

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 322, HD 1

RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

February 13, 2025

Chair Tarnas and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 322, HD 1. This bill authorizes state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if designated by the Office of Elections and requires eligible applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless the applicant opts out.

While our office agrees with the intent of the bill to provide more access to voter registration, we would defer to the state agencies and county clerks on any operational issues they foresee in terms of the implementation of this bill and how those could be best addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 322, HD 1.



STATE OF HAWAI'I STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING 1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813 TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs The Thirty-Third Legislature State Capitol State of Hawai'i Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Tarnas, and Committee members:

SUBJECT: HB322 HD1 Relating to Voter Registration

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB322 HD1**, which authorizes state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if designated by the Office of Elections. Requires eligible applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or pre-registered to vote unless the applicant opts out.

This bill addresses critical barriers faced by many in our community, including individuals with developmental disabilities, in accessing voter registration. By expanding automatic registration, HB322 ensures eligible residents are seamlessly registered to vote through interactions with state agencies like the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). This approach provides a more inclusive, accessible, and efficient path to voter registration while preserving individuals' right to opt-out.

The Council specifically appreciates page 2, subsection (b), which requires DHS to automatically transmit voter registration information for eligible Med-QUEST applicants, ensuring that underserved populations are not overlooked.

A key aspect of HB322 is its recognition of the importance of single-use forms—where individuals only need to enter their information once, and it is securely transmitted to relevant agencies. For people with developmental disabilities, repetitive paperwork and complex registration processes create unnecessary barriers to civic engagement. Single-use forms significantly reduce administrative burdens, streamline access, and prevent errors that may

HB322 HD1 Relating to Voter Registration February 13, 2025 Page 2 of 2

arise from multiple data entries. By integrating voter registration with routine government services, HB322 provides a seamless experience that empowers marginalized communities, ensuring they have equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB322 HD1.

Sincerely,

Rainty Bartillie

Daintry Bartoldus Executive Administrator **JOSH GREEN, M.D.** GOVERNOR KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA Office of the Director P. O. Box 339 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 12, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: HB 322 HD1 – RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

Hearing:February 13, 2025, 2:00 p.m.Conference Room 325 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the

bill's intent and the testimony of the Office of Elections and offers comments.

PURPOSE: Authorizes state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if

designated by the Office of Elections. Requires eligible applicants for instruction permits,

provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or

preregistered to vote unless the applicant opts out. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

DHS appreciates the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness amendments,

- (1) Deleting language that would have required the Department of Human Services to automatically transmit voter registration information for any Med-Quest applicant;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS complies with the duties of the current section 11-15.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). For example, the application for Med-QUEST's Medicaid health care coverage is accompanied by a voter registration form. If a Medicaid applicant chooses to complete the

RYAN I. YAMANE DIRECTOR KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II DEPUTY DIRECTOR KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER DEPUTY DIRECTOR KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 12, 2025 Page 2

voter registration form, Med-QUEST transmits the voter registration form to the State Office of Elections. Paper applications also accompany the application for financial assistance.

In response to this measure, DHS updated its homepage, which now includes a link to the Office of Elections and voter registration.

Regarding the proposed section (b) (page 2, starting at 12, through page 3, line 3), for DHS to comply, it appears that section 346-10, HRS, would need to be examined and likely amended for DHS to provide information it collects to determine program eligibility without the consent of the client. However, if consent is required, DHS wants to avoid creating additional questions that may be seen as a barrier to accessing benefits. Further, to provide information automatically, DHS would need to make significant modifications to its information systems to transmit the relevant information to the appropriate county clerk.

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

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR *MEIA* ADMINISTRATION 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817 PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov



February 12, 2025

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs State Capitol, Conference Room 325 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 322, H.D. 1 - Relating To Voter Registration HEARING: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), Division of Motor Vehicle Registration (DMV), respectfully offers comments to H.B. No. 322, H.D. 1, which requires eligible applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless the applicant opts out.

While we support initiatives to increase voter participation, CSD DMV has concerns regarding the operational and financial impacts the proposed legislation will have on the City and County of Honolulu. The proposed legislation would require modifications to CSD DMV's information technology system, CSD DMV forms, and CSD DMV internal policies and procedures. Specifically, amendments to Section 286-311(a), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), would introduce new responsibilities for CSD DMV, including but not limited to:

Integrating automatic voter registration mechanisms into licensing and identification systems.

KIMBERLY HASHIRO DIRECTOR *PO'O*

MEGAN JOHNSON DEPUTY DIRECTOR HOPE PO'O Testimony for H.B. No. 322, H.D. 1 February 12, 2025 Page 2

- Implementing changes to license renewals (Section 286-107, HRS), instruction permits (Section 286-110, HRS), and duplicate permits, provisional licenses, and licenses (Section 286-117, HRS).
- Ensuring compliance with federal and state data privacy and security requirements.
- Conducting staff training and public outreach to support implementation and administration of the revised voter registration process.

These additional responsibilities would be true statewide, as each county is responsible for administering licensing and identification programs. Additionally, the proposed legislation may have unintended consequences for Hawai'i's current licensing processes and require further clarification on implementation timelines and funding support from the state.

