

SB-2178

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 2:05:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brett Kulbis	Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honolulu County Republican Party OPPOSES this bill.



Testimony with SUPPORTIVE COMMENTS on
SB2178 Relating to Lowering the Voting Age

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee,

Vote16HI would like to provide supportive comments on SB2178, which would lower the voting age to 17 for primary elections and any intervening or co-occurring special election immediately preceding the general election, so long as that individual turns 18 years old on or before the next general election. Vote16HI is a coalition of youth, adult allies, and organizations that support lowering the voting age to 16 in Hawai'i.

One of the primary goals of lowering the voting age is to give high schoolers the opportunity to vote at least once before they graduate. There are studies which show that people develop habits at a young age, closer to the age of 16 rather than 18. In addition, it is common knowledge that voting is habitual. In Hawai'i, because our elections occur every two years, in order to achieve this goal, mathematically speaking, the voting age needs to be lowered to 16. Since the population of Hawai'i residents who will turn 18 between the primary and general election is a miniscule fraction of the population, most students will still never have the opportunity to vote while in high school.

However, we still greatly appreciate the intent behind SB2178 in expanding the right to vote, and believe that it is a step in the right direction. In addition, we hope that the right to vote will be extended to 16-year-olds as many other nations and municipalities have done so already. By lowering the voting age to 16 rather than 17, every high schooler in Hawai'i will have the opportunity, should they choose it, to vote at least once and build that positive habit of voting before they leave for the chaos of college.

Thank you for your consideration and mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
The Vote16HI Hui

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Submitted on: 2/11/2022 7:21:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is and should be Eligal in Hawaii they are not ready to be Adults yet!!

I am Glad you will all be Gone soon!!

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Submitted on: 2/13/2022 12:55:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Young people are increasingly leading calls for change, from protecting the environment to supporting freedom of expression. Obstacles to young people participating in elections, however, include feeling that their vote doesn't matter and challenges in registering and voting. Hawaii has already addressed some of the latter by enabling voter registration from age 16 and vote by mail. Studies have shown that voting is a habit which becomes more ingrained through repetition, and that the strongest habits are often those developed early in life.

By allowing people to vote starting at age 17, SB 2178 recognizes the voices of young people and supports the formation of the habit and value of voting, one that can continue throughout their entire lives. By engaging active voters early and strongly, SB 2178 contributes to a strong and vibrant democracy.

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Submitted on: 2/14/2022 6:50:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early.

SB 2178 will allow people to vote starting at age seventeen.

SB 2178 is an important bill to allow young people to vote and continue to vote their entire lives, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

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

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Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:30:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Briana Harmon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony In Support Of:

SB2178

Submitted by:

Briana Harmon

64-5162C Kamamalu Street

Kamuela, HI 96743

Position: Strong support of SB2178

Aloha,

My name is Briana Harmon, and I am a senior at Hawaii Preparatory Academy. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of SB2178, which will lower the voting age to 17 for state and local elections. I support this bill because it will encourage young people to become involved in politics, which will lead to people continuing to be involved in politics in their adult life. Including young people in our democracy will allow for a more youthful democracy that will be more representative of our community.

This issue is particularly important to me as a young person of Hawaii, as I know my peers and I have legitimate ideas, and that our voices matter.

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Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:44:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will allow for more participation and greater governmental accountability and transparency which are always good for democracy.

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Submitted on: 2/15/2022 12:56:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SB 2178 which will allow people to vote starting at age seventeen. The youth today are very engaged in what is happening politically, because they know so much is at stake for them. Young people living today will live to see a 1.5°C warmer world because of the failure of adults to take real action when there still was time to do so. As the ones who will be most impacted, our youth deserve the opportunity to weigh in on who is elected to make the laws and decisions that will affect how livable their future is. Give them the vote that they deserve. Mahalo!

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Submitted on: 2/16/2022 2:06:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We should not deny, or turn away any new voters to participate in the election.

We must take any and all costs to make sure that the voting process is not convoluted and inclusive.

LATE

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Submitted on: 2/17/2022 4:35:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support. Mahalo!