

## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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April 1, 2021

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Senate Bill 548, SD1, HD1 – Relating to Elections by Mail

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 548, SD1, HD1, which, among other things, requires the Office of Elections and County Clerks to determine the optimal number and placement of Voter Service Centers (VSCs) and establishes Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committees at the State and County levels to ensure equal and independent access to voter registration, casting of ballots, and all other Office of Elections services.

VSCs were established for purposes that include the provision of voting machine services for persons with disabilities. Ensuring an optimal number of VSCs on Election Day will make it easier for some people with disabilities to vote privately and independently. The establishment of Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committees at the State and County levels will help to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities and ensure they have equal access to the voting process. DCAB supports these provisions, which are included in the HD1 version of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director



SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

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

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 548, SD 1, HD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL

April 1, 2021

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 548, SD 1, HD 1. This bill makes amendments to election laws to clarify the administration of elections by mail; establishes voters with special needs advisory committees at the state and county levels; requires PSD and the Hawaii paroling authority to inform individuals on parole or probation of their right to vote and provide them with voting information; and requires the office of elections and the county clerks to make a determination, as soon as practicable, of the optimal number and placement of voter service centers.

This bill requires a new statement be added to the voter registration application. We estimate that redesigning, printing, and disseminating the applications would cost approximately \$49,000. This would include adding the new statement to the *Voter Registration Application*, *Absentee Application*, and working with the Department of Transportation to update the voter registration portion of the driver license and state ID applications. The *Voter Registration Application* and *Absentee Application* are made available at election offices, state agencies designated under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, U.S. post offices, state libraries, and satellite city halls.

We would also note that the determination of voter service centers in coordination with the County Elections Divisions may also result in a fiscal impact. Beginning with the 2022 Elections, we are entering a new voting and vote counting system contract providing voting equipment for eight voter service centers. To establish additional voter service centers, we estimate the additional

cost of the voting equipment would be \$28,606 per location. This estimate for each location includes accessible ballot marking devices and precinct counters for the term of the contract – three election cycles. However, this estimate does not include the costs to the County Elections Divisions, such as the establishment of facilities and staffing, to establish and operate a voter service center.

Finally, we may need to submit a recurring budget request to support the administration of the special needs advisory committee. We estimate a cost of \$6,000 per fiscal year for potential travel and operational expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 548, SD 1, HD 1.



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TESTIMONY OF REX QUIDILLA,  
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR,  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 548 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL

April 1, 2021

Chair Luke and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 548 SD1 HD1 that proposes to make housekeeping amendments for the administration of elections by mail.

The bill proposes a wide breadth of changes that reflects the experience gained from the first-time implementation of the vote-by-mail elections.

SB548 SD1 HD1 proposes changes to the voter registration deadline and electronic voter registration that, working in concert, would expand access to voting. The longstanding 30-day voter registration deadline was established for poll book production, the need for which no longer exists. Moving the voter registration deadline from 30 to 10 days prior to the election expands the window of opportunity for more people to register to vote and receive a ballot by mail.

This bill also makes the online voter registration system available to new registrants through election day. While these individuals would not receive a ballot by mail, they would be able to register to vote prior to going to a voter service center and be qualified to vote without being delayed by additional processing. Individuals that become engaged with voting during the last days of the election period would benefit from the greater operational efficiency this change affords.

Another important change proposed by SB548 SD1 HD1 relates to voter registration list maintenance (voter removal) to accurately reflect the process required by National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

The Honolulu Elections Division recommends amending the bill by collapsing the proposed five disability advisory committees to one advisory committee, with composition requirements for county representation. This change would serve the practical function of focusing resources, promoting shared dialog and allowing the single advisory committee to consider the full spectrum of election services, as opposed to duties/functions specific to either the State or the Counties.



For example, the county advisory committees would presumably focus on direct voter services provided by the counties, but effectuating those recommendations would likely involve changes to State-administered systems (vote and voting counting system, electronic voting, voter registration system maintenance/development) that underpin these services. The converse would also be true, as any concerns that the State advisory committee may have regarding ballot drop boxes, voter service centers, voter registry maintenance are county responsibilities. Finally, because SB548 SD1 HD1 envisions these committees as a permanent part of the elections process, this effort will require funding.

As it relates to voter service centers, costs related to establishing/operating additional voter service centers would have budget implications to both the Honolulu Elections Division and the Office of Elections as these costs are shared. The cost to establish and operate one voter service center is about \$70,000 per election cycle, excluding costs related to voting machines, lease rent (if a suitable City-owned facility is not available) and infrastructure improvements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB548 SD1 HD1.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 548, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Thursday, April 1, 2021

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Lori N. Tanigawa, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The purposes of the bill are to: (1) amend various statutory provisions to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail; (2) establish voters with special needs advisory committees at the state and county levels; (3) require the Department of Public Safety and Hawaii Paroling Authority to inform individuals on parole or probation of their right to vote and provide them with voting information; and (4) require the Office of Elections and the county clerks to make a determination, as soon as practicable, of the optimal number and placement of voter service centers.

Page 2, lines 4-7 of the bill requires that there be “a minimum of four district precincts in each district; provided that each inhabited island with at least one hundred residents shall include at least one precinct.” Although the terms “precinct” and “district” are defined in section 4 of the bill at page 5, lines 12-13, and page 7, lines 1-3, respectively, the term “district precinct” is not defined. In order to avoid potential confusion as to its meaning, the Department respectfully requests that page 2, lines 4-7 of the bill be amended as follows:

**“§11- Minimum number of precincts.** There shall be a minimum of four [district] precincts in each district; provided that each inhabited island with at least one hundred residents shall include at least one precinct.”

The bill amends the beginning of section 11-104(c), HRS, on page 26, line 20, through page 27, line 2, by providing that:

“(c) To cast a valid ballot, the voter shall return the return identification envelope containing the optional secrecy envelope or secrecy sleeve with the marked ballot[:] in any manner.”

The Department is concerned that the reference to the optional secrecy envelope or secrecy sleeve may lead to confusion as to whether its return is necessary for a ballot to be considered validly cast. In order to eliminate any potential confusion, the Department respectfully requests the wording on page 26, line 20, through page 27, line 2 of the bill be amended as follows:

“(c) To cast a valid ballot, the voter shall return the return identification envelope [~~containing the optional secrecy envelope or secrecy sleeve~~] with the marked ballot in any manner.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



ELECTIONS DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK  
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101  
LIHU'E, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766-1819



April 1, 2021

TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 548, SD 1, HD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 548, SD 1, HD 1. The Bill amends various statutory provisions to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail; establishes voters with special needs advisory committees at the state and county levels; requires PSD and the Hawaii paroling authority to inform individuals on parole or probation of their right to vote and provide them with voting information; and requires the office of elections and the county clerks to make a determination, as soon as practicable, of the optimal number and placement of voter service centers.

Proposed amendments help to clarify the administration of elections by mail, but we wish to offer comment on several sections included in SD 1, HD 1.

Section 2, amending Charter 11 to establish "County voter with Special needs advisory committees."

For clarification, since the Office of Elections does not maintain staff or an office on any of the neighbor islands we respectfully request that the proposed section §11-\_\_\_ (a) be amended.

"§11-\_\_\_ County voters with special needs advisory committees. (a) There is established a county voters with special needs advisory committee within each ~~county division of the office of elections.~~ Office of the County Clerk.

Also, since the proposed advisory committee would be evaluating and possibly recommending changes to functions within the legislative branch of county government we respectfully ask that the Legislature consider having the respective city/county councils appoint committee members.

Finally, we note that it may be worthwhile to consider establishing a single, statewide advisory committee consisting of members from each of the counties.



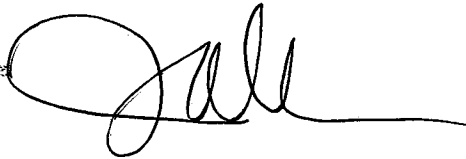
Testimony of Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Kaua'i County Clerk  
Senate Bill 548, SD 1, HD 1  
House Committee on Finance  
April 1, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

Section 6, amending section 11-15.2, "Same day in-person registration."

Allowing individuals to continue to register electronically via the online voter registration (OLVR) system while the voter service center is open could result in data synchronization issues between the OLVR system, the voter registration database, and ePollbooks (if used).