Given these significant operational considerations, we respectfully request the Legislature provide clear guidance on funding, resources and time necessary for implementation. CSD DMV urges the Legislature to consider the impact on county operations and requests a phased approach to implementation that will allow for a reasonable and adequate amount of time for the counties to research and assess implementation requirements, including the need for additional staffing, information technology and other resources, updating administrative procedures, staff training, and public outreach.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 322, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro Director Designate



Committee on JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference HB 322, HD 1 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports the intent of HB 322 that would require the Department of Human Services to automatically transmit voter

that would require the Department of Human Services to automatically transmit voter registration information to election officials for any Med-Quest applicant.

We agree with the basic premise of this bill - that it is important to expand our State's 2021 Automatic Voter Registration law, as indications are we still have many voter-eligible but unregistered people.¹

Though MedQuest is a target population in the bill, the measure also proposes permitting the Office of Elections to designate and implement automatic voter registration in other state agencies. As an alternative to this provision, we suggest amending the bill to designate the Department of Human Services and the Hawaii State Department of Health as voter registration agencies. To avoid confusion, it is a good idea to specifically name participating agencies in any amendments to existing law, instead of using the" designated by the Office of Elections" language.

Our understanding is that under the Under the Voter Registration Act (VRA) of 1993, certain state agencies are already mandated to offer voter registration services, including agencies that offer public assistance or administer food assistance and Medicaid (like our Department of Human Resources) as well as offices that provide state-funded programs engaged in services for people with disabilities (like our Department of Health).

Since 2021, we have observed that though the technology for automatic voter registration can be set in place by public officials, this must be done very carefully,

¹ In the 2022 General Election, the voting-eligible population was estimated at 1,046,736 people, yet our total turnout was only 423,443, some 40.5%. Source: <u>https://elections.hawaii.gov/election-results/,</u> <u>https://election.lab.ufl.edu</u>

attending to the applicant's needs and those of the participating State agencies and four County Clerks. In particular, this measure would have an impact on County Clerks, who maintain voter registration records. Adding only one or two key agencies would make coordination easier among the newly designated agencies, the Counties and the Office of Elections. However, we certainly do not object to adding MedQuest applicants only. But any bill should also be amended to specifically permit access to voter registration data by the State Office of Elections for Hawaii's online voter registration database.

The Department of Human Resources previously testified that they may not always retain a signature for a MedQuest applicant (e.g., if the application is completed by telephone). Since the signature is critical for voter registration purposes, we hope the Department of Human Services will revise its application form to add a signature.

We note that the HD 1 version of this bill deletes language that would have required the Department of Human Services to "automatically" transmit voter registration information for any Med-Quest applicant, which seems appropriate. Our existing Hawaii Act 26, Automatic Voter Registration law, requires the Department of Transportation to affirmatively ask an applicant whether they would like to register to vote. The applicant must choose to vote or decline before the application is complete.

The State Department of Transportation has already successfully established an automatic voter registration program in its core operation. While the Department collects relevant voting data (including citizenship status), this does not include a determination of citizenship eligibility, which we think should continue to be left to County clerks. We suggest amending this measure to make this clear, including not requiring the participating agencies to collect information about citizenship.

We support a modest appropriation to implement any expanded automatic voter registration program and defer to State and County officials, for a recommended amount.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HOUSE BILL 322, HD1, RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

FEBRUARY 13, 2025 · JHA HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus <u>supports</u> HB 322, HD1, relating to voter registration, which authorizes state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if designated by the Office of Elections; and requires eligible applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless the applicant opts out.

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. HB 322 will make registration more efficient by empowering applications at public-facing state agencies—such as for Med-Quest 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 declines (rather than being forced to affirmatively opt-in) to voter registration or preregistration.

This will change our automatic voter registration system from an "opt in" to an "opt out" model, which will guarantee that the intent of the program–to maximize democratic participation by making voter registration as "automatic" as possible–is fully effectuated, especially in light of other forward-thinking electoral programs that the state has undertaken, like mail-in voting.

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



February 12, 2025

RE: Written Testimony HB322

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Call2Recycle, Inc., the leading non-profit battery stewardship organization founded in 1994 to ensure the proper end-of-life management of batteries throughout the U.S. Since inception, Call2Recycle has successfully collected over 150 million pounds of consumer batteries throughout the US.

While Call2Recycle does not support or oppose legislative initiatives nor do we lobby, we do advocate solely based on our mission - to optimize battery collections. Drawing from our 31 years of experience and expertise in this field, we encourage the inclusion of the following best practices that will foster a successful and robust battery collection program across the State of Hawaii.

• Implement all-battery collections (i.e. primary and rechargeable); not just lithium-ion

Most consumers are unaware of the distinctions between battery chemistries, and we have found that collection rates significantly improve when they are not required to differentiate between which chemistries are accepted. When recycling becomes too complicated, consumers are less likely to act, leading to an increase in batteries ending up in inappropriate disposal locations. Simplifying the process encourages more responsible recycling behavior.

• Allow manufacturers to operate a single program

Call2Recycle has successfully operated a voluntary program supported by over 200 manufacturers of batteries and battery-powered products. This proposed bill would mandate that each of these manufacturers establish their own systems for the collection, transportation, and recycling of batteries in Hawaii. Such an approach could result in inefficiencies, confusion, and potential safety concerns.

• Include more robust safety measures

It is imperative that the collection, storage and transportation of batteries adhere to safety requirements. This must include, at a minimum, safety training of collection sites' personnel and agency awareness regarding the collection protocols, methods, and approved vendors involved in the battery collection and recycling program. Failure to ensure proper training and awareness can lead to hazardous battery management practices and such negligence may jeopardize the safety of the battery collection program.



Our mission is to collect and recycle batteries safely and responsibly. That's all we do and what we will continue to do. We strongly believe that with some modifications to the bill, robust collection of all batteries, including lithium-ion, will be enhanced thereby reducing risk in the solid waste stream.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Contrato

Carin Stuart Director, Steward Services Call2Recycle, Inc.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 11:25:57 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camron Hurt	Common Cause Hawaii	Support	In Person

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members

My name is Camron Hurt and I am the Program Director for Common Cause Hawaii. I am writing today on behalf of my organization and our members throughout the State to urge this body to vote Yes on HB322.

This measure seeks to bring full circle Hawaii's vision of a fully automatic voter registration system. We currently have an "opt-in" system, this bill would change us to an "opt-out" system in which citizens would have to make a cognitive decision to not have access to the ballot. In this society we strive to always be better and provide better. Our Democracy in tasks us to always strive to be more perfect. In the early founding of the nation the idea of people vote was not the norm, what could be more perfect than a state in the worlds "Oldest Democracy" ensuring access to the ballot for its citizens.

Challengers of this measure would say Hawaii already has very liberal voter registration laws pointing to day of registration. While this is true, Hawaii does offer same day registration, this isn't the most efficient way of addressing voter registration alone. AVR would allow for the need of same day voter registration to lessen, thus freeing up our voting center workers to direct resources in other areas our in-person facilities might require. In addition, opponents might suggest an uneasiness of the scrutiny of voter applications with this system. This logic is inconsistent with a system and nation that automatically signs young men up for Selective Service and or with credit agencies. If citizens are automatically registered to defend their nation it stands to reason they should automatically be registered for the right to access the corner stone of American Democracy. It is for these reason and more that we urge this body to vote yes. Thank you so much for your work.

Yours in Service, Camron Hurt Program Director Common Cause Hawaii



150 Hamakua Drive #341 Kailua, HI 96734

our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of HB322

Submitted to the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 2/13/2025

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and all Committee members,

On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 38,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, we write in in strong support of House Bill 322, relating to voter registration, which would establish automatic voter registration in Hawai'i.

Our democracy should work for all of us.

Switching to an opt-out, rather than opt-in automatic voter registration (AVR) system is a commonsense solution that will cut the red tape and make sure every eligible person in Hawai'i has the opportunity to make their voice heard.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

By registering eligible voters automatically when they interact with government agencies like the Department of Motor Vehicles, we can help enable more participation. Voters would still have the ability to opt-out if they don't want to be registered. This simple change, switching to opt-out instead of opt-in, will increase voter participation, reduce administrative errors, and keep our voter rolls up to date.

Other states have already proven this works. They've seen higher voter turnout, more accurate registration records, and a system that actually makes it easier for working people to have a say.

This bill is about making our democracy more inclusive and representative of the people who live here. We urge you to pass HB 322 to ensure every eligible voter in Hawai'i has an equal opportunity to make their voice heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Committee On Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: HB322 Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 2:00 PM; Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA is submitting testimony in STRONG Support of HB322, which requires the Department of Human Services to automatically transmit voter registration information for any Med-Quest applicant. It would also authorize state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if designated by the Office of Elections. Additionally, it requires eligible applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless the applicant opts out.

Recent data shows that turnout increases when voting and registering are 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 and convenient for everyone.

Despite the significant increase in voter turnout during the 2020 general election, recent trends in the past few elections indicate a concerning decline in engagement. In the 2024 primary election, voter turnout plummeted to just about 32%. This sharp drop highlights a troubling inconsistency in civic participation, suggesting that even with improvements like the all-mail voting system that proved effective in 2020, many residents still struggle to register and engage in the electoral process since then. This tells us that we need to make a continuous effort to make registration and voting procedures as accessible and convenient as possible. States like Oregon saw a large increase in voter registration when they used a similar "opt-out" system, as highlighted in the bill.

Therefore, this bill makes voting more accessible by simplifying the registration process. Automatically registering eligible applicants removes obstacles that can prevent people from voting. Automatic voter registration also reduces mistakes in our voter rolls. Under a secure data system, officials share information directly with election clerks. This process can improve accuracy and save money on printing and mailing. It also lowers the risk of sending forms to the wrong addresses or allowing duplicates.

We urge you to support the passage of HB322 to improve voter participation in our state!

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Anne Frederick Executive Director

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:32:12 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii, and on behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HB322, 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.

One of the most fundamental Rights that we have is the Right to Vote. But for many there are various road blocks, in their busy, time constrained lives, that hinder their ability to register to vote. This legislation streams lines the voter registration process which will make it easier for citizens to get involved and participate in their government and will help increase Hawaii's voter rolls.

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.

Please pass HB322.

