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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWE LAWE KANAKA
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

January 26, 2025

TO: The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 78 – RELATING TO RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.**

Hearing: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and provides comments.

PURPOSE: Makes an application for voter registration part of certain state agency application processes. Requires the sharing of certain information among certain state agencies, election personnel, and online voter registration system.

DHS is concerned that the decision to register to vote should remain optional for the applicant, and points out that additional application processes may unintentionally delay the issuance of benefits, which conflicts with federal program requirements.

Notably, the proposed changes may negatively impact Hawaii residents who are lawfully present and are not US citizens. Per Article IX, Section 3 of the State Constitution, DHS provides benefits to "persons who are found to be in need of and are eligible for such assistance and services," including Hawaii residents who may not be eligible to vote due to their citizenship.

DHS provides public services that are primarily federal programs. Existing federal regulations define what constitutes a completed application that must be accepted for program consideration and processing and under what conditions application information can be shared.

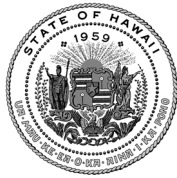
For example, for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), federal regulations would not allow delaying the accepting and processing of services if a voter registration application was not submitted or was incomplete. The Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Title 7, Section 273.2(c)(1)(iii) states, "...[t]he household shall be advised that it does not have to be interviewed before applying and may file an incomplete application form as long as the form contains the applicant's name and address, and is signed by a responsible member of the household or the household's authorized representative."

Further, C.F.R. Title 7, Section 272.1(c), provides under what conditions SNAP information may be disclosed. The conditions listed would not support disclosure of information as proposed in this measure.

Currently, the SNAP program does include a voter registration form to comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and section 11-15.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which allows an applicant to register to vote should they elect to do so. Applicants may request assistance from the processing center staff in completing the registration form. Completed registration forms received are forwarded to the State Elections Office for further processing. The SNAP application, however, cannot be used as the voter registration form and vice versa.

Similarly, the application for Medicaid coverage includes the option to register to vote, and completed voter registration forms are forwarded to the State Elections Office.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**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 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 78
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

January 28, 2025

Chair McKelvey and members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 78. This bill makes an application for voter registration part of certain state agency application processes and requires the sharing of certain information among certain state agencies, election personnel, and the online voter registration system.

This bill would provide more access to voter registration, as it requires applicants for state licenses, permits, programs or services to directly address the question of whether they want to register to vote or to opt out as part of the application process. Additionally, this bill ensures the accuracy of the voter registration rolls by electronically transmitting voter registration data between the state agency's database and the statewide voter registration system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 78.



Senate Committee on Government Operations

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: SB78 Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 3:00pm; Conference Room 309

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA is submitting testimony in STRONG Support of SB78, which makes an application for voter registration part of certain state agency application processes. Requires sharing certain information among certain state agencies, election personnel, and online voter registration systems.

This expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.

In the 2024 primary election, Hawai'i experienced its lowest voter turnout, with about 32% of registered voters participating. Recent data shows that turnout increases when voting and registering to vote is made more convenient. For example, in the 2020 general election, Hawai'i saw a dramatic increase in voter participation, with almost 70% of registered voters casting ballots. This jump could be largely attributed to the state's first all-mail election, which made voting more accessible.

In addition, this reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt-out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

We urge you to support the passage of SB78 to make voting accessible and simple for everyone.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director



SENATE BILL 78, RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

JANUARY 28, 2025 · GVO HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 78, relating to voter registration, which makes an application for voter registration part of certain state agency application processes and requires the sharing of certain information among certain state agencies, election personnel, and online voter registration system.

Our democracy belongs to we, the people. At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties—including the right to vote—are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. Every eligible person should be able to register to vote in a convenient and secure way that is beneficial to new voters and administrators alike. Key voter registration improvements can elevate electoral confidence, save public funds, and preserve the voice of our community in determining the course of our society's future.

In 2021, Hawai'i established automatic voter registration to increase the state's historically low voter participation rates. Yet, the automatic voter registration system established by the legislature was an opt-in system that places responsibility for registration on individual voters, thereby failing to fully include the total potential population of new voters. This undermines the full impact of our automatic voter registration program, which is desperately needed to curb low voter

participation rates. **In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot.**

To improve those statistics, we must enact measures that strengthen the right to vote. SB 78 will make registration more efficient by empowering applications at public-facing state agencies—such as for licenses, permits, change of address forms, recertifications, or services offered by the state—to serve as “dual-purpose” voter registration applications, with the applicant being given the option to affirmatively deny (rather than being forced to affirmatively opt-in) to voter registration. That said, we urge this committee to review the contents of Senate Bill 81, which we believe may provide more specific language regarding the processes for establishing voter eligibility and amending related statutes to conform with an “opt-out” method of automatic voter registration.

