



**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 WAYS AND MEANS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1076, SD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 28, 2023

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 1076, SD 1. This bill requires the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide; requires the Office of Elections to post the guide on its website in compliance with certain accessibility standards; requires the Office of Elections to mail each ballot with a notice that states a voter information guide may be found on its website; and appropriates funds.

We believe an informed electorate is important for the health of our democracy, however, it is important for the integrity of the election that our office remain apolitical. As such, to compile a voter information guide, we would ask all candidates to submit their statement for inclusion in the voter information guide when they file their nomination paper. After the candidate filing deadline, we would translate and compile these statements to make them available on our website. In addition to Olelo Hawaii, as provided by this bill, we would also translate the voter guide into the languages covered by the federal Voting Rights Act, which are Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog. The voter information guide would need to be available at least 45 days before each election to coincide with ballots being sent to uniformed and overseas voters.

We propose the bill be amended, as it relates to the ballot questions for clarification and consistency, to specify that the Department of the Attorney General and Corporation Counsel translate the ballot question statements into the same languages – Olelo Hawaii, Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog, and to provide the statements with translations to our office when questions are due, 75 days before the general election.

We also propose that the bill be amended to clarify that physical copies be available for public viewing, rather than dissemination, at state libraries and remove the references to mailing copies to voters on request. This would allow our office to plan for and get a better cost associated with printing the voter information guide. We estimate providing 50 copies to each of the 51 libraries. Our initial cost estimate totals \$171,248 for both elections.

	Primary	General	Total
Translations	53,280	0	53,280
Printed Instructions	30,000	30,000	60,000
Inserting Instructions	15,000	15,000	30,000
Copies to Libraries	13,984	13,984	27,968
Total	\$112,264	\$ 58,984	\$171,248

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 1076, SD 1.



LATE

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 28, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 1076 Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Elections

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 1076 Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Elections. This bill would require the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide and post it on their website in a screen reader accessible format. Also, this bill would require the Office of Elections to prepare a notice to voters that a digital voter information guide is available on their website, and email the notice to all voters with disabilities who have registered to receive alternate format ballots.

It is important that digital information is accessible to people with disabilities to ensure communication with people with disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities. This bill would require information made available over the internet to meet or exceed Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan DelaCruz, Chair
Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Room 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE
10:00 AM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1076 SD1 - VOTER GUIDE

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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 4,028 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety/Corrections and Rehabilitation on any given day. We are always mindful that 917 (41% of the male imprisoned population²) 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 incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1076 SD1 specifying that the Office of Elections shall provide printed copies of the digital voter information guide for distribution at all public libraries and that the digital voter information guide shall contain information about mailing deadlines, drop box locations, same day voter registration, accessible voting locations, and opening hours of voter service centers.

This bill is so terrific and it works in tandem with the bills for civic engagement this session. We know that a vibrant democracy is dependent upon an informed electorate. And everything the state can do to encourage participation is a move in the right direction.

¹ 1 Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, February 13, 2023.
https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2023-02-13_George-King.pdf

² Why are 41% of Hawai`i’s male prison population sent thousands of miles from home when the following prisons in Hawai`i have room? Here are the capacity rates of the following prisons: Halawa is at 74.3%; Halawa Special Needs Facility is at 63.6%; Kulani is at 39.5%; Waiawa is at 59% of operational capacity. SEE FN1

This voter guide is perfectly aligned with our vote by mail law. People will have the guide available so they will know about voting options and everything else they need to know about their voices heard. The guide is there while they are deciding on their ballot selections to help them make a more thoughtful vote.

Hawai'i's voting numbers must improve if we are to have a fully functioning and participatory democracy. Voting by mail is an important reform to do that and this bill does more to make exercising our hard-won right to vote even more convenient for our busy, hard-working electorate.

This voter guide brings important voter information and processes directly to the people.

We urge the committee to support this important bill and to fund it appropriately so every voter has ready access to everything they need to know about having their voice heard.

Mahalo.



Committee on Ways and Means
Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Room 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

TESTIMONY

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

SB 1076 SD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB 1076 SD1 that requires the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter guide to be posted on its website in compliance with accessibility standards. The bill also requires the Office of Elections to mail each ballot with a notice that states a voter information guide may be found on its website.

Our research on voter education in four other Western states found that candidate statements, a plain English explanation of ballot measures and a pro/con analysis of ballot questions provided by public officials are common in Colorado, Washington, Oregon and California.

