



**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1883, HD 1, SD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

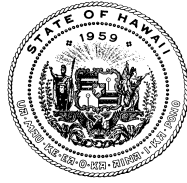
March 31, 2022

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1883, HD 1, SD 1. This bill requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages; and applies to all elections beginning with the 2024 primary election.

This bill supports voters needing assistance and specifies the languages that should be provided. Although the first election this bill applies to is 2024, for the upcoming election, the exterior of the envelope contains the statement, "For language assistance please call the Office of Elections at (808) 453-8683" in Traditional Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog, which are covered languages pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act. When calling our office, these voters would be assisted using a translation service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1883, HD 1, SD 1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS
1177 Alakea Street, Room B-100
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.ola@doh.hawaii.gov

APHIRAK BAMRUNGRUAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1883 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO ELECTION.**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 3/31/2021

Room Number: 016 & Videoconference

1 **Agency Position:** The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports the intent of this measure, as
2 it requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package to include instructions on
3 how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and, at minimum, the five most utilized
4 foreign languages by Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons in the State.

5 **Agency Testimony:** OLA notes that the aspirational and exploratory goal of this measure are in
6 line with the mission of OLA, which is to address the language access needs of LEP persons.
7 OLA's task is to provide technical assistance and coordinate resources to reduce the burden of
8 meeting language access obligations. OLA is charged with providing oversight, central
9 coordination, and technical assistance to all state and state-funded agencies in their
10 implementation of language access compliance.

11 Voting in an election is one of the most important rights and responsibilities of US citizens.
12 However, LEP persons may not be able to fully participate in voting due to their limited ability
13 to understand English. This measure could provide an important component of language access
14 implementation by providing notice about the availability of language assistance services. This is
15 an important step to ensure meaningful access for LEP persons.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



530 S KING ST RM 100
HONOLULU HI 96813
(808) 768-3800
WWW.HONOLULUELECTIONS.US

TESTIMONY OF REX QUIDILLA
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR,
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1883, HD1 SD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 31, 2022

Chair Rhoads and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 1883, HD1 SD1 that proposes to include instructions on how to obtain language translation service in Hawaiian and, at a minimum, the five most utilized foreign languages by limited English proficient persons in the State.

Past efforts to provide multilingual support focused solely on “covered” languages pursuant to the Federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). The covered languages for Honolulu are Chinese and Filipino (Ilocano, Tagalog). The County of Maui is covered under Filipino. The Counties of Kauai and Hawaii are not covered by any language under the VRA.

VRA compliance entails the translation of the full suite of voter information available to English speaking voters. This includes brochures, forms, signage, website, and most importantly, the ballot. Support for languages not covered by the VRA is left to the discretion of the various elections offices and their respective resources.

To that end, the City mailed packets which included translated the ballot, ballot instructions, and return envelopes in the VRA-covered languages. The translated ballot packets are mailed to voters by request. In the 2020 General Election, approximately 1,102 and 682 ballot packets were mailed to Chinese and Ilocano voters, respectively.





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For the 2020 elections, recognizing the significant change in election scheme, the City produced a primer explaining the mechanics of voting. The primer was not only translated in the 2 languages required by the VRA but we added 15 additional language translations, which included Hawaiian. We think this effort was positive first step in enhancing accessibility to the elections process

For the 2022 Elections, the Honolulu Elections Division will continue to support language access by providing Over the Phone Interpretation (OPI) to voters who call our office as well as Video Remote Interpretation (VRI) for voters at the Voter Service Center. Additionally, the City will be expanding the written translated materials available to voters.

The City and County of Honolulu supports HB 1883, HD1 SD1 and will work with the State Office of Elections on the exterior of the ballot packet envelope.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1883, HD1 SD1.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

By
Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 1883 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1883 HD1 SD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 1883 HD1 SD1 that proposes to require instructions on ballots on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian.

UH Hilo is home to Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, that has been leading efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language while also serving as a model to national and international Indigenous communities who also seek to revive their endangered languages. The college has translation expertise among faculty, M.A. and Ph.D students and the Hale Kuamo'o Hawaiian Language Center at UH Hilo.

