

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
9:00 AM
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 309

in consideration of
SB 3244, SD1

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT.

Chairs McKELVEY, Vice Chair WILDBERGER, and Members of the House Government Reform Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments on SB 3244, SD1, which repeals the definition of permanent resident for legislative reapportionment purposes.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through ensuring that everyone is represented in our representative democracy.

Common Cause Hawaii believes in a fair reapportionment and redistricting process and believes that all our voices must be heard in determining the future of our families and communities.

Currently, active-duty military members and their dependents, people from Hawaii who marry military members, and students studying in Hawaii – either in Hawaii or the state of their origin – are silenced in the redistricting process. This focus on military, their dependents and students creates a system where stricter rules are placed on military members and their dependents and students in terms of residency, while other populations, e.g., temporary and part-time residents, are not subject to the same definitions.

Common Cause Hawaii also asserts that, along with using the total resident population as of Census Day for redistricting, prison gerrymandering must end. Hawaii counts incarcerated people where they are imprisoned as of Census Day rather than at their home addresses, even though known and reported to the U.S. Census. Including incarcerated persons in the population count for the district in which their facility is located alters representational proportions and, as a result, the voting power of residents. Counting Hawaii's incarcerated population according to their home addresses will ensure an accurate and true reapportionment of Hawaii's political districts. California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and Washington State, and more than 200 cities and counties have taken action to end prison gerrymandering.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 3244, SD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:33:54 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii and Clean the Pacific	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Obviously, as a resident of Hawaii County I'm against this bill. You can be sure that if people knew about this bill and understood what it meant, they would be against it. Don't be fooled by the lack of testimony, it's not that people won't care about the effects of this bill, it's that they don't know what this means. If we don't stop these bills, we risk losing our 8th House Seat, and 4th Senate Seat for the Big Island. I want you to think about this one fact, people come and go, but laws last FOREVER. That's why it's not fair to count the military, or people who are transient, such as gig workers, or traveling business people who have lives elsewhere but a second home in Hawaii. Please, do not take away representation from the local people of other counties. Mahalo

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:58:33 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

If they are not from the Distric then they should not be able to run in it!!

LATE

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill. It's a naked power grab by O'ahu legislators and I am truly, profoundly disappointed to see it introduced. If military personnel want to declare themselves residents of Hawai'i, they can. Otherwise, there is no way that the heavy military presence on O'ahu should be factored in—to do so disenfranchises the residents of Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i Island. Defer this bill, I implore you.

Mahalo,

--

Will Caron
Community Organizer
Pālolo Valley
8083874920

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:26:12 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha respected legislators,

The reapportionment process has baffled and left wondering many of Hawaii's residents, and it seems there is reason to worry. SB3244 threatens to forever alter our representation on neighbor islands in favor of military non-permanent residents on O'ahu.

Please vote no on SB3244.

Mahalo,

Phaethon Keeney

Honokaa HI

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:12:05 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE!

Redistricting should ONLY include permanent residents.

The maps submitted by the Reapportionment Committee are faulty & do not meet the criteria.

Just say no to #Gerrymandering

It makes me upset when we have to sue ourselves to force better decision making.

P.S. The Boyea Map is the best for Hawai'i Island & had the most community support.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:18:15 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack Zimmerman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to SB3244 as it unfairly weighs the various counties regarding permanent residents

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:19:44 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this Bill on the grounds that it was originally created for "clarification purposes" and now instead creates other foreseeable issues.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:34:09 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Barnes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no logical reason that I can see why an individual living in the state of Hawaii who is registered to vote in another state should be counted in the census numbers that are used for redistricting our legislature every ten years. One of the major purposes of redistricting is to ensure the principle of one person - one vote. Why should an individual who does not vote in Hawaii be counted in the process of creating legislative districts? There is only one possible reason for counting these individuals in the redistricting process and I don't need to point it out to all of you.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:51:51 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm strongly opposed to this bill - please do NOT pass it! Mahalo, JW

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:57:59 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't think temporary military personel should have any say in how our state is run. That should be left up to the permanent residents who actually have to live here long term. Therefore, I see this bill as some kind of twisted power move to disenfranchise the citizens of the outlying islands.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:44:00 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koohan Paik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE!

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:48:25 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lester Klungness	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Only regestered resident citizens should be allowed to vote in any Hawaiian County. Distribution of Representatives of either Senate or House, should be based on the number of registered resident citizens, not transient students or military.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:05:06 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for considering this testimony. The disproportionately large number of Non Permanent Resident Military in Hawai'i in relation to our State's total population was at the heart of the rationale that compelled the authors of our Hawai'i State Constitution to mandate "extraction" of NPR-Military when developing reapportionment maps every 10 years.