Such voter education is long overdue in Hawaii but is now more compelling because it was a specific recommendation from the ***Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct***. It is incumbent on the legislature to provide this basic public service because elections are the primary way the voting public holds its elected officials responsible for their work as legislators as well as the way they conduct themselves in public service.

We have received objections that such voter education is essentially campaigning, but voter education and campaigning are two different processes, though both are important. Campaigning occurs when political candidates, parties or interest groups conduct activities to support their views and encourage people to vote for them. Such activities might include advertising, canvassing, etc. The goal of all these is to win the election by persuading candidates to vote for a particular candidate or party.

In contrast, voter education aims to increase civic knowledge and engagement, especially making sure citizens are able to vote and participate in democracy. Voter education entails informing citizens about the voting process and can include information about candidates. This type of voter education is normally conducted by

public elections officials, and also by nonpartisan organizations such as the League of Women Voters in its "VOTE 411" activities. However, worthy nonprofits like League do not have the resources to sustain a long-term, statewide effort to educate voters about every Hawaii candidate running for office.

That leaves the question of how to reach eligible voters. We support a guide published on the Office of Elections website as well as the idea of mailing a notice to voters with their ballot to inform them the guide is available. For those who don't have access to the Internet (or are not willing to use the Internet), it is worth permitting them to request a paper version of the voter guide by contacting the Office of Elections, as required in this measure. We say this recognizing production and distribution of a paper guide is much more expensive than digital. Unfortunately, without a printed option, certain voters will not have the same access to voter information.

Currently administration of Hawaii elections is divided between the State and Counties. If the Counties conduct a County-level only election, it is worth clarifying how responsibility for voter education would take place.

We support an adequate appropriation of \$143,280 to the Office of Elections for the activities described in this bill and defer to the Attorney General and Legislative Reference Bureau about the amount of an appropriation required for their role in voter education.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 6:36:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

VOTEING SHOULD BE BY IDEAND ON PAPER BALITS. END MAIL IN VOTEING the people are tired of all the Cheating Going on!!!!!!

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 4:59:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1076 SD1.

SUPPORT

SB1076 SD1

Description: Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide. Office of Elections to post the guide on its website in compliance with accessibility standards. Requires the Office of Elections to mail each ballot that states a voter information guide may be found on its website. funds. (SD1)

Aloha Hawaii State Legislators:

Elections only take place once every two years. Election by mail-in ballot has also removed a lot of logistics relating to hundreds of voter precincts in all the communities in Hawaii. (Unfortunately, with mail-in ballots, there is now extremely limited convenient places for voters to exercise a physical vote.)

Please note that although SB 1076 is only for digital purposes, it would be a piece of cake, if there is political will, to produce printed copies for those who need them. Many citizens do not have computers.

It wouldn't be too difficult to work with the local newspaper like the Star Advertiser to print these VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE in the cheapest paper form.

These printed VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE can be placed in strategic spots like public libraries, major shopping markets like Foodland, Times, Safeway and so on.

I'm enclosing samples of Washington State's efficient and helpful VOTERS INFORMATION GUIDE. This is a basic service from a state government. It certainly contributes to an OPEN & TRANSPARENT government.

Let's pride ourselves in promoting public participation in Democracy. Hawaii is very capable. Hawaii can do this!

Sincerely,
Choon James
ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com

WASHINGTON STATE:

<https://voter.votewa.gov/genericvoterguide.aspx?e=876&c=99#/>

Voters' Guide – PRIMARY 2022

Search candidates and offices

Federal Candidates

Statewide Candidates

Legislative Candidates

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

State Representative Pos. 1 [View All](#)

[John Peoples](#)
(Prefers Republican Party)

[Davina Duerr](#)
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Legislative District 1

State Representative Pos. 2 [View All](#)

[Jerry Buccola](#)
(Prefers Republican Party)

[Shelley Kloba](#)
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Legislative District 2

State Representative Pos. 1 [View All](#)

[Andrew Barkis](#)
(Prefers Republican Party)

State Representative Pos. 2 [View All](#)

[Edward Meer](#)
(States No Party Preference)

[JT Wilcox](#)
(Prefers Republican Party)

Legislative District 3

State Representative Pos. 1 [View All](#)

[Marcus Riccelli](#)