Having election materials available in Hawaiian is an important commitment to promoting Hawaiian and serving Hawaiian speakers. It also assures the some 3,600 students presently enrolled in schools and programs taught through Hawaiian that the state values their distinctive commitment to use the states Indigenous official language.

Mahalo for allowing UH Hilo to testify on this issue.



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1883 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: 3/31/2022

Dear Committee Members,

We write to SUPPORT HB 1883 HD1 SD1. Voting is a fundamental right, and language access must not be a barrier. It is not only necessary as a matter of civil rights—it is also the federal law.

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires that once language assistance determinations are met, state and counties must provide language assistance during elections for certain languages.¹ As the Department of Justice has explained, Section 203 of the VRA requires that “[a]ll information that is provided in English... covers not only the ballot, but all election information - voter registration, candidate qualifying, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, *and absentee and regular ballots.*” (emphasis added).²

Thus, under federal law, the Hawai‘i state Office of Elections is required to provide all registered voters ballots in the required Section 203 languages (“Chinese including Taiwanese for Honolulu

¹ Federal law mandates that a state or political subdivision must provide language assistance to voters if more than five (5) percent of voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group and do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,” and if the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade. When a state is covered for a particular language minority group, an exception is made for any political subdivision in which less than five (5) percent of the voting-age citizens are minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. See *Section 203 Language Determinations*, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/voting-rights/voting-rights-determination-file.html> (last accessed Feb. 2, 2022).

² *Language Minority Citizens*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/language-minority-citizens> (last accessed Feb. 2, 2022).



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

County and Filipino for Maui County”).³ This applies to all forms of ballots, including absentee/mail-in ballots or regular ballots.

These requirements create a legal “floor” and Hawai`i must do at least these federal requirements to provide language assistance, whether or not the state have other measures to further language access. *See California Fed. S.L. Assn. V. Guerra*, 479 U.S. 272 (1987).

Finally, in addition to federal requirements, this bill is important, because the entire electorate, including limited English proficient individuals, deserves to have their voices heard. More than 23 million U.S. naturalized immigrants were eligible to vote in the 2020 presidential election, making up more than 10% of the nation’s overall electorate.⁴

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Catherine Chen, Co-chair, Hawai`i Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Liza Ryan Gill, Co-chair, Hawai`i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

³ Under Section 203 of the VRA, according to the calculations recently released on Dec. 8, 2021 in the Federal Register, Honolulu County must provide translation services in Chinese (including Taiwanese) and Filipino and Maui County must provide translation services in Filipino. 86 Fed. Reg. 69611 (Dec. 8, 2021).

⁴ Naturalized Citizens Make-Up Record One in Ten U.S. Eligible Voters in 2020, Pew Research Center, <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2020/02/26/naturalized-citizens-make-up-record-one-in-ten-u-s-eligible-voters-in-2020/>, (Accessed 1/31/2022).

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, March 31, 2022
9:30 AM
Via Video Conference and Conference Room 016
in consideration of

**HB 1883, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS.**

Chair RHOADS, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1883, HD1, SD1 which (1) requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages and (2) applies to all elections beginning with the 2024 primary election.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy by improving and modernizing our voting and elections systems to ensure that they are equitable and work for everyone.

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires that, once determinations are met¹, state and counties must provide language assistance during elections for certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. Under Section 203 of the VRA, according to the calculations recently released on Dec. 8, 2021 in the Federal Register, Honolulu County must provide translation services in Chinese (including Taiwanese) and Filipino and Maui County must provide translation services in Filipino. 86 Fed. Reg. 69611 (Dec. 8, 2021).

While this is a good start for Hawaii, this is insufficient, and Hawaii must do better for our voting limited English proficient citizens. The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%. See <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). Further, fifteen percent of

¹ “Section 203 mandates that a state or political subdivision must provide language assistance to voters if more than five (5) percent of voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group and do not ‘speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,’ and if the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade. When a state is covered for a particular language minority group, an exception is made for any political subdivision in which less than five (5) percent of the voting-age citizens are members of the minority group and are limited in English proficiency, unless the political subdivision is covered independently. A political subdivision is also covered if more than 10,000 of the voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group, do not ‘speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,’ and the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade.” See <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/12/08/2021-26547/voting-rights-act-amendments-of-2006-determinations-under-section-203> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).

eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants. See https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/02/GMD_2020.02.26_Immigrant-Eligible-Voters.pdf (retrieved Feb. 25, 2022).