This "extraction" process has no impact on federal funding that comes into the state for various programs; federal government uses Census data, not reapportionment data, whether it's for education, human and social justice services, health care, transportation, agriculture, etc.

Thank you for time. Please vote NO.

Patricia (Patti) Cook

64-5246 Iokua Place, Kamuela, HI 96743

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 6:43:47 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
glenn oshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for receiving my testimony. It's the same as testimony opposing SB 3254.

I oppose sb 3254. I'm from Hawaii Island. In opposing this measure, I'm mindful of Mauna Kea and it's observatories and proposed observatory, Mauna Loa, Waipio and it's place in Hawaiian History and culture, Volcanos National Park our great ranches, former sugar lands, and natural beauty which is used in state promotions. These do not have votes! Preserve our place in Hawaii by not taking legislative votes away from our land and us.

please defeat this measure.

Thank You.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:07:35 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hattie Gerrish	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I strongly oppose reducing Hawai'i Island's representation in the legislature!!

Thank you for hearing me

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:58:51 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Stowell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:58:52 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. The Big Island should not lose any more representation.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 10:42:36 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Ross	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose counting military because those people have the right to vote where they come from. They should not be able to elect people who will represent us long after the military person has been transferred elsewhere.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:44:26 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Usinger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel this legislation is unfair to the Big Island of Hawaii and want to be on record that I am opposed to this passing and hope that it does not. Please reconsider and do what is right, and please accept my concerns and the concerns of the Big Island into making you ultimate decision.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Gary Usinger

Chairperson District 6

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 3:41:27 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara LK Scarth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No on this measure

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:54:11 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mark Koppel, P O Box 283, Hakalau, HI

I am writing in strong opposition to SB3244, which will strip voting power from Hawaii Island. It is completely undemocratic.

You all know very well that the Military are not even residents of Hawaii, let alone have any interest or stake in Hawaiian affairs.

It is an affront to the political process to have even considered this bill.

Shame on you.

Please vote NO on SB3244 SD1.

Mahalo.

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:28:32 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Maki Morinoue. I am only finding out about this bill now.

I oppose this Bill in a massive way as an outer island kama'aina resident. I find this Bill to sneak under the radar of our residence to continue the business as usual practice. This is clearly a power play bill. It is obvious Oahu wants to manipulate their numbers to take back our 8th House Seat and possibly take our 4th Senate Seat. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand where this Bill steams from.

Unfairly this could mean that the Big Island could lose our 8th House Seat and 4th Senate seat as the numbers are manipulated in the reapportionment/non-permanent resident extraction. This inequitable proposition to forever alter our representation on neighbor islands in favor of military non-permanent residents on O'ahu is sneaky, manipulative and wrong. It would be a shame on Oahu to have to take this matter into a Supreme Court Justice order for further public scrutiny to bring Justice to ALL Islands.

People are watching on all islands and this type of behavior only hurts EVERYONE in the State of Hawai'i.

Since bribed Senators state bills are easy to kill. I ask for Pono reasons to please Kill this Bill.

Mahalo
Maki Morinoue
Holualoa
96725

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:18:48 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha GVR Chair and Committee,

I super oppose this bill. I belong to several non profits who inform me of good and bad bills that come before each legislative session. However this bill came out of the blue and its a goes against our democratic process like **representation**. Hawaii has a history of military intervention. It started in 1893 when Hawaii's sovereignty was taken away due to the haole planters and the military's coup d'état. Then the planters petitioned the US government to annex Hawaii. The military has treated us like mushrooms - feeding us on bullshit and keeping us in the dark. This bill reeks of this!

If this bill is passed we risk losing our 8th House Seat, and 4th Senate Seat for the Big Island. And why would this happen? It seems this bill would favor putting us in the inequitable propositions to forever alter our representation on neighbor islands in favor of **military non-permanent residents** on O'ahu! Who could write such a bill and who could vote for such a bill shows that Benedict Arnold is alive and well...

Don't pass bill SB3244 SD1, BURN it!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:35:19 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Renee Rabb	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is too late in the current redistricting process to do this. I oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-3244-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:51:38 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Becky Gardner	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Pardon the bare bones testimony. The definition of permanent resident as modified by act 14 2021 has been problematic - making the interpretation of the constitution vis a vis this statute quite muddy. I recommend this bill be modified to undo the amendments from 2021 so that it more clearly comports with the constitution and framers intent.