WASHINGTON STATE

Sample Candidates Guide

Legislative District 1 – State Representative Pos. 1

2 Year Term – King, Snohomish



Davina Duerr
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Information

Candidate Statement

Elected Experience

State Representative ; Bothell City Councilmember 1/2016-5/2022

Other Professional Experience

Architect, Served on Eastside Transportation Partnership; WSDOT Executive Advisory Group; Sound Transit Bus Rapid Transit Elected Leadership Group; and PSRC Transportation Policy Board representing Sound Cities Association and Board of Directors of the Sound Cities Association

Education

Bachelor of Architecture, Syracuse University

Community Service

Served on Northshore Schools Foundation as Vice President and Board member, 2009-2015; Co-founder and co-chair of the M.I.L.K. Money program; Served on Bothell Landmark Preservation Board, Board Chair 2008- 2015, Board Member 2005-2015

Statement

Our current political landscape is too extreme and partisan, degrading our ability to govern. As a long-time Bothell resident, my focus is improving our economy, making our tax system fair, championing our schools, keeping neighborhoods safe, providing more affordable housing, protecting survivors of domestic violence, and preserving our environment for our children and grandchildren. Serving is about listening to our community and finding common-sense solutions. I'll always have an open door and an open mind. I'd be honored to earn your support and vote. *Endorsed: Washington State Nurses Association, Washington State Labor Council, Washington Conservation Voters, and more.*

[← BACK](#)

Contact

davina@electdavina.com
17410 107TH PL NE
BOTHELL, WA 98011

Links

[Email Candidate](#)

[Candidate Website](#)

[Campaign Contributions](#)

Legislative District 1 – State Representative Pos. 1

2 Year Term – King, Snohomish



John Peeples
(Prefers Republican Party)

Information

Candidate Statement

Elected Experience

None.

Other Professional Experience

Flight Test Engineer with The Boeing Company, Cessna Aircraft Company, commercial and military aircraft. Various other engineering positions including export compliance specialist.

Education

High school diploma from Alexis I. duPont High School, Greenville, Delaware. Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Certificate in Project Management from the University of Washington. Commercial pilot license issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. Life

Community Service

Organized a 4th of July public reading of the Declaration of Independence at Kenmore city hall in 2021. Two-time Sedgwick Co., Kansas polling place election judge. Frequent city council meeting commenter.

Statement

My goal is to bring to Olympia earnest and thoughtful representation of the first district's people and make positive change. The pandemic shed light on the change that needs to be made in state public health policy. As an engineer, I will critically examine every issue that comes across my desk to ensure that government is kept accountable and remains for the people and by the people. My top three priorities are stricter limitations on the governor's emergency power, defeating the pay-per-mile road usage tax, and support for all-of-the-above education. Many thanks for you vote.

[← BACK](#)

Contact

(425) 405-5046
votepeeples@gmail.com
P.O. BOX 82041
KENMORE, WA 98028-9998

Links

[Email Candidate](#)

[Candidate Website](#)

[Campaign Contributions](#)

<https://www2.sos.wa.gov/elections/research/election-results-and-voters-pamphlet>

WASHINGTON
Secretary of State

Elections

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Election Results and Voters' Pamphlets

Click on any year to expand and view results, voters' pamphlets, and other data.

Archived Results and Voters' Pamphlet PDFs

2023 Elections

2022 Elections

General	11/8/2022	Results	Voters' Guide	Data	Offices Open	Candidates Who Filed
Primary	8/2/2022	Results	Voters' Guide	Data		Candidates Who Filed
Special Election	4/26/2022	Results		Data		
Special Election	2/8/2022	Results		Data		

2021 Elections

2020 Elections

2019 Elections

2018 Elections

2017 Elections

2016 Elections

2015 Elections

2014 Elections

2013 Elections

Washington Secretary of State
Legislative Building · PO Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

secretaryofstate@sos.wa.gov for questions &
tips

To avoid waste on wrong or duplicate mailing, Washington State works **monthly** to update its voter's list.

WASHINGTON
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Elections

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Washington State Voter Registration Database (VRDB)

The Secretary of State's Office maintains one statewide list of voters that serves as the official list of registered voters for Washington. In January 2002, the Secretary of State asked the Legislature to authorize the creation of a statewide voter registration database. The Legislature and Governor approved the request. That same year Congress passed the Help America Vote Act, which required states to develop a centralized voter registration database. In compliance with the Help America Vote Act, the Washington State Voter Registration Database was launched in January 2006.

The Office of the Secretary of State works in partnership with the County Auditors, election management system vendors, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Licensing, the Department of Health, the Department of Corrections, and the Office of the Administrator of the Courts to improve the accuracy of voter registration data.