Adopting SB 159, SD 1, HD 1, which would establish automatic voter registration will significantly reduce the number of unregistered individuals appearing at the voter service center and the resulting service delays caused by the same day voter registration process.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit amended language and testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 548, SD 1, HD 1.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jade', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
County Clerk

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:23:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 548 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



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

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THURSDAY, April 1, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Via Videoconference Room 308  
SB 548 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL

### TESTIMONY

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

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 548 SD1 HD1 and thanks this Committee for attending to amendments to Act 136 to clarify voting by mail elections administration.**

League is gratified to see the new provision requiring notification of voter eligibility and voter registration instructions for individuals on probation or parole.

Section 24 of this measure appropriately gives County Clerks the discretion to operate voter service centers with varying days or hours of operation.

Much discussion has already occurred about a required minimum number of voter service centers. Determining this optimum number is difficult as the population of voters in each County changes over time, demand surge varies by time of day, and the availability of locations for centers also changes. Adding additional voter service centers improves access but probably will not eliminate lines.

Noting that only 3.5% of voters chose to vote in person in the 2020 General Election, we support the provision in the bill that requires the Office of Elections and the county clerks to decide of the optimal number and placement of voter service centers. We have no objection to having the Office of Elections participate in this task but note it should be the county clerks who determine the number and location of centers, since they are now responsible for operating Hawaii's voting by mail elections (except for candidate certification, ballot printing and tabulation). We also point out that the "optimum" number of centers will change over time, so suggest language be added to the bill specifying that such determinations should be done periodically but prior to issuing the elections proclamation for the forthcoming scheduled elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 1, 2021

1:30 p.m.

### **SUPPORT FOR SB 548 SD1 HD1 - VOTE BY MAIL**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 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 1,075 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 Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Mahalo for hearing this measure. Community Alliance on Prisons supports SB 548 that will build upon the lessons we learned in our successful first-time Vote By Mail election of 2020. Access to voting is fundamental to a vibrant democracy and this bill increases accessibility by accommodating people's busy lives. We appreciate more Voter Service Centers to avoid voters having to wait in long lines to exercise their right and responsibility to vote. Mahalo also, for the attention to the special needs of some of the voters in our communities.

We support requiring HPA to inform persons on parole and PSD should also be required to inform people exiting incarceration that they have the right to vote and to provide them with information on how to register and vote. I am often asked this question. The right to vote helps people become 'full human beings/full citizens' as they reintegrate back to their communities. This should be part of the reentry package along with resources, referrals, medications, etc. when each person is released.

This bill's importance has been spotlighted because of the plethora of voter suppression bills flooding the continental U.S.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully urges the committee to pass this bill to get our voter numbers back to where they were in 1962, when we had an 81% voter turnout!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*"Voting is not only our right—it is our power."*

*Loung Ung*

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Thursday, April 1, 2021

1:30 PM

Via Video Conference, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**SB 548, SD1, HD1**  
**RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY MAIL.**

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair CULLEN, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 548, SD1, HD1, with suggested amendments, which (1) amends various statutory provisions to clarify and improve the administration of elections by mail, (2) establishes voters with special needs advisory committees at the state and county levels, (3) requires PSD and the Hawaii paroling authority to inform individuals on parole or probation of their right to vote and provide them with voting information, and (4) requires the office of elections and the county clerks to make a determination, as soon as practicable, of the optimal number and placement of voter service centers.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts. Hawaii's 2020 statewide vote by mail law was an excellent way to improve civic engagement and voter turnout, but there are still avenues to strengthen this law.

One, Common Cause Hawaii supports Section 3 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, which directs the Department of Public Safety to inform a person, who is placed on probation or if the person is paroled after commitment to imprisonment, that the person may vote during the period of the probation or parole and how to register to vote. See Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 831-2.

Two, Common Cause Hawaii questions the need to insert the sentence – “If additional time or information is required to validate an application, the application shall be provided a provisional ballot.” – at the end of new HRS § 11-15.2(c) at page 10, lines 6-8, for Section 6 of SB 548, SD1, HD1. Hawaii has Same Day Voter Registration to permit people to register to vote. Additionally, “additional time” is vague and overbroad and may be used to disenfranchise minority populations, people needing language assistance, people with disabilities, and more, through possibly having them cast provisional ballots instead of regular ballots. See <https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release/2014/10/29/99809/release-the-racially-discriminatory-effects-of-provisional-ballots/>.