Women, racial minorities, and members of the working class fought for years to obtain the right to vote. Sadly, we are seeing draconian efforts today to roll back those rights to entrench the power of autocratic regimes. We cannot allow these authoritarian actions to go unchallenged. We have a responsibility to fortify the voting franchise for generations to come.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com



TESTIMONY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SB78 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION
TUESDAY, January 28, 2025, at 3:00 pm, State Capitol Conference Room 225

Honorable Chair McElvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee

SB78 proposes that state agencies provide applications for licenses, permits, programs, or services shall serve as a dual application that includes voter registration.

Submitted in **STRONG OPPOSITION** by Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women for the following reasons:

1. SB78 will create more work for state agency employees who are already burdened with heavy workloads and especially in DHS and DLIR programs where employees have heavy caseloads.
2. Voter registration is already easy and accessible in Hawaii through online registration, in-person registration, and at high schools.
3. For an agency to serve this voter registration application they must collect or cross reference citizenship status. Who will be responsible for screening which agencies that provide licenses, permits, programs, and services verify citizenship status are included in this statute, and which are not?
4. How will State and County Elections Offices prevent duplication of voter registrations.

According to the Chief Elections Officer, Mr. Scott Nago, the voter rolls need to be cleaned.

We need to clean our voter rolls before we embark on this type of voter registration effort.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:33:02 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your support of this common sense bill.

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:02:49 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support of SB78, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Bobbie Best, Wailuku

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:52:41 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Marcia Kemble and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:25:38 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is GeorgiaHoopes, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:42:07 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mishka Sulva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mishka Sulva, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.

A healthy democracy lowers barriers to participation and this is a common sense reform which would do just that. Let's move to make voting a part of our shared culture.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Mishka Sulva, 96816

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:45:58 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support of SB78, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox. This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Help strengthen the democratic process by supporting the expansion of AVR.

Thank you

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 11:02:51 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa W Johnston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in support of SB78 to Expand Automatic Voter Registration.

Integrating opportunities to register to vote into a person's interactions with government agencies will increase the number of voters who participate in Hawai'i elections.

Mahalo,

Elisa W. Johnston

Makiki

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:11:37 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Kimo Pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey,

Vice Chair Gabbard,

and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimo Pestana and I am writing in STRONG support of SB78, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox. It's easy to allow our resident citizens an opportunity to fulfill their responsibility to vote.

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:31:27 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

*I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sven Sorge

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:33:57 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator McKelvey, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Government Operations.

Please support SB78, a good government reform measure, that, to my understanding, would expand the opportunities for voter registration and increase the accuracy of voter information.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:55:51 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Janik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- *Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the*

Committee,

*My name is Richard Janik, mD, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

I have voted in every election since 2010.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Richard J Janik, MD Lihue, Kauai

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:57:44 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karolle t. bidgood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McElvey, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

I am in **strong support** of this bill. Whenever we can make voter registration easier and/or automatic, hopefully the result will be a greater voter turnout. We need to reverse the trend of decreasing voter participation here in Hawaii and encourage eligible voters to express their desires through their votes.

Mahalo,

Karolle Bidgood

Kahaluu, HI

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:38:41 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB78. This would make it easier for people to register to vote.

Mahalo

Debra M Javar

Kona, HI

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:40:08 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:21:45 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Legrande	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in STRONG support of SB78. The more transparency the better!

Thank you, Linda Legrande

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:03:11 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and **I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications." This measure allows individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a simple checkbox.

As someone deeply engaged in community work and advocacy, I have witnessed firsthand the barriers many face when trying to register to vote or update their voter information. For example, I've supported efforts to educate and empower Native Hawaiian communities to stay engaged civically, but many have shared how navigating outdated registration processes can feel discouraging or burdensome.

This reform simplifies the voter registration process, ensuring more eligible residents—especially those who may face systemic barriers—can easily register to vote. It maintains the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing while respecting personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out.

By implementing this reform, Hawai‘i can take a significant step forward in increasing voter participation, especially among underrepresented communities, and make it easier for everyone to have a voice in shaping our future, which is so needed.