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:45:44 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Women's Caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Make it easier for everyone to be represented by voting. Strong support

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:48:08 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:30:14 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** House Bill No. 322, which proposes automatic voter registration during the application for driver's licenses, permits, or ID cards. While the intent to increase voter turnout might seem noble, the implications of this bill could undermine the integrity of our electoral system, potentially leading to significant issues:

1. Privacy Concerns:

Automatic registration without explicit consent could infringe on individual privacy rights. Many citizens may not wish to disclose their political participation or registration status automatically, especially if they are not fully informed about how their data will be used or shared.

2. Accuracy of Voter Rolls:

The automatic system could lead to inaccuracies in voter rolls, including the registration of ineligible individuals such as non-citizens or those under legal restrictions. This risk is heightened without a robust verification process to ensure only eligible voters are registered.

3. Administrative Burden and Cost:

Implementing this system would impose additional administrative burdens on the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Office of Elections. The costs of integrating systems, training staff, and managing increased data would be significant, potentially diverting resources from other critical state services.

4. Risk of Voter Fraud:

There's an increased risk of voter fraud with automatic registration. Without the personal act of registering to vote, there's less accountability for ensuring individuals understand the implications of being on the voter roll. This could lead to scenarios where votes are cast by those who do not intend to participate or by individuals who are not aware of their registration.

5. Undermining Voter Choice:

Voting is not just a right but a choice. Automatic registration could be seen as coercive, removing the individual's right to decide whether they wish to participate in the electoral process. This could alienate voters who feel their autonomy is being compromised.

6. Potential for Legal Challenges:

The bill could face numerous legal challenges based on privacy laws, data protection, and

constitutional rights. The uncertainty and litigation that could follow would be a drain on state resources and could disrupt election processes.

7. Election Integrity:

Maintaining the integrity of elections is paramount. Automatic registration might invite skepticism from the public about the authenticity of electoral outcomes, potentially eroding trust in our democratic processes.

8. Misuse of Personal Information:

There's a risk that personal information collected for voter registration might be misused or accessed inappropriately, especially given the current climate of cyber security threats and data breaches.

Conclusion:

In light of these substantial risks, I urge you to **VOTE NO** on House Bill No. 322. The potential for compromising voter privacy, increasing costs, and risking the integrity of our electoral process is too great. We must ensure that any changes to our voter registration system are approached with caution, ensuring they are both secure and respectful of individual rights.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:34:38 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Are you kidding? I oppose this measure!

<u>HB-322-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:37:15 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In strong opposition of this bill, stop making elections easy to compromise, we need transparencyin voting

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:05:18 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Voting is a privilege. It is not a benefit just given out to anyone, there for should not be automatic. Passports, DL, SS, bank accounts, are not automatic, nor should voting registration. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:16:15 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this voter fraud bill.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:24:12 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HB322

Paul Giles

<u>HB-322-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:41:16 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB322 which automatically registers individuals for voting without their explicit consent.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:55:04 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:24:46 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What the hell is wrong with you people? You don't get to FORCE anyone to register to vote, it's an individual's choice, not the government's! This is a "panty" move by the people whose time in government is coming to an end! Can't wait to see you all go!!!

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:28:38 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB322.

Our voter rolls are bad enough without this bill.

Do not pass HB322. Vote NO.

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:36:50 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB322. If people choose to vote, then the individual will register themselves. This bill will compromise voter and election transparency. Please vote NO on HB322. Thank You

Noela von Wiegandt

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:03:12 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose bill hb322. Voting is reserved to ONLY citizens. PERIOD. Any other persons voting in any of Hawaii's election are breaking the law. The state should promote secure in-person paper ballots with valid id check. Anything less promotes cheating.

Mahalo,

Miles kishima

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:27:03 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Enoka-Shayne Bingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: The OPPOSITE needs to happen to ensure are voter registry. Our voter roster has 60k-100k deadwood voters per Scott Nago So a bill should be made to purge the previous years voter roster and every election year, the people want to participate in voting can re register. That will eliminate the 51% of inactive voters and restructure the statistics per party. OPPOSE.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:09:14 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill HB322

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:13:20 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!!!

RED FLAG FOR CORRUPTION!!! WE ALL KNOW THERE ARE MORE VOTES THAN PEOPLE AND THIS WOULD ADD TO AN UNJUST PROCESS!!!

AND Registering to vote Is a critical action step! A sense and responsibility of being a citizen! A step towards an opportunity to make a difference.

It's bad enough kids are not being taught what it means to be a citizen of the US. To take away their responsibility of a citizen is unconstitutional. Also, taking away critical thinking. They won't have a concept they have a right to vote! Generations need to know they are being responsible and act with a behavior acceptable in society, in a moral and law abiding way. Also, would take their sense of being proud to register to vote! Learning to make their own decisions and not controlled by government.

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:20:00 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it could compromise election integrity.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:54:08 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene Lamkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too much voter fraud

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:36:36 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The people are smart enough to figure out how to register to vote. This just makes the possibility of errors in the registration process. We don't want or need the government interfering in this process.

<u>HB-322-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:30:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is how illegals get to vote.

California has Motor Voter registration. When you get or renew your driver's license there, your automatically registered to vote.

Sounds nice right.

California allows illegals to get drivers licenses, which gets them a state ID, which automatically registers them to vote, which allows illegals vote in elections that they shouldn't be voting in because they are not citizens of America.

Don't let Hawaii be like California any more.

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:18:54 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erzsi Palko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To members of the House:

I urge you to consider voting NO on HB322 as it could lead to errors in voter registration, thu compromising the integrity of elections in the state of Hawai'i.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:17:17 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing HB322

Aloha Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 322 (HB322), which proposes to implement an opt-out system for voter registration at state agencies. Here are several key points of concern:

1. **Privacy Concerns**: The automatic registration of individuals unless they explicitly opt out raises significant privacy issues. People should have the right to choose whether or not they wish to engage in the electoral process without their personal data being shared across agencies.

2. **Potential for Errors**: Automatic registration increases the likelihood of errors in voter registration databases. This could lead to inaccuracies in voter rolls, including duplicated registrations, incorrect addresses, and registration of ineligible voters. Such errors can undermine the integrity of elections.

3. **Burden on State Agencies**: Implementing this system would require significant resources for training staff, ensuring data security, and managing the increased workload. This could divert funds and attention from other critical services these agencies provide.

4. **Voter Education and Consent**: The opt-out system assumes consent by default, which can bypass the educational aspect of voter registration. Many individuals might not fully understand what they are opting out of, potentially leading to uninformed decisions about their participation in the electoral process.

5. **Impact on Election Administration**: The bill could complicate election administration, especially in verifying voter eligibility and managing voter lists. The automatic transmission of data to county clerks could lead to logistical challenges, particularly if there are discrepancies in the data collected.

6. **Public Trust**: The perception that the government is automatically enrolling citizens into voting registries could erode public trust in the electoral system. Voting is a fundamental right that should be actively chosen, not assumed.

7. **Incentive for Participation**: Encouraging active participation in voter registration might be more beneficial in fostering a culture of civic engagement where individuals willingly choose to participate in their democracy.

8. **Legal and Constitutional Questions**: There may be legal challenges regarding the automatic voter registration system, particularly concerning whether it infringes on individual rights by assuming consent without explicit action.

In light of these concerns, I urge the legislature to reconsider HB322. Instead, we should focus on enhancing voter education, ensuring accessible registration processes, and maintaining the integrity and trust in our electoral system through traditional, active registration methods that respect individual choice and privacy.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Tiare Smith

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:06:39 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Kevin Kekoa Dolan-Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Thomas, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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!

Thomas Kevin Dolan, Honolulu

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:19:49 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is kimdonghyeon, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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.

In fact, some states in the U.S. have automatic voter registration. Maybe it would be good to apply this and utilize it in our own way so that citizens can enjoy it equally!

https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration

->

Automatic voter related information!

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!

kimdonghyeon

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:19:57 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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!

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:32:13 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Fallbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the voter registration bill to eliminate confusion and make the process more efficient for the voters AND Hawaii government.

Dr. Patricia Fallbeck

1341 Kapiolani Blvd

Honolulu, HI, 96814

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:41:37 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hon. Chair Tarnas, Hon. Vice Chair Poepoe, and Hon. Members of the Committee:

Please pass HB322, which expands Automatic Voter Registration by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications". This lets individuals: register to vote, update their voter information, or decline to register through a checkbox. If we simplify the voter registration process this way, we can ensure that more eligible residents can easily register to vote, and at the same time maintain the integrity of voter rolls through secure and accurate information sharing. The bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt out.

Mahalo!

Victoria B. Anderson

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:12:49 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support HB322, which will simplify the voter registration process (expand Automatic Voter Registration by integrating voter registration with state agencies, permits, programs, or services with "dual-purpose applications"), thereby 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.

Thank you

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:36:34 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is GeorgiaHoopes, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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.

To us, this is a good thing. I know people who don't vote because they don't want jury duty. Again, we believe in being a responsible person, and doing our civic duty. This bill allows for easy registration, while offering others a way to easily opt-out, if they wish, as long as they don't get surprised by jury duty, it's good.

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

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:46:08 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Shay Chan Hodges, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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 someone who was named a Catalyst for Change in 1994 for my Rock the Vote efforts, I can testify to the importance of making voter registration automatic.

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!

Chester Naka, DDS 3577-35 Pinao Street Honolulu, HI. 96822

Re: HB322 Automatic Voter Registration Improvements

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in STRONG support of HB322 which expands 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.

My experience in voting spans 60 years and I have been deeply disappointed in Hawaii's consistently poor voter turnouts. Today, I vote by mail trusting the Post Office and our system which allows me to exercise my constitutional right.

There are many who have difficulty finding the time or opportunity to register to vote. This bill will further minimize the obstacles many people face in registering. Hopefully, this will enable our voter turnouts to increase. And make me proud!

I understand this bill also respects personal choice by allowing individuals to opt-out and have safeguards to prevent the registration of non-citizens.

Please support HB322. Mahalo for your consideration!

Chester Naka

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:55:24 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Voting is a privilege, not to be used unconditionally.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:01:09 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Lum, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:05:26 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kathy Shimata and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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!

Kathy Shimata

Honolulu. 96822

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:21:19 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Noelle Lindenmann, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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 was able to register to vote via the internet when I moved, but not everyone has access to this. Also, I know of people who've registered to vote, but found that their registration wasn't valid when they went to vote. I believe this reform will better serve all eligible voters and should proceed.