The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014. See https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii. *Id.* However, English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low -- less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well. *Id.*

Voting “is regarded as a fundamental political right [] preservative of all rights.” *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 US 356, 370 (1886). A voting citizen’s right to notice of ballot translation services should not be dependent, especially here in Hawaii, on which county the person resides, especially when printing of ballots and translation services are provided by the State Office of Elections.

Moreover, amendments to the Hawaii State Constitution in 1978, including the reinclusion of the Hawaiian language as an official language of the state of Hawaii, were intended to require the State to institute measures that are reasonably calculated to revive the Hawaiian language. See *Clarabal v. Department of Education*, 145 Haw. 69, 446 P.3d 986 (2019); Haw. Const. art. XV, § 4. Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

Thus, according to Section 203 of the VRA, Honolulu and Maui counties must provide electoral “information that is provided in English . . . in the minority language as well. This covers not only the ballot, but all election information - voter registration, candidate qualifying, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, and absentee and regular ballots - from details about voter registration through the actual casting of the ballot, and the questions that regularly come up in the polling place.” See <https://www.justice.gov/crt/language-minority-citizens> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). Hawaii’s voting citizens on Kauai and Hawaii counties should also be informed of language access rights, and HB 1883, HD1, SD1 will help to achieve that. We should also endeavor to provide more than the minimum language translations required by law to ensure that all our limited English proficient citizens may fully engage in the electoral process.

For these reasons, Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1883, HD1, SD1 and respectfully urges the Committee members to pass HB 1883, HD1, SD1 out of your Committee. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii





HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS

March 29, 2022

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

FROM: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair & Pat McManaman, Co-Chair

SUBJECT: **HB1883, HD1, SD1 Relating to Elections**

HEARING: March 31, 2022, 9:30 AM
Room 016 & Via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights stands in **Strong Support of HB1883, HD1, SD1** including the Hawaiian language and the addition of the five most foreign languages spoken by limited English proficient persons to the exterior of ballot envelopes mailed to voters.

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires states and counties to provide language assistance during elections for certain languages once the federal threshold is triggered.¹ Language assistance, as defined under Section 203 of the VRA, means “all

¹ “Section 203 mandates that a state or political subdivision must provide language assistance to voters if more than five (5) percent of voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group and do not ‘speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,’ and if the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade. When a state is covered for a particular language minority group, an exception is made for any political subdivision in which less than five (5) percent of the voting-age citizens are minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. Under Section 203 of the VRA, according to the calculations recently released on Dec. 8, 2021, in the Federal Register, Honolulu County must provide translation services in Chinese (including Taiwanese) and Filipino and Maui County must provide translation services in Filipino. 86 Fed. Reg. 69611 (Dec. 8, 2021).

information that is provided in English.” This includes voter registration materials, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, **and ballots**. As such, the state Office of Elections is **required** to provide **mail-in ballots** in “Chinese including Taiwanese” and “Filipino” for Oahu County and in “Filipino” for Maui County, in addition to English ballots.

This measure preserves the Section 203 requirements and extends assistance to additional limited English proficient persons. Voting is a fundamental political right. See, *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 US 356, 370 (1886). Yet, Between January 1 and December 7, 2021, at least 19 states passed 34 laws restricting access to voting.² This measure sets Hawai‘i apart from those states seeking to limit voting access and signals to our sister states that access sustains democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure,

² Voting Laws Roundup: December 2021, Brennan Center for Justice, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-december-2021>, (Accessed 1/31/2022).



Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 31, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 016 & Via Videoconference
HB 1883, HD1 SD 1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB1883 H.D. 1 SD1 that requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain foreign languages.

This bill is an important aspect of protecting access to voting for eligible voters who are not proficient in English. What is new here is providing instructions on the outside ballot envelope, a logical first step in voting by mail for registered voters who receive a ballot but are not proficient in English. We applaud other efforts to provide multilingual support on brochures, forms, signage and other official voting material.

The League of Women Voters is confident our County Clerks understand which languages are triggered under the Federal Voting Rights Act for language assistance in their respective counties and work carefully with the State Office of Elections to make sure printed ballot and voting material corresponds with these requirements.

We are delighted that this change can become effective with the primary elections for 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HIPHI Board

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
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KM Consulting LLC

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John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Molokai Community Health Center

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Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

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John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
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Michael Robinson, MBA, MA
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Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
Pharmicare Hawai'i

Titiiamae Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: March 30, 2022

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for HB 1883, HD1, SD1, Relating to Elections

Hrg: March 31, 2022 at 9:30 AM, Conference Room 016 & via
videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is in **support of HB 1883, HD1, SD1**, which requires the ballot envelopes to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other languages.

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.

One in nine people living in Hawai'i has limited English proficiency and a lack of language access creates dangerous barriers to meaningful civic engagement and participation. HIPHI supports increasing civic engagement and believes providing information on ballots about how to obtain language translation services will reduce barriers to participation in the democratic process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Fernandes', written over a white background.

Amanda Fernandes, JD
Policy and Advocacy Director



LATE

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, March 31st, 2022 9:30am, Conference Room 016

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action Supports: HB1883 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of HB1883 HD1 SD1.

HB1883 HD1 SD1 requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages. Applies to all elections beginning with the 2022 primary election.

HAPA supports this measure and measures that help to boost voter engagement and help the government be more representative of our diverse population. We support this and all measures that make our government more accountable, transparent, open and accessible to residents.

This measure is specifically relevant to Hawai'i, given our huge diversity and "melting pot" of cultures and races. The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawai'i is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%¹ and we know that about fifteen percent of eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants².

The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014³. Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii.

¹<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html>

²https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/02/GMD_2020.02.26_Immigrant-Eligible-Voters.pdf

³https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_english_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf

Further, providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

We are well aware of, and concerned about, the growing apathy and lack of participation in the government process and encourage all measures that will help boost engagement.

Please pass HB1883 HD1 SD1 and help increase voter engagement and turnout.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick", written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1883-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:31:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Voting is a fundamental right.

The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%. Fifteen percent of eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants.

The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014.

Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii. However, English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low -- less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well.

Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

For these reasons, I support HB 1883, HD1, SD1 and respectfully urge the Committee members to pass HB 1883, HD1, SD1 out of your Committee.

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

HB-1883-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:44:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha JDC Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

I support Bill HB1883 because is trying to address Hawaii’s diverse multiculturalism. The bill requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages.

The recent census showed that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%. This reflects the April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division's report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014.

So it is important for Hawaii to assist its voters in the democratic process and to make sure everyone who is eligible to vote can understand the ballot!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

HB-1883-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 1:21:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauanoë Batangan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Voting is a fundamental right.
- The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%.
- Fifteen percent of eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants.
- The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014.
- However, English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low -- less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well.
- Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.
- For these reasons, I support HB 1883, HD1, SD1 and respectfully urge the Committee members to pass HB 1883, HD1, SD1 out of your Committee.

HB-1883-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 8:41:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Huynh Eller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014. https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).

Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii. https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).

However, English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low—less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well. https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).

Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

For these reasons, I support HB 1883, HD1, SD1 and respectfully urge the Committee members to pass HB 1883, HD1, SD1 out of your Committee.

HB-1883-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:27:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If they do not understand English then they should not be voting. Which means they could be illegal immigrants that should not be voting in Hawaii and any that do should be deported !!

LATE

HB-1883-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 1:40:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Voting should be made easy to understand no matter what citizens' language. Since we're a diverse state, we should make efforts to reach all eligible voters.

LATE

HB-1883-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 2:41:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liza Ryan Gill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. With so many attacks on the right to vote, it is critical that we take steps to ensure that every registered voters has the information and support needed to exercise their constitutional right.

This bill is low-hanging fruit. With minimal effort we can encourage folks who are routinely excluded from civic and public life to engage in the democratic process.

I appreciate your consideration.

Liza Ryan Gill

Round Top Drive