I urge you to pass SB78 to expand Automatic Voter Registration in Hawai‘i.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:50:59 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keala Fung, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.

I feel it is important for the government to do what it can to increase voter registration, and making it more accessible and efficient for people to register. In so many other countries it is required that people vote. Through this bill proposal, it will make it so much easier for anyone to register, and people always have the option to opt out.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu Hawaii

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:57:26 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

*Aloha from Wainiha, Kaua'i. My name is Joell Edwards, current Chair of the Kauai Democratic Party and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

As a community organizer and current chair of the Kaua'i Democratic Party, I have worked hard and getting voter registraton and participation to increase on our island as well as state wide.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Joell Edwards, Wainiha

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:55:05 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.

I am really glad to see a bill such as this, because this can help mitigate the concerns that many have that the voter rolls are outdated and will help people see if they have been taken off the voter rolls because of clerical or other reasons. By making it easier to view their information and to update and to register in state agencies, they can see for themselves where their status is at which is a win for everyone.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens. Mahalo.

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:27:09 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE automatic voter registration in Hawaii which already has innumerable issues with our elections and I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:15:22 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly Oppose!

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 11:27:46 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB-78.

Any department within the State is woefully incapable of determining the eligibility and required supporting documentation to register anyone to vote. Our voting rolls are already full of potentially ineligible voters and this action could put even more ineligible voters on our rolls.

Last year you approved the Office of Elections to enter into agreement with the non-profit third party organization Electronic Registration Information Center (Act 190), which is supposed to identify individuals who appear to be eligible to vote but who are not yet registered. The cost is \$125,000+ annually.

There is no legitimate reason for this bill. Our State and County Election Offices already have sufficient ways for registering voters, to include registering voters applying for or renewing driver's licenses.

Respectfully, I **STRONGLY** encourage you to vote **NO** on SB-78.

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:46:15 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vote No

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:55:54 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 27, 2025

Aloha GVO Chair McKelvey and Vice Chair Gabbard,

SB78 requires that state agencies that provide applications for licenses, permits, programs, or services shall serve as a dual application that includes voter registration.

This bill has the potential to create more work for state agencies as well as increase the number of duplicate registrations in the voter registration database.

Voter registration is already easy and accessible in Hawaii. According to the Cost of Voting 2024 analysis, Hawaii ranks #3 of all states for ease of voting; ease and accessibility of voter registration is included in the rankings calculation¹.

Online it takes only a couple of minutes to register to vote. Registration is automatic when obtaining a drivers license. Paper applications are available at post offices and libraries. Sixteen year olds have the option to preregister at high school voter registration drives.

The verbiage of SB78 is problematic:

1) For an agency to serve this voter registration application they must collect or cross reference citizenship status. A brief review of state licensing agencies shows that some license applications require US Citizenship, for example pharmacist and real estate licensure, while others do not, such as acupuncture and Doctor of Chiropractor licensure². Who will be responsible for screening which agencies that provide licenses, permits, programs, and services verify citizenship status are included in this statute, and which are not?

2) Which permitting agencies will be required to implement this voter registration system? Will permits for hunting, camping, and use of public spaces be included? There are potentially more than one hundred state permits, programs, licenses, and services that may be required to comply with registering potential voters.

How will duplicate registrations be prevented?

Lastly, why do we need legislation that increases the workload for state agencies when Hawaii is already ranked third in the nation for ease of voter registration?

These questions need to be answered before proceeding with this bill as written.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Corinne Solomon
Oahu resident

1. <https://costofvotingindex.com/> accessed January 27, 2025.
2. Professional and Vocational Licensing information: <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/> accessed January 27, 2025.

SB78 excerpt:

(b) Each state agency that deals with the public and collects or cross-references reliable personal information indicating citizenship status shall provide that an application for a license, permit, program, or service shall serve as a dual-purpose application. The dual-purpose application shall:

- (1) Serve as an application for voter registration;

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:57:56 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Tamaribuchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB78.

