

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:33:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Testifying for The Hawaii Democratic Party	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:13:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:57:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill which would make it easier to pass Constitutional Amendments. This should be a **HARD** thing to do and should have the majority support of all voters, not just of all votes that are tallied. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:32:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I definitely oppose this bill

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:38:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karen Mountain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Amendments should be hard to pass. All votes should be counted. I strongly oppose SB1225.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:44:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this Bill.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:51:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:58:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Amendments cannot be taken lightly.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:02:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, It should always be harder and not easier.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:09:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE! Mahalo nui

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:24:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Griffin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of this proposed bill amendments should be hard to change. It should reflect what people vote.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:26:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie West	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:52:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keenan Place-Puaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Keenan Place-Puaa oppose SB1225.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:03:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Text

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:43:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:44:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:49:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

UNTIL HAWAII FIXES THEIR ELECTIONS (FIX THE FRAUD & GET RID OF THE MACHINES/ MAIL IN CHEATING/ NO CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROVIDED/ OUTDATED VOTER ROLLS, ETC.,) I OPPOSE ANY BILL RELATING TO OUR ELECTIONS - GIVEN THE FACT THAT THIS IS COMING FROM THE SAME GROUP WHO REFUSES TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE ABOVE VOTER FRAUD ISSUES!

SINCERELY, BART

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:49:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:22:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure, mahalo.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:33:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine D Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill! My family had to go through a LOT of paperwork just to become US Citizens. It's not fair!!

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:37:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1225.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:52:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruben Ongos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill!!

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:42:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Kerr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Hawaii must go back to in person voting with Voter ID on ONE election day, just like old times when we could count on the accuracy of the vote and the integrity of our elections. We no longer trust our election process in Hawaii, especially with Scott Nago in charge.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kerr

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:09:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

No amendment to the state constitution needed. I object.



JOSH FROST

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Friday, January 31, 2025
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senate Bill 1225 Proposing an Amendment to Article XVII, Section 3 of the Hawaii Constitution to Specify that the Standard for Voter Approval of a Constitutional Amendment Proposed by the Legislature is a Majority of All the Votes Tallied Upon the Question

Testifying In Strong Opposition

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard Committee:

While I understand and appreciate the intent of this measure, I cannot in good conscience support it.

The Hawaii State Constitution is the foundational, principled governing document for our state and however one might feel about what is currently included in it, or not, it should not be amended lightly or without fully understanding the consequences of such amendments.

This past election cycle, I had the privilege of leading the “Vote Yes for Marriage Equality” campaign to strike the discriminatory language from Article 1, Section 23 of our State Constitution. It was a hard fight and we were fortunate to narrowly win in the end. It would be unfair of me, I think, if I didn’t acknowledge that, of course, our effort would have been made substantially easier if the amendment proposed in SB1225 had been implemented years ago.

Still, despite that acknowledgment, I remain opposed to this effort to lower the threshold for passing constitutional amendments.

Our jobs, yours as elected officials and mine as an advocate, shouldn’t necessarily be made easier because the bar is too high. Rather than lowering the bar, shouldn’t we as public servants (yes, I’m calling myself one too) be more interested in elevating the level of education and debate among the electorate?

Rather than lower the bar, which could have far reaching unintended consequences, shouldn’t we seek to do more to ensure voters understand what’s on their ballot, why it’s there, what it means, and give weight to their choices?

Years ago, I took an introductory course on political science and one of the key takeaways I learned was that so many of our choices are political. We don’t know,

though as political professionals we often hypothesize, why voters make the choices they do. Particularly in the ballot box. It is entirely possible that voters who left the question to Article 1, Section 23 blank on their ballot do so with intent. Maybe it was a protest vote on the confusing nature of the question. Maybe they weren't sure of their position and chose not to affirmatively mark "yes" or "no".

We'll never know for sure. Sometimes that absence of action, or choosing not to cast a vote is a choice. A political choice.

What I do know is that when it comes to amending our state constitution, the threshold needs to be a higher than a simple majority. We need to be sure. All of us. And if people cast their ballot leaving constitutional amendment questions unanswered, those should not be discounted.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to hold or defer this bill. We need to do better for our state, I agree. But this bill is the wrong approach.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:24:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't think you can assume anything when it comes to clarifying a voter's intention on a ballot, but you can create the appearance of knowing their intention so that you can expedite proposals that our (s)elected officials want ... and that's what you've done with this legislation.

Manipulating totals via this type of legislation (and via being profligate in the counting room with "generous" throwing out of ballots, an issue we've certainly seen highlighted on the national stage in recent years) can result in an amendment that wasn't meant to exist, that does NOT actually reflect the will of the people.

If you want better marked ballots and more accurate voter counts, try this as a good beginning.

Ten Points to True Election Integrity:

- I. [Clean Out the Voter Rolls](#)
- II. [Ban All Electronic Elections Equipment](#)
- III. [Voter ID with Paper Ballots Only](#)
- IV. [Ban Mail-In Voting*](#)
- V. [Ban Early Voting*](#)
- VI. [Drastically Smaller Precincts*](#)
- VII. [Ban Ballot Harvesting](#)
- VIII. [Election Day is a Holiday](#)
- IX. [New Reporting Requirements for Transparency](#)
- X. [Heavy Prison Sentences for All Who Commit Fraud](#)

<https://skeshel.substack.com/p/the-ten-points-to-true-election-integrity>

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:48:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Thank you.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:18:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1225 because it diminishes democratic integrity by disregarding blank votes in the ratification of constitutional amendments. Under the current system, for an amendment to be enacted, it must secure a majority of affirmative votes on the issue while also constituting a majority of all ballots cast. This ensures that every voter's participation, even in the form of abstention, is accounted for, thereby preserving the legitimacy of the electoral process.

Blank votes are not accidental omissions; they are deliberate expressions by voters who may find an amendment unnecessary, inadequately justified, or ambiguous. By failing to consider these votes, SB1225 artificially inflates support for constitutional changes, making it easier for amendments to pass even if they lack widespread approval. This adjustment would allow a motivated minority to impose significant alterations to governance, disregarding the silent opposition represented by non-responses - which is a choice in voting.

The Hawaii State Constitution should not be amended without broad and definitive public endorsement. The existing regulations are designed to ensure that constitutional amendments enjoy substantial voter support before implementation. SB1225 undermines this safeguard, enabling consequential modifications to be ratified with a lower threshold of active participation.

If legislators wish to enhance voter engagement, they should prioritize improving ballot clarity and promoting public education on proposed amendments, rather than altering voting calculations to expedite legislative objectives. For these reasons, I strongly oppose SB1225 and urge others to defend the principles of fair and representative democracy.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:44:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 3:44:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I will provide testimony via zoom.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:34:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb1225 amendments should not be easy to pass

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:43:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb1225

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:45:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kean Salzer	Testifying for New Hope Maui	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We object to this bill. Don't pass it.

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:08:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Constitutional Amendments should not be easier to pass with the majority of votes tallied. It is not right to exclude, blank, spoiled, and over votes. This has the potential to be harmful and not helpful and so I strongly oppose this bill.

Carina Lara

LATE

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:21:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lolita Keni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:46:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
THOMAS KENT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill..

LATE

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:33:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1225

LATE

SB-1225

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:20:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I most strongly oppose making it easier to amend the constitution. We have a good Constitution. Changes should maintain the current method of counting ballots to determine whether the amendment is passed or not.

Do not pass SB1225.