

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2107**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 08 2022**

RE: S.B. No. 2178

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2178 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO CHANGE THE AGE QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING IN STATE OR LOCAL ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to propose a constitutional amendment to allow individuals who are seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or before the next state or local general election to vote at the state or local primary election immediately preceding the state or local general election by which the citizen will attain the age of eighteen, and at any co-occurring or intervening special election.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Common Cause Hawaii, Green Party of Hawai'i, and six individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from Votel6HI and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the age qualification to vote in any federal, state, or local election is eighteen years of age. However, for those individuals whose eighteenth birthday falls between a primary and general election, the current age restriction effectively prevents them from participating in state and local primary elections. Your Committee further finds that



the earlier a person begins civic participation, such as voting, the more likely that person is to remain a lifelong active citizen and participant in democracy. This measure will allow young people to vote and continue to vote their entire lives, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2178 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2178</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC, WAM</b>	Date: <b>02-03-22</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura				✓
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office              Drafting Agency              Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes