’s license or state veterans’ benefits, by digitally transferring their voter registration information to the appropriate elections office. This eliminates errors caused by paper records, cleans up the voter rolls, and saves states money.

At least 36 states—Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia—plus the District of Columbia, currently or will soon have fully or substantially electronic voter registration at DMVs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:38:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support automatic voter registration, be it opt in or opt out. It will modernize our voter registration system.

To: Hawaii State Legislature – Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing: Date/Time: Thursday, 03-18-2021 2:00 pm
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Re: Judith Ann Armstrong is in strong support of SB159 Relating to Voting

Aloha Chair Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB159, which would allow eligible people, if they choose, to register to vote in conjunction with services provided by the DMV, such as applying for a motor vehicle driver's license.

This past year during the pandemic, we saw that mail-in voting allowed registered voters to more conveniently exercise their right to vote. As voters become more comfortable using mail ballots, it becomes even more important for us to have a system in place to ensure eligible voters in Hawaii are registered at the proper address to streamline and safeguard the mail ballot process.

Hawaii's voter rolls need to be accurate, secure, and complete for voting by mail to function properly, and automatic voter registration helps to achieve these goals. Ultimately, this policy improves our democracy and our voter participation rates.

- Automatic voter registration will give voters the opportunity to register to vote or update their address at the same time they complete their driver license application or application for a state identification card. They will also have the opportunity to decline to register to vote. For any applicant who does not decline, the driver licensing office then transmits application information securely and electronically to election officials. Please be assured that no U.S. citizen is “automatically” registered to vote simply by the passing of this legislation. It will be necessary for the U.S. citizen to interact with a government official—and not decline voter registration—to be registered to vote or to update their address.
- Any person who does not want to register to vote or to update their address simply ticks a checkbox on the application to decline. No information will be transmitted for any person who ticks the decline checkbox. “Automatic” simply refers to the transfer of information and data between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the elections offices in charge of voter registration for those who want to vote.

If voting is the cornerstone of democracy, voter registration is its bedrock.

I strongly urge our legislators to support this important measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Judith Ann Armstrong
1717 Ala Wai Blvd
Apt 3006
Honolulu, HI 96815

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:24:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Whether or not one opts in or out:

- AVR will **NOT** force people to register to vote.
- AVR will **NOT** force people to vote once registered or if already registered.
- AVR **WILL** improve election security by updating our voter rolls.

- AVR **WILL** improve election security by making sure our ballots go to the correct, current addresses.

- AVR **WILL** save money by reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies and undeliverable mail.

When so many states are doing their level best to restrict or suppress the right to vote, Hawaii must do what it can to make voting as easy as possible.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:28:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB 159 SD 1 which will not only create better cost effectiveness of our elections but will also ensure more secure and accurate voter rolls.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:29:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meizhu Lui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Making it easier to register to vote encourages democratic participation in this most important and most easy way for residents to make their voices heard. When only a fraction of eligible voters do so, it means that you, the legislators, do not know what a portion of your constituency is for or against. Having a high percentage of voters helps you gauge the support you have on the issues you have campaigned on, and to assess where you need to make adjustments. It is only when people vote and see you do what you have promised that they begin to regain faith in our Hawaii government.

Thanks for listening.

Meizhu Lui

Papaaloa, HI 96780

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:36:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo Representatives! This is a common sense measure that can help turn out the vote in Hawai'i. My 'ohana and I are in strong support of SB 159. Mahalo! Fern A€ Holland

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:42:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Bilyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB159 SD1 Relating to Voters and encourage you to pass it out of your Committee.

Patricia L Bilyk

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:50:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb159 for the simple reason that registering to vote should be made easy so we have a better participation level.

Mahalo for your attention.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:57:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 17, 2021

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 159 SD1. As of the start of this session, 20 states and the District of Columbia have passed this voter-friendly reform(1); 4 bills were introduced on this subject in this session. The demand signal from Hawaii’s voters is clear - they want “Opt-Out” Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

As a voting member of our populous and a dedicated defender of democracy, I support enabling voting for all eligible voters in our state. Because of our nation's past disenfranchising of certain groups from voting in our democracy, it is not as well-rooted in our society as it could be. It is important that we automatically enfranchise our community members with Automatic Voter Registration at this time to allow them the convenience to vote by mail.

“Opt-Out” AVR builds upon Congress’ findings in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that 1) voting is a fundamental right and 2) it is the duty of governments to promote the exercise of that right(2).