Mahalo

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:37:28 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments: Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee, My name is Maki Morinoue, and I write in strong support of SB78, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration into interactions with state agencies. What Does SB78 Do? Makes voter registration part of processes like applying for a driver's license or state ID. Allows individuals to easily register, update their voter information, or opt out by checking a box. Ensures secure and accurate information sharing between state agencies and election officials while preventing non-citizens from being registered. Why Is This Important? Simplifies voter registration, encouraging more eligible residents to register and participate in elections. Balances accessibility with personal choice, allowing individuals to opt out if they prefer. Strengthens the integrity of voter rolls by keeping information secure and up-to-date. This common-sense reform makes registering to vote more convenient and accessible while maintaining security and accuracy. Mahalo for your consideration! Maki Morinoue Holualoa, HI

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

LATE

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 28, 2025

To: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair,
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. 78 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This measure proposes to incorporate a voter registration application into certain state agency applications and requires data sharing among state agencies and elections personnel.

II. CURRENT LAW

Chapter 383, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), governs the administration of the federal-state unemployment insurance program and does not require data sharing or data collection for voter registration.

III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

The Unemployment Insurance Division has **significant concerns** regarding the measure's potential impact on its operations and its ability to remain compliant with federal law.

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has long interpreted methods of administration to require the confidentiality of UI information and to follow the congressional mandate that UI information be used only for the purpose for which it is directed. According to §383-95, HRS, and §12-5-211 to §12-5-220, Hawaii Administrative Rules, disclosure of information from workers, employers, or other persons or groups in the course of administering the unemployment program shall be held confidential and shall not be disclosed unless authorized requesting agencies have entered into a written agreement with the department.

Should this proposal be enacted, an information-sharing agreement with the various county clerks, election officials, and the agency charged with administering the online voter registration system to satisfy the limited purpose of this bill. All expenses associated with providing the data must be reimbursed in accordance with federal requirements, the actual costs of furnishing the information are dependent upon the terms of the final agreement executed between the various counties, elections officials, and agencies administering the online voter registration system.

Additionally, although current estimates of the time and cost to implement changes on the legacy mainframe are not available at this time, the administrative burden of modifying the existing UI application, testing the modifications, and creating data interfaces would be an extensive undertaking and conflict with ongoing modernization efforts.

To: Government Operations Chair McKelvey and Committee Members
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

LATE

In strong support of SB78

Dear Chair McKelvey and Committee Members—

Automatic Voter Registration is arguably the single most effective way to increase registered voters in Hawaii. Opt-in AVR passed in Hawaii in 2021. It is time to take the next step and make AVR opt-out.

The AVR situation in Hawaii can be confusing. Put simply, residents getting or renewing a driver's license, government ID, camping permit, or similar state programs or services must currently check a box to also register to vote. SB78 would register them unless they check a box saying they don't want that.

Not being registered is a major—and unnecessary—hurdle to voting. SB78 would lower that hurdle. It will also save time and money and increase accuracy and security.

Please pass this much-needed bill, and help Hawaii residents vote.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:35:34 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
The Rev. Prof. GREGORY JOHNSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE vote in favor of SB78.

- By integrating voter registration into everyday interactions with state agencies, more people are likely to register to vote since it simplifies the process of registering.
- The bill balances ease of registration with personal choice by allowing individuals to opt-out easily if they prefer not to participate.

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:56:11 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Stacey, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

I moved in the middle of the election cycle last year and there is so much paperwork to fill out when you move, even in the same district. This measure makes life easier and reduces the administrative load for families who are in the process of moving.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Stacey Alapai, Makawao Maui

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:48:59 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important expansion of voting rights!

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:49:51 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

JarraeTehani Manasas, Kailua Kona Hawai'i

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:27:02 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Jennifer Lum, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach, Hawai'i

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:28:33 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, the less barriers to vote, the healthier our democracy.

Mahalo,

Kevin Faccenda

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:00:15 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should seize on any legitimate means we can to increase voter participation in our democracy. The inattention of voters and their lack of vigilance has threatened the foundations of our democracy. This bill promises to help engage more voters. That is a good thing. Please move this bill forward. Mahalo

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:20:30 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Susan Stayton, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

This would really help me as a senior citizen.

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:23:39 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB78, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:21:35 AM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*My name is Leo Nahe, and I am writing in **STRONG support of SB78**, which expands Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications," allowing individuals to register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox.*

Since voting is a right as a citizen of America, this process should be simple and convenient!

This reform simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible residents can easily register to vote while maintaining the integrity of our voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out and safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Na,

Leo Nahe

LATE

SB-78

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:00:33 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J S	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

Delete the voter rolls after each election cycle.

Register when you vote.

Paper ballots/ hand counted

precent level counting

chain of custody.

Why arent we doing these things to insure transparent, honest voting? hmmm