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!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:24:19 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Eck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislator's,

I oppose HB322. I do not support automatic registration of individuals for voting. I am for people being coherent enough to register themselves. I believe that by automatically registering voters this potentially leads to errors in voter registration and compromising the integrity of elections. I believe this is agaist the principles we are founded on. I feel this is an attach on a fair election system.

Sincerely,

Erik Eck

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:38:01 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:42:57 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Shields	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bradley Shields and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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.

With our overall democracy in Dire Straits, we think that automatic voter registration is of critical importance. As senior citizens my wife and I are not very adept at forms, especially online forms.

Mahalo,

Bradley Shields

Jocelyn Fujii

<u>HB-322-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:06:12 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danielle Guion, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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!

Danielle Guion, Makakilo

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:20:16 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nalani Abellanida, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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!

Nalani from Lahaina

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: HB322 HD1 Relating to Voter Registration

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

I urge you to support **HB322** as a major step in improving Hawaii's very low voter turnout. In this period of political turmoil nationally, it is vital that all citizens exercise their rights to participate in our Democracy and decide the fate of Hawaii and the United States.

Over time Hawaii has made the registration and voting process as voter friendly as possible. Hawaii procedures are designed to encourage both registration and voting, including mail ballots.

Efforts to include automatic voter registration have been considered before. Since all the efforts made to date have not increased voting beyond the current low levels, it is important that this next step be taken.

Allowing automatic registration is especially important to increase participation as youth age into the voting age and begin to receive ballots as soon as they can legally vote.

Please take the logical next step and approve HB322. Every vote will be important in the future.

Mahalo,

Larry Smith

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:19:37 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joell Edwards, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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 the current chair of the Democratic Party of Kaua'i we are experiencing frustrating voter registration counts and this bill would add additional means as well as the opt out feature.

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

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:26:31 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:51:10 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB322 period

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:53:39 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Tarnas, Vice Chair Representative Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Please vote for HB 322 HD 1, which I strongly support. To my understanding, this bill would make registering to vote easier and more efficient.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 5:56:26 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

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!

Thank you very much!

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 7:52:29 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Bilbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lana, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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.

So much of our government is opaque to the average person, and I have found that voting can be the same. Figuring out how to register to vote is unnecessarily difficult, and it's only the first step in the process. Automatic voter registration is super helpful.

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! Lana B.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:37:21 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ann V Saffery and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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.

In all my years of voting, the process is EASY and EFFICIENT.

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!

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:59:17 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keala, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 11:15:30 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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.

Automatic Voter Registration measures like this one reduce the barriers to vote and reduces all the paperwork when we move. I have moved 4 times in the last 5 years and being able to update my address when I live in a new district has saved me a lot of time (and probably the state some administrative money).

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!

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 11:47:22 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I **strongly support** this bill. Too often voters turn up to vote only to find that their names are not on the rolls. This bill will ensure every eligible voter is registered unless they choose to opt out. More than ever we need to strengthen our democracy in the face of the wrecking ball that is being taken to it and ensure that the voices of the people are heard. This bill is a step in that direction. Please move HB322 forward. Your leadership can really make a diference at this critical time. Mahalo.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 11:56:32 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and JHA Committee Members:

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 322, HD 1, which significantly expands our state's automatic voter registration law (AVR) by (1) making it an "opt out" option for eligible residents when they procure identification documents and (2) authorizing state agencies to implement an AVR process.

Hawaii's vote-by-mail system is working well, though more densely populated areas could use more voter service centers prior to election day. The long lines of this past November were largely due to some individuals protesting the current vote-by-mail system, which has reduced costs while affording voters the opportunity to vote when they choose for weeks prior to election day. Unfortunately, some have also turned the proceedings of the state Elections Commission into a forum for baseless caterwauling and untoward partisan buncombe.

In 2015, Oregon and California become the first states to authorize automatic voter registration at their DMV's. As forwarded by the <u>Brennan Center for Justice</u>, "Every citizen should have a fair and equal opportunity to get, and stay, registered to vote. Citizens must take the responsibility to vote, but goovernment should do its part by clearing bureaucratic obstacles to the ballot box."

Moving from an "opt in" option to an "opt out" option is a modest yet important step in facilitating greater voter engagement, if not participation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

To: Judiciary Chair Tarnas and Committee Members From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2025, 2:00pm

In strong support of HB322

Dear Chair Tarnas 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. HB322 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. HB322 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

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:48:25 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT HB322 HD1.

Making the process as convenient as possible, for as many as possible, is essential to helping more of our people participate in our democratic processes. This bill recognizes and works to lower specific barriers to participation.

Those who wish to opt-out can simply check a box.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of HB322 HD1.

Michele Mitsumori, Hilo

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:06:50 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton. I am a resident of Makiki and I strongly support this measure to expand Hawaii's Automatic Voter Registration project.

Mahalo for your careful., steady work to strengthen democratic government in the State, and for entertaining my opinion in the matter.

<u>HB-322-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:10:31 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB322 HD1. Automatically registering eligible applicants removes obstacles that can prevent people from voting.

Please pass this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:24:14 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee members, Please defer this measure. Its intent may be commendable, but the current wording results in unintended consequences. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:25:51 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcia Kemble and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:32:11 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Sutherland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:33:04 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support HB322 HD1.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:38:55 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today from Kauai in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Please do the right thing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:39:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB322, which proposes the implementation of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) in Hawai'i. This initiative aims to transition our current voter registration system from an opt-in to an opt-out model, thereby streamlining the registration process and enhancing democratic participation across our state.

Enhancing Voter Registration Efficiency

Under HB322, eligible citizens interacting with state agencies—such as when obtaining or renewing a driver's license or applying for state-supported services—would be automatically registered to vote unless they choose to opt-out. This approach simplifies the registration process, ensuring that more eligible citizens are included in the electoral system. The Brennan Center for Justice notes that more than a quarter of eligible voters in the United States are not registered, often due to outdated registration systems.

Positive Outcomes in Other States

States that have implemented AVR have witnessed significant improvements in voter registration rates. A study by the Brennan Center found that AVR increased the average registration rates in every state where it was implemented.

Additionally, research from the University of California, Berkeley, indicates that AVR policies have led to increased voter turnout among young voters, with back-end opt-out AVR policies increasing young voter turnout by 3.9%.

Strengthening Election Integrity

AVR not only increases registration rates but also enhances the accuracy and security of voter rolls. By electronically transmitting voter information from state agencies to election officials, AVR reduces the likelihood of errors and ensures that voter information is up-to-date. This

modernization of the registration process can lead to more accurate voter lists and a more secure electoral system.

Implementing Automatic Voter Registration in Hawai'i through HB322 represents a significant step toward a more inclusive and efficient democratic process. By simplifying voter registration and ensuring that all eligible citizens have the opportunity to participate in our elections, we strengthen the foundation of our democracy. I urge you to support HB322 and help make voting more accessible for all residents of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration. Resources <u>brennancenter.org</u> <u>youngamericans.berkeley.edu</u>

Mahalo for your attention on this matter. Please enhance and protect our rights and pass this bill.

Maki Morinoue Holualoa, HI

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:41:47 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:48:50 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

TYSM for your time in considering the public's voice on this matter!

I am strongly opposed to this as it is improbable that exhaustive measures will be taken to verify the updating of necessary information before the "automatic" registering of voters without their explicit consent. This would potentially lead to errors in voter registration & compromise the integrity of elections. This is already an issue in Hawai'i with the past few election seasons showing glaring mal-practice & errors in counting & recounting (even in 2024 where Representative Elijah Pierick only one after counting 16,000 "missing" ballots found after the fact.)

In summary, I strongly oppose this bill and ask that you the representative committee members would do the same and vote against it. TYSVM!

Gratefully With Aloha,

Dawn O'Brien

President, H.O.P.E. Hawai'i, Inc.

Aloha Ambassador, *CHOOSE ALOHA* Program

#AlohaAlwaysWINS!

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:50:32 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Members of the Committee,

My name is Priscilla Stuckey, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB322, 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 been a resident of Hawai'i for 5 years, and I am so grateful that our state makes voting so easy with mail-in voting. I have never lived in a place where voting could happen so easily and smoothly. This bill will make voter registration just as easy so that every person who is eligible to vote can register quickly and without stress.

A strong and free people needs easy voting access. This bill makes registration easier. Please support HB322!

Mahalo,

Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei HI

HB-322-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:53:41 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
noriko donna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

<u>HB-322-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:56:49 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:31:20 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jonathan jay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please support ez voting for our citizens. thank you

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:48:28 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pete Doktor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I testiy in favor of HB 322. As a military veteran it upsets me that many of us enlist to protect Constitutional rights, only to find so many do not or cannot vote, due to structural challenges, e.g., most people who do not vote is because they have to work on election day.

If we could help facilitate this protected right- and kuleana, by making registration automatic, it will be one less barrier to ensure a full vote--when one day, perhaps we will have a full, genuine democracy that will truly reflect the citizenry, rather than special interests.

Mahalo for your consideration, and your contributions to fulfilling the promise of democracy.

Respectfully,

Pete Doktor

Moanalua

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 3:04:12 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lory Ono

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 3:05:04 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert I Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and support HB 322

Please approve and implement thid bill

Mahalo

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 3:13:05 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 3:58:25 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for easy voter registration

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 4:08:19 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a great idea, especially for the state of Hawaii which has the lowest voting record in the country. Thank you for introducing this bill. Please pass it!

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 4:35:14 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I'm writing in favor of this bill because I believe any policy that makes registering to vote easier is a win for all of us and our democracy. I especially like that this insures citizenship status which is a concern for many people and may provide more assurance for them. Mahalo.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 4:52:49 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB322

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 5:24:53 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Memberrs,

I strongly support HB322 for Automatic Voter Registration. Early voter registration engenders a more representtive government, as it enables more access to participation in democracy. AVR makes civic engagement and the electoral process more accessable to younger people.

Mahalo,

Greg Kahn

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:02:44 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on this bill. I would rather see paper ballots and a holiday so everyone can vote other than those few that apply to vote absentee.

That way we know who is voting and paper ballots that can be recounted if needed if the vote is close.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:06:51 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Jakubowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Sincerely,

Mark Jakubowski

808.371.4382

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:14:31 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB322.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:22:14 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avalon Paradea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Avalon Paradea and I am in full support of HB 322, which will implement automatic voter registration in cases of other registration-related activities on the part of citizens. This is a wonderful way to make sure our community is able to easily participate in democratic decision-making.

Mahalo,

Avalon Paradea

Waikōloa, Hawai'i

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:28:57 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:39:19 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 322 HD1. Please support this bill.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:06:18 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Miho Finley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Over 50 years ago, when first voting it was so easy. Our neighbor took us to the polling place on Kauai. I don't recall having to produce documents, but it must have been driver license or some such in my wallet. Ever afterward have voted...I really liked voting in person, got to say hi to neighbors not often seen in these rural areas. Yes, make voting easy. The percentage of eligible voters voting in Hawaii is a disgrace! Opt out system should help.

Mary Miho Finley

19-4817 Amaumau Rd

Volcano, HI 95785

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:52:59 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:53:40 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:58:18 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Members of the Commttee,

I support this legislation to lower the barriers to voter registration and participation.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball, Waialae-Kahala

RE: HB-322-HD-1

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Nicholas Jordan Dela Rosa-Tabilisma, I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The content of this testimony reflects solely my personal views and not those of the university. I am writing in **STRONG support** of House Bill No. 322, which would implement automatic voter registration for eligible citizens in the State of Hawaii.

Voter registration is the **number one barrier** in the United States which prevents its eligible citizens from participating in the most fundamental of democratic processes. It is our inalienable right as citizens to be allowed freely to exercise our civic duty to vote for our elected officials. I believe that the provisions outlined in HB-322 would help remove these barriers and ensure that right is upheld.

The spirit of this bill reflects the freedom of choice afforded to all American citizens, allowing them to opt out of automatic voter registration if they so desire. Admittedly, I have not always been the most eager participant in our democracy. However, my testimony and participation in the legislative process demonstrate my commitment to change, and I hope this act will reinforce the core values that define us as citizens.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Nicholas J. Dela Rosa-Tabilisma

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 10:22:54 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 10:36:01 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheri	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 5:27:58 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thus rigg system in hawaii is already corrupt and that should be fixxed. This bill will compromise the integrity of elections. I oppose HB322.

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Chun, and Committee Members,

My name is Cristina Holt, and I am a resident of Hilo, HI. I am testifying in strong support of H.B. 322 HD1, relating to voter registration.

Ensuring fair and accessible voter registration is critical to strengthening our democracy. H.B. 322 HD1 enhances Hawaii's automatic voter registration system by making voter registration a seamless process when applying for or renewing instruction permits, driver's licenses, or state identification cards. By shifting from an opt-in to an opt-out system, this bill will significantly increase voter participation and engagement across the state.

This bill is critical for the following reasons:

- Increases Voter Participation: Hawaii has historically low voter turnout. Implementing an automatic voter registration system will help address this by making voter registration an easy and integrated process.
- Enhances Accessibility and Efficiency: Streamlining voter registration at state agencies will reduce administrative burdens and ensure that eligible voters are properly registered without additional barriers.
- Safeguards Election Security: Ensuring that voter registration is updated electronically through trusted agencies minimizes the risk of errors and enhances the integrity of Hawaii's elections.
- **Supports Underrepresented Communities:** Many eligible voters, especially young and first-time voters, may not actively seek out voter registration. By automatically enrolling them when they interact with state agencies, we ensure that all voices have a chance to be heard in our elections.
- **Reduces Costs:** By automating the voter registration process, Hawaii can save taxpayer dollars by decreasing reliance on paper-based registration and reducing the need for voter registration drives.

H.B. 322 HD1 is a commonsense measure that aligns Hawaii with best practices already successfully implemented in other states. By passing this bill, we can modernize our voter registration process, increase civic engagement, and strengthen our democracy.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support H.B. 322 HD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cristina Holt

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 6:35:10 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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.

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 10:02:12 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawai'i. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

Automatic voter registration makes the process more accessible and efficient by registering eligible individuals when they interact with government agencies, unless they choose to opt out. This reduces administrative burdens, minimizes errors, and ensures that voter rolls remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawai'i's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo Mōʻiliʻili, HI 96826 Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi Executive Commission Member Board Member, Hawaiʻi Workers Center Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 10:24:29 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriela Schneider	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 322, which would implement automatic voter registration in Hawaii. This bill is an important step toward increasing civic participation and ensuring that all eligible residents have an opportunity to vote.

Hawai'i has one of the worst general election voter turnout rates in the country. Removing unnecessary barriers to voter registration could help improve that, particularly for young, working-class, and other lower participation voters, ensuring a more representative democracy.

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Additionally, automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, leading to increased voter participation and engagement. A more inclusive electoral process strengthens our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a voice in shaping our government.

HB 322 will help modernize Hawaii's voter registration system, making it easier and more convenient for residents to participate in elections. I urge you to support this measure to make our democracy more accessible and representative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gabriela Schneider, Kapa'au

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 10:48:57 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for HB322_HD1 - RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee members,

Please support this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Keith Neal

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 11:10:07 AM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB322. It is a common sense piece of legislation designed to increase voter turnout.

Jane Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI. 96816

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 4:00:31 PM Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

my name is pamela, I live on Kaua'i..

I am in strong support of HB 322!

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.

Please simplify.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Pamela Burrell', Kalihiwai, Kaua'i