This bill empowers voters by letting them affirmatively choose whether their information is used to register to vote or update their registration when they interact with the Department of Motor Vehicles. “Opt-Out” AVR promotes - but does not mandate – voter registration by making it convenient and cost-effective. Proven and secure processes are already in place to handle this information and will continue to be used to enter and update a voter’s information. “Opt-Out” AVR would also help County Clerks keep the voter registration rolls current. With registrations more accurate and more frequently updated, errors in ballot delivery and demand for registration services at Voter Service Centers could be reduced as well. The savings in time and money would add up quickly.

I am certainly aware that “Opt-In” automatic voter registration is an alternate means of registering people to vote. I have also learned that some key members of the Legislature strongly prefer this approach, making it more politically feasible. For this reason, I could support an “Opt-In” approach to passing this voting reform.

Voting is a right, and voters must be registered to exercise that right. "Opt-Out" AVR reinforces those facts by providing a secure, convenient, and cost-effective way to get and keep voters registered. It does not guarantee that turnout will rise, but it will remove a barrier to that turnout. Please support SB159.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Christopher Edwards
Honolulu, HI 96822

1. "Automatic Voter Registration." National Conference of State Legislatures. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx>, accessed 25 January 2021.
2. 52 USC §20501(a).

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:59:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Levin Gil Bonilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I support SB 159 for Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

I am a college student who is born and raised on the island of Maui.

I was 17 when I passed my Driver's License test. After six months, I had just turned 18 by the time I returned to the DMV in the summer to renew for my full Driver's License. While waiting inside the Kahului facility, I realized I was eligible to vote for the upcoming primary election that year and asked a worker for a separate voter registration application form.

I share this story because without this "Aha!" moment on my end and the convenient timing of going to the DMV when I did, I probably would not have been a registered voter sooner or at all.

A simple check box option in choosing whether to opt-in or opt-out of being a registered voter when applying or renewing for a Driver's License or State ID at a County DMV facility is an easy way for residents and the state to save time, money, and strengthen implementation of the vote-by-mail system, which in turn has proven to encourage voter engagement and improve the state's low-voter turnout record. Passing of this bill will eliminate extra costs towards printing and processing of separate voter registration applications; shorten the time spent by residents towards filling out another application that asks for the same information and documents, thereby improving service quality experienced at the County DMV facilities; and ensures a record of having the person's most current home or mailing address so that ballots are sent at the correct places.

SB 159 is a step forward that will invest towards making voting more accessible, easier, and inclusive for all eligible voters in Hawai'i such as young adults like myself to participate and exercise their right to vote during elections.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to testify.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:17:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Mark Nakashima Chair

Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in support for SB159.

As voting is our consituitional right, the process of voting should be easily accessible. I believe that automatic voter registration is vital and would be a step in the right direction to have a better system in place so eligible voters in Hawai'i are registered at the proper address to safegaurd the mail in voting process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

Alani Bagcal

alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org

96815

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:32:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynne Caraway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Anything to make voter registration eaasier is a great move.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:11:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaui Lucas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 159 SD1. Four bills were introduced on this subject this session. The signal from Hawai'i voters is clear - we want "Opt-Out" Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

Congress's findings in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that 1) voting is a fundamental right and 2) it is the duty of governments to promote the exercise of that right, are put into action with AVR.

Being registered does not mandate voting. There is no penalty for not voting. Therefore, in pursuit of a more perfect democracy, which better represents the population, please pass SB159 SD1.

aloha,

Kaui Lucas

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:37:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:21:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Fontana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The easier we make it to vote in this country, the better. This bill does exactly that by taking away any difficulty in registering to vote. Please pass it into law. Thank you.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:28:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is extremely important and I am in strong support. Voter registration has been needlessly contentious. By automatically registering those who are eligible to vote upon their application for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card unless the applicant affirmatively declines, we would ensure that more of the population is involved in the democratic process. I hope very much that you will consider this bill favorably.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:36:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB159.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:46:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It's only right.

Streamline the process.

Making voting easier for everyone!

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:57:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradford Baang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB159 as it will encourage more of our people to participate in our civic responsibilities. Far too many citizens miss out in our State and Nation's policy decisions that may help in their daily lives. This Bill SB159 will motivate more people to engage in policy decisions for the majority of Americans. The voter turn out in our last elections is hard proof of how SB159 will help our country. The more people turn out to vote, the better our country's policy decisions are made. The World currently sees how it positively effects the US.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:57:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roy Brennen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In a time of emerging interconnectedness and access to information, both good and bad, we need to have all of our communitie, who are eligible, contribute to the informed process of government. We need to be engaged and to encourage the engagement. Streamlining voter registration does not assist one party over another, but levels the playing field; parties can adjust to understand who they need to court to get representatives and thus make the whole of government more Democratic. Not little d democrat or little r republican but big D - Democratic as representative of the individuals who comprise our society. As an indiepent I care little for either party but do care that people have the right to express their opinions within the framework of our government.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:25:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Colleen Rost-Banik, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I urge you to support SB159, which would register those eligible to vote when they apply for their driver's license or state ID. This process would remove an unnecessary barrier to elections and ensure that more people who are eligible to vote actually vote. This is bill is important to our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Respectfully,

Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:30:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Given our democratic ideals, far too many issues arise for people when they want to vote, and that often has to deal with their voter registration. Hawai'i has done well by making it easy to register and check your registration, but we can go one step further and set an example for other states by passing automatic voter registration. The only serious counter would be that people have the right to not be registered if they don't want to be, but this bill already addresses that by giving the chance to opt-out. That said, there should be no hesitation in passing a measure like this.

Thank you,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:43:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB159 SD1.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:51:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is common sense

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:06:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robin knox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to make it easier for voters to be registered

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:11:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Bonar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Truely a no brainer. Assuring the right to vote starts with easy registration.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:11:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LindaPizzitola	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, the people must have their say without obstructions. Making voter registration automatic gives us each a voice, minimizing bureaucratic red tape and partisan manipulations to interfere with voter's rights.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:13:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

We need to make it easier for people to vote and this seems like a process that would stream line access to voting, save money, and save paper and time. This is a win win situation.

Mahalo,

Fitz

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:33:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this legislation. We need to remove barriers to voting. This is one great way to do it.

Mahalo,

Keiko

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:49:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Automatic voter registration when applying for a driver's license would improve Hawaii's abysmal voter turnout by making it easier to vote.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:50:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support!

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:51:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alice Terry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All citizens have a right to vote, and we should make it as simple as possible to register eligible voters. This bill seems like a simple and logical step to ensure that more eligible voters are registered to vote.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:56:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bethan Pualani Baptista	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Please support Automatic Voter Registration via the methods indicated in this bill.
Mahalo,

Bethan P Baptista

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:57:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB159 to make VOTER REGISTRATION AUTOMATIC upon application and renewal of vehicle driver's license or identification card unless the applicant affirmatively denies.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:23:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary K Ilalaole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mail in voting gets the most people to vote, therefore it should be right for every citizen and should be tied to registration of vehicles. However, anyone over the age of voting should receive a mail in ballot as well. Thanks, Gary Ilalaole

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:27:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of making voter registration available when acquiring a driver's license or Hawai'i State ID. It helps those who are less fortunate with no access to the internet or modern technology.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:09:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo-Ann M Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When there are so many efforts afoot nationally to suppress the vote, Hawaii must maintain its prominent role in being a bastion of inclusiveness. This bill invites increased participation in our democracy.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:36:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB159 SD1!

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:40:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm in favor of making voting as easy as possible. Simple as that.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:04:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support automatic voter registration when applying for a driver's license

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:21:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Towey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:29:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Tatum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 159

Tom Tatum

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:36:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Becky Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

So many wonderful ideas and approaches. STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill!

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:50:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Swenson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:58:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Ishida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will strengthen our democracy by removing barriers to participation.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:59:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cathy lam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Everyone should have the right to vote, and we need to make voting easier and accessible to all. If we truly believe every vote counts. Just because they no longer have a physical address or permanent address. they cannot be excluded from voting.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:22:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I

Daniel Bishop am in Support of SB159

Mahalo

Daniel Bishop

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:32:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joan Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

automatic voter registration would solve a big part of the voting problem in america. this seems like a responsible course of action. democracy is at stake

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:46:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge your support for Automatic Voter Registration, as a fairness policy, and also a simplification of our voting processes.

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:02:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherrie Orr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. Voting registration should be a swift and accurate process available to all eligible voters as conveniently as possible.

Sherrie Orr

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:03:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let the people vote!

SB-159-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:06:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Broderick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must do all we can to make our current democracy a more fair and just system that delivers on many promises made but yet to be realized. Making it easier on the entirety of America's civilization to participate in the democratic process is necessary as we inch toward a truly just system. SB159 is a small but significant way of including more of America's diverse population in the democratic process.