Three, Common Cause Hawaii supports the new subsection (e) in Section 7 of SB 548, SD1, HD1 to ensure that people removed from the voter registration roll may lawfully re-register to vote again.

Four, Common Cause Hawaii suggests amending Section 22 of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-107) to delete any references that **voted ballots** may be returned by electronic transmission. “Online voting is not secure. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Department of Homeland Security all agree that no practically

proven method exists to securely, verifiably, or privately return voted materials over the internet.” See <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000172-9406-dd0c-ab73-fe6e10070001>. These four agencies stated “[e]lectronic ballot return faces significant security risks to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of voted ballots. These risks can ultimately affect the tabulation and **results** and can occur at scale.” *Id.* “[V]oting by email or via web portals jeopardizes the integrity of the election results; votes can be manipulated or deleted without the voter’s knowledge and the voter’s selections could be traced back to the individual voter.” *Id.*

Common Cause Hawaii does not object to providing a means of electronic authentication for voters with specials that does not include the voter’s handwritten signature or a waiver of secrecy when requesting an **unvoted** ballot to be transmitted by electronic means.

Five, Common Cause Hawaii suggests that Section 23, amending subsection (c) of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-108), be restored so that ballots may be validated until ten (10) days – instead of seven (7) days – following an election. This will provide time for elections officials to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerks’ offices to correct any ballot errors. The current seven (7) days in SB 548, SD1, HD1 may not be enough time to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerks’ offices to correct any errors, given people’s busy schedules.

Six, Common Cause Hawaii objects to Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, pertaining to HRS § 11-109(a), at page 35, lines 14-19, which provides that **a** Voter Service Center **shall** be established at the office of the clerk for the same times statewide until the closing hour of voting. This means that Oahu will only need to have one Voter Service Center (even if there is more than one clerk’s office), Maui County will need to only have one Voter Service Center, Hawaii County will need to only have Voter Service Center (even if there is more than one clerk’s office), and Kauai County will need to only have one Voter Service Center. The Voter Service Centers will need to be open for 10 days prior to election day during regular hours until closing hour of voting on election day.

Common Cause Hawaii further objects to Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, pertaining to HRS § 11-109(b), at page 35, lines 19-21, and page 36, lines 1-2, which provides that the clerks **may** operate additional Voter Service Centers with varying days or hours of operations to service the voters of particular areas that otherwise could not support the operation of a Voter Service Center for ten (10) business days for the same times statewide.

SB 548, SD1, HD1 does not give any guidance to clerks as the number and locations of Voter Service Centers that should be operated for elections. Under Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, the clerks are only required to have one Voter Service Center per county for a total of four (4) Voter Service Centers. There are no requirements that they have more and there are no assurances that clerks will provide more in-person voting options. For Section 24, Common Cause Hawaii suggests restoring the language of SB 548, SD1 pertaining to HRS § 11-109(a) and (b).

Seven, Common Cause Hawaii supports the intent of Section 27, at page 39, lines 11-13, designating any area of a voter service center or drop box where a person is waiting to vote as an area that should be free from voter intimidation or harassment or campaigning, but the language appears overbroad and vague.

Eight, Common Cause Hawaii supports Section 45 (HRS § 353-62(a)) of SB 548, SD1, HD1, requiring the Hawaii Paroling Authority to notify individuals on parole of their eligibility to vote and providing them with information as to how to register and how to vote.

Nine, Common Cause Hawaii supports Section 47 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, providing guidance for the siting and number of drop boxes and Voter Service Centers. For places of deposit, there should be 1 drop box per 15,000 to 20,000 registered voters. See

[https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/electionofficials/vbm/Ballot\\_Drop\\_Box.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/electionofficials/vbm/Ballot_Drop_Box.pdf). Clearly, Hawaii was well short of this standard, for the 2020 elections. However, if there is no requirement that counties must have the requisite number of drop boxes and Voter Service Centers in the proper locations pursuant to their findings under this Section 47, then this section is merely an exercise.

In summary, Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 548, SD1, HD1, Sections 3, 7 (intent only), 27 (intent only), 45, and 47. Common Cause Hawaii questions the language of “additional time” as vague in Section 6. Common Cause Hawaii requests amendments to (1) Section 22 to delete references that voted ballots may be returned via electronic means, (2) Section 23 to restore the 10-day ballot validation, and (3) Section 24 to increase Voter Service Centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support with suggested amendments to SB 548, SD1, HD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



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[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature**  
**House Committee on Finance**  
**Thursday, April 1, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
RE: S.B. 548 SD1, HD1 Relating to Elections by Mail

Dear Chair Luke 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. 548 SD 1, HD1 with comment** about the amendments to the elections law to clarify the administration of elections by mail. AARP supports public policies that adopt voter registration and voting systems and procedures that expand the range of voting choices. We believe that Hawaii should encourage and promote maximum participation in the electoral process. This means ensuring that all eligible voters have access and the opportunity to submit their ballots, and not disenfranchising minority populations, people needing language assistance and people with disabilities.

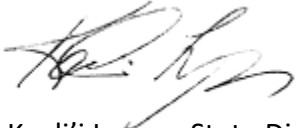
**We respectfully want to comment on Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1** that relates to a Voter Service Center be established at the office of the clerk. This current version does not give guidance to the clerks as the number and locations of voter service center to be established, and **respectfully suggest that the SB 547, SD1 version for this section be restored**. The SD version states that "clerks may operate additional voter services centers with varying days or hours of operations to service the voters of particular areas that otherwise could not support the operation of a voter service center for ten business days or the same times statewide; provided that on election day the clerk of any county with a population less than 500,000 shall operate one additional voter service center on each island of at least 1,000 inhabitants and the clerk of any county with a population of 500,000 or more shall operate three additional voter service centers, one of which shall be on the Windward side".

Based on the recent experience of long lines at these Voter Service Centers on the 2020 General Elections Day, there is a need for more centers, places of ballot deposits (drop boxes) and convenient hours to improve access for voters in both populous and rural communities. Their locations should be in proximity to both transportation and underrepresented communities, and should be mindful of geographical distances to ensure that they are truly accessible to those who choose to vote in person. For example, Maui Island and Hawaii County may only have two total Voter Service Centers under HRS §§ 11-109(a) and (b), pursuant to Section 24 of SB 548 SD1, HD 1 but they may need more given the geography and population distribution. Further, Oahu may need two Voter Service Centers open for 10 days prior to election day during regular hours until closing hour of voting on election day under HRS §§ 11-109(a), pursuant to Section 24 of SB 548 SD1 as well as



another voter center in the North Shore/Windward districts. We should continue to strengthen and enhance Hawaii's voting systems so that voters can safely exercise their right to vote. Thank you very much for the opportunity to support S.B. 548 S.D.1 HD1 with our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keali'i Lopez', written in a cursive style.

Keali'i Lopez, State Director

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:28:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the passage of this bill.

This bill is a prime example of clouding and mixing the intent of this legislation. If the our esteemed Legislature is truly sincere in its intent, separate the points in stand alone measures.

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:19:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this to be passed through legislature.

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 6:42:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because we must ensure that the voting lines we saw on Election Day do not happen again in 2022.

Thank you

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:19:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee on Finance,

Please support SB548 SD1 HD1 with amendments.

The voting lines during the 2020 presidential election could have been shorter. We can take action to make sure that the voting lines are shorter in 2022.

I suggest amending Section 22 of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-107) to delete any references that **voted ballots** may be returned by electronic transmission. Voting by electronic means is not safe and secure. After working in an information security unit, I learned about the physical security, IT security, end user training, and constant patching and updating of software/networks that's needed to ensure "safe" electronic transmission. It is impossible to secure all of the personal computers from each voter's home.

I suggest that Section 23, amending subsection (c) of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-108), be restored so that ballots may be validated until ten (10) days – instead of seven (7) days – following an election. This will provide time for elections officials to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerk's offices to correct any ballot errors. The current seven (7) days in SB 548, SD1, HD1 may not be enough time to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerk's offices to correct any errors, given people's busy schedules. Elections occur every two years. These additional three days will ensure that all votes are counted every two years.

I suggest that Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, pertaining to the number of voter service centers be restored to the SD1 version. SB 548, SD1, HD1 does not give any guidance to clerks as the number and locations of Voter Service Centers. Under Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, the clerks are only required to have one Voter Service Center per county for a total of 4 Voter Service Centers. There are no requirements that they have more and there are no assurances that clerks will provide more in-person voting options.

Thank you for taking the time to review this bill. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:58:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB548, SD1, HD1 has some good improvements to our existing vote-by-mail law. For example, it provides that the Department of Public Safety is to inform a person, who is placed on probation or if the person is paroled after commitment to imprisonment, that the person may vote during the period of the probation or parole and how to register to vote.

However, there can still be improvements.

It is suggested that Section 22 of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-107) be amended to delete any references that **voted ballots** may be returned by electronic transmission. Voting by electronic means is not safe and secure.

I suggest that Section 23, amending subsection (c) of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-108), be restored so that ballots may be validated until ten (10) days – instead of seven (7) days – following an election. This will provide time for elections officials to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerk’s offices to correct any ballot errors. The current seven (7) days in SB 548, SD1, HD1 may not be enough time to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerk’s offices to correct any errors, given people’s busy schedules.

I suggest that Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, pertaining to the number of voter service centers be restored to the SD1 version. SB 548, SD1, HD1 does not give any guidance to clerks as the number and locations of Voter Service Centers. Under Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, the clerks are only required to have one Voter Service Center per county for a total of 4 Voter Service Centers. There are no requirements that they have more and there are no assurances that clerks will provide more in-person voting options.

We must ensure that the voting lines we saw on election day do not happen again in 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill, with amendments.

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:59:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

It's good but improvements suggested by Common Cause Hawaii should be considered.



**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:44:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB548, SD1, and HD1 and advocate for the following amendments.

- Delete references that voted ballots may be returned by electronic transmission.
- Provide for ballots to be validated for 10 days after an election.
- Restore the number of voter service centers to the number specified by the SD1 version.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Afable

Hilo, Hawaii

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:53:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB548 provides needed improvements to Hawaii's voting by mail process. Common Cause Hawaii general comments offer additional changes. Recommend passage of SB548, but with an amendment that addresses Common Cause's suggested changes.

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:04:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha FIN Committee members,

I support SB548 with amendments:

- SB548, SD1, HD1 has some good improvements to our existing vote-by-mail law. For example, it provides that the Department of Public Safety is to inform a person, who is placed on probation or if the person is paroled after commitment to imprisonment, that the person may vote during the period of the probation or parole and how to register to vote.
- However, there can still be improvements.
- We suggests amending Section 22 of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-107) to delete any references that **voted ballots** may be returned by electronic transmission. Voting by electronic means is not safe and secure.
- We suggest that Section 23, amending subsection (c) of SB 548, SD1, HD1 (referring to HRS § 11-108), be restored so that ballots may be validated until ten (10) days – instead of seven (7) days – following an election. This will provide time for elections officials to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerk’s offices to correct any ballot errors. The current seven (7) days in SB 548, SD1, HD1 may not be enough time to contact voters and for voters to appear in clerk’s offices to correct any errors, given people’s busy schedules.
- We suggest that Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, pertaining to the number of voter service centers be restored to the SD1 version. SB 548, SD1, HD1 does not give any guidance to clerks as the number and locations of Voter Service Centers. Under Section 24 of SB 548, SD1, HD1, the clerks are only required to have one Voter Service Center per county for a total of 4 Voter Service Centers. There are no requirements that they have more and there are no assurances that clerks will provide more in-person voting options.
- We must ensure that the voting lines we saw on election day do not happen again in 2022.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**SB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:27:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am requesting Finance Committee support for SB548 while recommending amendments

The section on voter service centers should revert to SD1 wording. Having one service center per county does not ensure voter access; it makes it impossible for many voters to deposit their ballots at a safe location in a timely way.

A ten-day period for validation of ballots should be restored to original wording. Seven days is not long enough for this process and may disenfranchise some voters.

Please remove any wording relating to voted ballots being returned electronically. It is not safe!

However, I strongly support the requirement that a person on probation or one who has been paroled after incarceration be notified of their voting rights and of the registration process.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Susan Dursin, Captain Cook, HI