Prior to the launch of the statewide voter registration database, the 39 county elections departments maintained separate voter registration lists, which resulted in many duplicate registrations. The development of one statewide list allows the Secretary of State's Office to combine this data. In addition, one centralized list also provides a more efficient method to screen for duplicate registrations, deceased voters, and voters convicted of a felony.

Felony Conviction Notification Process

The Department of Corrections and the state court system provides the Secretary of State's office with lists of persons who are ineligible to vote due to a felony conviction. Each month, the Elections Division compares the most recent list to the voter registration database using names and dates of birth. The list of voters from the resulting match are sent letters explaining that their registration will automatically be canceled in 30 days unless they contact their county elections office to dispute the cancellation.

For more information, see the [Felony Convictions and Voting Rights](#) page.

Monthly Removal of Deceased

Each month, the Office of the Secretary of State receives a list of deceased people from the Department of Health, as well as the Social Security Administration. These lists are compared to the voter registration list and potential matches are flagged for research by the County Auditors' offices. Voter registrations of deceased persons are usually canceled within a month. County Auditors may also remove registrations of deceased persons using published obituaries or written notices from relatives.

More Information

- [Order the latest statewide list of voters](#)
- [Understanding voter registration data](#)
- [Felony convictions and voting rights](#)

Contact Information

For customer assistance, contact elections@sos.wa.gov

For technical questions, contact VRSupport@sos.wa.gov

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 12:44:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I **strongly support SB1076**. It is well known that Hawaii has extremely low voter turnout. While voting my mail was an important reform to change our performance, much more needs to be done. Having a voter guide that provides at least 1 source of information that Hawaii voters can turn to and rely on is crucial. When I moved from Washington state 26 years ago and learned Hawaii had no voter guide, a guide I counted on and used regularly as a WA state voter, I was dismayed by the hoops I needed to jump through to become an informed Hawaii voter. When I talked with co-workers about voting, those who were non-voters pointed to lack of information and understanding about candidates and issues as their primary reason for not voting. If we are sincere in our desire to increase voter turnout in our state, we need to invest in voter education. The publication and distribution of a voter guide is a basic element. **Please support SB1076**. Thank you!

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 2:59:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is long overdue -- rather than having to search the internet, if you have it and can use it, there should be some kind of printed information that goes to all households.

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 6:43:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diann Karin Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Senate WAM Committee,

Expecting "fair and balanced," not to mention complete, unbiased and publicly financed - what a great idea!! A true boon to voters!! THIS IS EXACTLY the type of thing I want my tax dollars spent on. As noted in Civil Beat by their Sunshine Editorial Board today (26 Feb) - "a no-brainer." PLEASE PASS AND APPROPRIATE!

Mahalo
Karin Lynn
Mō'ili'ili

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 8:09:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter R Daspit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate WAM Committee,

I'm with Civil Beat on this one, I think that expecting complete, unbiased, publicly financed, fair and balanced information is truly a Good Thing. The Informed Voter is the bulwark of our democracy – so let's build up that bulwark!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Peter Daspit

Kailua

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:24:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Urge support for this bill. An informed population results in informed decisions. As not all candidates have the funds to reach voters statewide, this bill provides equal opportunity to all candidates to get their message to the voting population. Pono legislation, please pass.

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:40:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WHY PASSING SB1076 IS IMPORTANT;

SB1076 LESSENS THE NEED FOR MONEY TO CAMPAIGN.

VOTER CAN GO ON THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS WEBSITE AND LEARN THE CANDIDATE'S ISSUE POSITIONS.

SB1076 lessens the need for money to reach voters with a candidates good ideas.

With SB1076, voters can learn candidates ideas and website address even if their financial resources are small. With SB1076 guaranteeing access to voter's eyeballs, candidates can devote themselves to learning good steps to handling our big, growing-bigger, problems. INSTEAD OF FUNDRAISING. The digital voter guide can be a showcase of candidates best ideas. HAWAII NEEDS POLITICIANS WORKING ON OUR PROBLEMS, NOT WORKING ON THEIR FUNDRAISING. Please pass SB1076 to post a digital voter information guide on the office of elections website, that is available in print by request.

LATE

SB-1076-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:19:46 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1076 SD1 which requires the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide and post the guide on its website so it is easily accessible to all citizens. The bill also requires the Office of Elections to mail each ballot with a notice that states a voter information guide is on its website.

An educated citizenry is the foundation of a strong and healthy democracy. This bill is an important part of making this a reality.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu