

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:17:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ezra Levinson	Testifying for Vote16 Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Ezra Levinson, and I am 14 years old. At the time of this hearing, I will be on my school campus as mandated by Hawaii Revised Statutes 302A-1132, et seq. This requirement is important, as it makes sure that students are educated and prepared to be a functioning citizen of Hawaii and the US; to stay informed, be a part of the legislative process, and someday vote.

However, this same mandate is the reason I cannot be present to testify in person today. In Hawaii's current legislative system, I cannot hold my legislators accountable at all. I virtually cannot testify before them, meet with them, or lobby them effectively. I cannot vote them into or out of office. I cannot vote on proposed constitutional amendments.

This seems fair at first glance, considering that it's just 4 short years until I'll be of voting age. However, a lot will happen in those four years. At 14, I have already reached legal working age. The thousands of Hawaii employees between 14 and 17 are affected just as much as anyone else (if not more) by minimum wage, income tax, workplace conduct laws, and a countless list of other things the Hawaii legislature has control over. They are, essentially, taxed without representation.

At 16 years old, I will reach Hawaii's minimum age to obtain a provisional driver's license. I will drive on roads paid for by taxes. I will operate a vehicle on my own. I will also, by that age, have taken almost all the social studies and civics classes that will be available to me until I am a college student.

So why 16? Research shows that a 16-year-old has the same level of civic knowledge that a 21-year-old does. Data from countries - entire *countries* - that have lowered their voting age to 16 shows that 16-year-olds are old enough to make their own decisions when it comes to voting and politics. In addition, demographic trends hurt youth irreperably in elections. When older citizens so vastly outnumber those who are younger, as is the case in Hawaii, the needs and interests of the youth are far too often overlooked or forgotten.

As a student in Hawaii, I want the voting age lowered to 16 so that I can put my opinions into play and have an opportunity for my voice to matter. As a member of Vote16

Hawaii, I want the voting age lowered to 16 so that Hawaii's abysmal voter turnout can improve and youth from all backgrounds across the islands can be heard and listened to. As a citizen of the US, I want the voting age lowered to 16 so Hawaii can lead the way in an issue that is quickly becoming a hot topic all over the nation.

My name is Ezra Levinson, and I am 14 years old. With your support, in 2 years' time I'll be a voter.

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:25:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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Jan 30, 2018

LATE

TO: Honorable Chair Rhoads & JUD Committee Members

RE: SB 4 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION,
ARTICLE II, SECTION 1, TO EXPAND THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Support for hearing on Feb. 1

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 4 as we are concerned about the welfare of the young people. Much of our state budget goes to education. Yet the people who were most impacted by this budget do not have the right to vote. While we understand that not all young people should have the right to vote, by the age of 16, they often have intelligent opinions on public issues. We also hope that by giving them the right to vote that they might increase their interest in and knowledge of public affairs.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President



SB-4

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 3:17:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Mendelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supt. Kishimoto recently shared with the DOE, "During the 2018 general election, voter turnout in Hawaii continued to decline to 53 percent — tied for an all-time low." By lowering the age, high school students could participate in voting before they graduate. This opportunity would help increase interest and build an active voting population at a young age. High school students should be allowed to weigh in on policies and choose representatives who align with their values. This right, extended to young voters, would encourage voters to participate and continue to be civically engaged in later years. It would be so exciting to take an entire class of high school seniors to the polls. A new level of engagement and excitement around elections would form. Let the youth vote!

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:02:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Poulos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

January 30, 2019

Dear Senators,

I strongly oppose SB 4 which proposes a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to 16 in the State of Hawaii.

Very few 16 year olds are mature enough, nor have enough life experience or knowledge to make appropriate decisions on such important State issues that voting would allow. Some may argue that most 18 year olds do not have that wisdom either, and this may be true, but most have at least completed their basic education and deserve the right to vote as they are adults and must live with the consequences in their adult lives. Also, why increase the amount of ignorant voters. The small minority of 16 year olds who are capable of making great voting decisions, and are desirous of participating in elections now will be all the more excited and ready to vote in two years. Even my 21 year old daughter says this is such a faulty bill. According to her, "16 year olds just group think what their peers think or what they see on social media" and we know how wise and accurate social media is. At least she has wisdom!

If senators believe 16 year olds are capable of making such important decisions, I would like to challenge them to allow a 16 year old to make their personal financial decisions, their child rearing decisions, their retirement decisions, law enforcement decisions, education decisions, ... I would not have given my 16 year olds that much authority. If you senators would not do it for your personal lives, you should not do it for our State.

Going forward with this bill will also be an extreme waste of time and precious resources that could be well spent elsewhere.

Please vote "No" on SB 4.

Mahalo

Lisa Poulos

January 31, 2019

To: Senator Karl Rhoads and Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: SB 4

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO AMEND THE QUALIFYING AGE OF VOTERS FOR ANY STATE OR LOCAL ELECTION.

Proposes a constitutional amendment to lower the qualifying age of voters for any state or local election to sixteen years of age.

Support for hearing on Feb. 1

Dear Senators:

I support SB4 to lower the voting age to 16. As the parent of a 16 year-old, I have had the pleasure of watching passionate and articulate young people advocate for social justice, the environment, and last year they “Marched for their Lives” to stop gun violence at our nation’s schools. The young people of Hawaii are truly an inspiration! They are smarter and more informed about current events than we were at their age. They rightly deserve the civil right to vote.

Some of the objections surprise me.

They will only vote like their parents. This is the same excuse used 100 years ago to deny women the vote because they will only vote like their husbands. For 40 years, we have had a gender gap in voting and perhaps there might be a youth gap in our future?

Young people don’t vote. This is generation Z, they are not like older millennials. GenZs were born digital natives and they have a common purpose to fight and save their planet. GenZs were responsible for the historic large turnout in last November’s midterm elections. I remember in the 1960s and 1970s, when Hawaii had one of the highest voter turnouts in the country. If you give 16 year-olds the right to vote, they can lead their parents and grandparents back to the polls.

For the election in 1960, Hawaii had a 93.1% voter turnout. – Kennedy/Nixon

In 1964 Hawaii had a 90% voter turnout. – Johnson/Goldwater

In 1976 Hawaii had a 85% voter turnout. – Carter/Ford

They don’t know civics. 16 year-olds are capable of exercising their right to vote. Classes in “U.S. History and Government” and “Participation in Democracy” are requirements for a High School diploma in Hawaii.

They’re not mentally mature enough to vote. A leading world expert on adolescence psychology, Dr. Laurence Steinberg, says there is scientific evidence that 16 year-olds have the “cold cognitive” abilities to make informed decisions. “Cold cognition” are skills used in test

taking, the ability to gather and process information and reason logically, the skills you need to vote are firmly in place by age 16. Dr. Steinberg is a Psychology Professor at Temple University and the author of 17 books. Dr. Steinberg wrote an Opinion piece in the New York Times last year, following the massacre at Parkland. He called for lowering the voting age to 16. I have Dr. Steinberg's permission to include his New York Times Opinion piece in my testimony. (see attached).

Mālama pono,

Gloria C. Borland
3037 Kahaloa Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Parent Volunteer
VOTE 16 Hawaii

www.Vote16Hi.com

The New York Times

GRAY MATTER

Why We Should Lower the Voting Age to 16

By Laurence Steinberg

March 2, 2018

The young people who have come forward to call for gun control in the wake of the mass shooting at their high school in Parkland, Fla., are challenging the tiresome stereotype of American kids as indolent narcissists whose brains have been addled by smartphones. They offer an inspiring example of thoughtful, eloquent protest.

Unfortunately, when it comes to electing lawmakers whose decisions about gun control and other issues affect their lives, these high schoolers lack any real power. This needs to change: The federal voting age in the United States should be lowered from 18 to 16.

Skeptics will no doubt raise questions about the competence of 16-year-olds to make informed choices in the voting booth. Aren't young people notoriously impulsive and hotheaded, their brains not fully developed enough to make good judgments?

Yes and no. When considering the intellectual capacity of teenagers, it is important to distinguish between what psychologists call "cold" and "hot" cognition.

Cold cognitive abilities are those we use when we are in a calm situation, when we are by ourselves and have time to deliberate and when the most important skill is the ability to reason logically with facts. Voting is a good example of this sort of situation.

Studies of cold cognition have shown that the skills necessary to make informed decisions are firmly in place by 16. By that age, adolescents can gather and process information, weigh pros and cons, reason logically with facts and take time before making a decision. Teenagers may sometimes make bad choices, but statistically speaking, they do not make them any more often than adults do.

Hot cognitive abilities are those we rely on to make good decisions when we are emotionally aroused, in groups or in a hurry. If you are making a decision when angry or exhausted, the most critical skill is self-regulation, which enables you to control your emotions, withstand pressure from others, resist temptation and check your impulses. Unlike cold cognitive abilities, self-regulation does not mature until about age 22, research has shown. (This is a good reason to raise the minimum age for purchasing firearms from 18 to 21 or older, as some have proposed.)

This psychological evidence is backed up by neuroscientific findings. Neuroimaging studies show that brain systems necessary for cold cognition are mature by mid-adolescence, whereas those that govern self-regulation are not fully developed until a person's early 20s.

If the voting age were lowered, would that necessitate changing other laws to bring them into alignment? Of course not. We use a wide variety of chronological ages to draw lines between minors and adults when it comes to smoking, driving, viewing violent or sexually explicit movies, being eligible for the death penalty and drinking alcohol. Although the specific ages used for these purposes often lack a good rationale, there is no reason lowering the voting age would require lowering, say, the drinking age, any more than allowing people to drive at 16 should permit them to drink or smoke at that age as well.

In addition to the scientific case for lowering the voting age, there is also a civic argument. Consider the dozen or so countries like Argentina, Austria, Brazil and Nicaragua that allow people to vote at 16 in national, state or local elections. In such countries, voter turnout among 16- and 17-year-olds is significantly higher than it is among older young adults.

This is true in parts of the United States as well. In Takoma Park, Md., a city that permits 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections, that age group is twice as likely to vote than are 18-year-olds.

Why is higher turnout among 16- and 17-year-olds so important? Because there is evidence that people who don't vote the first time they are eligible are less likely to vote regularly in the future. Considering that people between 18 and 24 have the lowest voter turnout of any age group in the United States (a country that has one of the lowest rates of voter turnout in the developed world), allowing people to begin voting at an age at which they are more likely to vote might increase future turnout at all ages.

The last time the United States lowered the federal voting age was in 1971, when it went from 21 to 18. In that instance, the main motivating force was outrage over the fact that 18-year-olds could be sent to fight in Vietnam but could not vote.

The proposal to lower the voting age to 16 is motivated by today's outrage that those most vulnerable to school shootings have no say in how such atrocities are best prevented. Let's give those young people more than just their voices to make a change.

Laurence Steinberg (@ldsteinberg) is a professor of psychology at Temple University and the author, most recently, of "Age of Opportunity: Lessons From the New Science of Adolescence."

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:45:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Imiloa Borland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because 16 year olds are responsible and are capable of making good choices. If we can work, pay taxes, and drive, then we surely have the ability to vote smart.



JOSH FROST

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Friday, February 1, 2019

Senate Bill 4
Testimony in Support



Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My Name is Josh Frost and I am offering testimony in **support of SB4 Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution to Amend the Qualifying Age of Voters for Any State or Local Election.**

I appreciate Senators Chang and Rhoads for introducing this measure.

When I came across this bill, I was honestly torn over whether or not to support it or not. In the age of social media, I did what so many do, I took to Facebook, asking friends and other politically engaged folks their opinions. As you might imagine, there ensued a lively debate.

The most common and perhaps the only concern I heard about this idea is simply that a 16 year-old is too young, too immature, or too naive to be given such a responsibility as voting. Maybe, but one could, sadly, say the same about far too many adults of voting age. While at the same time, I have met impressive, smart, savvy, and engaged youth who I would argue certainly should be allowed to vote.

Beyond this obvious concern, the reasons why allowing 16 year-olds to vote are numerous.

In Hawaii, the age of consent is 16. If you're old enough to consent to a sexual relationship should you not also be able to cast a ballot?

And our work force certainly includes a considerable number of 16 year-old. As potential subjects to the income tax, should they not be allowed to have a say in electing those officials who write the tax code?

And, at least for me, perhaps the strongest argument in support is this; the one or two generations before have ravaged the environment while simultaneously ignoring warnings about the impact. This generation of teenagers will be saddled with the environmental consequences of decision made by voters and elected officials. Given

what's coming, young people should certainly have a say in electing those who are now working (or not) to address and mitigate these consequences.

This generation of 16 year-olds perhaps have more reason to engage in the political process, including voting, than any teenage generation before them.

In the end, this is an issue worthy of a public debate, one that would certainly be spurred should the Legislature approve this measure.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to pass this bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Frost". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Frost".

Josh Frost

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:29:50 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rev. T. J. FitzGerald	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

The proposed change to the voting age in Hawai'i would allow more of the very persons impacted by a wide range of decisions considered by Hawai'i voters to have a voice in the decision process. In a time when only roughly 40% of Hawai'i residents vote at all, the voices of a group who actually wants to show up and vote should be heeded, and well.

Already in place throughout Hawai'i is a way for people at the ages of 16 and 17 to pre-register to vote so that they may vote automatically at the current voting age. Therefore, there are not significant burdens or obstacles to implementation, or should not be.

At issue might be a question of competence. But I can solemnly and truthfully attest to the vastly more nuanced ways young people see many of the issues facing these islands. Indeed it is from the remarkable young persons that I learn of many of the ways decisions on these islands are impacting them and all of us. They are by and large well informed and well positioned to understand the issues facing us all. Additionally, Hawai'i already offers deference to a wide range of deeply and powerfully important life decisions to those who have reached the age of 16. So in light of the involvement of our young people, the impact of decisions upon them, and current state of the law, there seems to be no question about competence either.

Therefore, there being no tangible impediment to implementation and no persuasive argument against competence, the measure should be moved on to a vote.

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 1:36:05 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucy Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Lucy Lee and I am 17 years old, and a senior at Kamehameha Schools, Kapā• lama Campus. I am a resident and future voter in Senate District 4.

I am writing in support of SB 4, which would lower the voting age to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in local and state elections.

2 summers ago, I worked my first job at Punahou Schools. The following tax season, I was required to file taxes separate from my parents, and both state and federal taxes were removed from my paycheck. As a 16 year- old, I was held responsible to file my own taxes. But, I was unable to vote on any measures that would possibly affect the taxation of my paycheck.

At the age of 16, teenagers are allowed to get their licenses. When they get traffic violations or tickets, they are responsible to pay the fees and go to court. Because of this, I believe they should also have the ability to vote on the laws and measures that would affect the roads.

In addition to this, once you are registered to vote, you are more likely to do so. By allowing youth to register to vote at 16, they will be registered and may form good voting habits at 16. They will also be registered to vote before they go to college, allowing individuals to vote absentee once in college.

In conclusion, at 16, most teenagers are functioning members of society that have established opinions and voices. They are capable of making choices and should be able to vote to do so.

Mahalo nui loa for your support and consideration,

Lucy Lee

99-029 A Kauhale Street

Aiea HI 96701

LATE

Aloha Pumehana Kākou,

My name is Doulton-Lee Ho and I am an 18-year-old student at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Campus. Though I was not eligible to vote in the previous election, I look forward to be an active member of the voting bloc in the Makakilo district.

I am writing in opposition of SB 4 / HB 1280, which would lower the voting age in order to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in local and state elections. Though the position may be surprising from a student's perspective, I believe the position is for good reason.

It is nothing less than a shame that Hawai'i has the lowest voter turnout in the nation, but the solution to this problem is much more complex than simply introducing new voters. The lack of turnout in Hawai'i is a fundamental issue in the minds of Hawai'i citizens. We ought to be asking the question: "Why don't our citizens want to vote?" Simply allowing more people to vote is a cheap workaround to the greater problem that Hawai'i citizens *are not motivated* to vote. Growing habits of voting in youth and adults is not a matter of eligibility but of philosophy and mindset. These simple facts are validated when we consider that it is easier than ever to vote in Hawai'i, much easier than most other states for that matter, yet we still are ranked last in turnout. A comprehensive solution that actually addresses the core issue, perhaps concerning the date of our primary election in the presidential cycle or the lack of genuine change in our political system that is perceived by so many, is surely a more suitable, effective, and honorable path to pursue than to fool ourselves with progress.

Another question we ought to be considering is when adulthood and its responsibilities begin. There's actually not much that 16 or 17-year-olds can do: they can't drink alcohol, the vast majority don't pay taxes, they can't join the military, etc. Our country and state has repeatedly affirmed that the proper age for many of these is 18, not for arbitrary reasons but because it marks the beginning of independence for so many students: the end of high school, a shift from parents' protection, and a step into the real world. Voting is another right of passage that comes with adulthood, and most students recognize it as such. One poll found that a whopping 79% of students are in favor of keeping the voting age at 18.

I wanted nothing more than to vote in the previous election, to express my opinion on the state of affairs, but that does not mean that appeasing desires makes for good public policy. I truly admire the effort to garner the youth into politics, but this method of doing so is not only ineffective in reaching its purported goals but detrimental to the framework of adulthood and the legitimacy of voting seen in a state that needs those principles desperately. We should find ways to engage the youth because we truly are the future, but this proposal is one that I and many of my fellow students cannot support, so we respectfully oppose SB 4 / HB 1280.

Mahalo nui loa for your support and consideration,

Doulton-Lee Ho
92-914 Welo St. Unit #77
Kapolei, HI 96707

LATE

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 3:55:18 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a 16 year old high schooler I strogly support SB4. Many other youth who are my age or of similar age have expressed concerns and anger at not being allowed to vote, and many people younger than 18 are excited at the prospect of voting. I believe that passing this bill will reverse the downhill voting trend that we have seen in Hawaii. Please pass SB4. Mahalo

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:51:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alaura Estrella	Testifying for Kamehameha Schools Maui	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Alaura Estrella and I am a 15 year-old in 9th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I am a resident and future voter in S Distric 5.

I am writing in support of SB 4/HB 1280, which would lower the voting age to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in local and state elections.

I believe that many 16 and 17 year-olds are already taking on many major responsibilities. Some people have to start working jobs early to help support their families. And some teens of this age are already starting to drive.

I also believe that anyone, no matter their age, has access to the same tools to research political information to make an informed decision. And there are many great resources from various news articles, school courses and the internet that should allow them to make a sound thoughtful decision.

It is very important that we lower the age of voting for people like me who will soon take on responsibilities and will have many strong views about our community, but have no real way to exercise their voice. I want to vote because I feel that I should have a choice in deciding the people that we call leaders.

Mahalo nui loa for your support and consideration,

Alaura Estrella,

60 Kapi Lane

Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE

SB-4

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:58:02 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Connor Kalahiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Connor Kalahiki, and I am a 18 year-old Senior at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama campus. I am a resident and future voter in District 24.

I am writing in support of SB 4, which would lower the voting age to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in local and state elections.

This past election cycle, I lead a voter drive on my campus in order to raise awareness on political issues and civic engagement. With this voter drive, no political views were shared, its purpose was purely to encourage students to become more politically aware and civically engaged. With the drive, we were able to register or pre-register to vote at least 60 students. At the conclusion of the drive, we took a group of eight 18-year old students to Honolulu Hale to vote on November 6th. While these results are indicative of a hopeful future in which more young people are interested in politics, it also reveals how limiting the current laws on voting age are. If the voting age for local elections were decreased to 16 and 17, then the process of encouraging youth civic participation would begin earlier in one's high school career, and more young people would register to vote. As a senior who was not 18 during the 2018 elections, I feel that my voice was suppressed because despite my interest in the betterment of my local community, I was unable to vote. Especially because I work and pay state and federal taxes, I feel that I deserve the right to have some say in how that money should be allocated. This sentiment is shared by many 16 and 17 year-olds as well because many kids start working at these ages.

If this amendment were to pass, it would inspire schools to push their students to become politically active. Currently, the 18-29 age group have the lowest reported voter

turnout. This problem is in large part due to the lack of civic engagement education in schools. With this amendment, schools would then be able to incorporate this type of education into the curriculum. This will then ripple out into a higher voter turnout for young voters.

It is imperative that we increase the civic engagement of young people such as me so as to raise the LĀ• hui. We are to be the future leaders of the community. The earlier we begin to participate actively in it, the better the community will be.

Mahalo nui loa for you support and consideration,

Connor Kalahiki, 45-708 Kamehameha HWY, KĀ• ne'ōhe, HI 96744

LATE

Aloha,

‘O wau o Kiare Cabanting. Ke hele nei wau i ke kula ki‘eki‘e o Kamehameha ma Maui a me hele wau ma ka papa ‘umikūmālua. Noho au ma ka H District 12 ma Makawao.

My name is Kiare Cabanting and I am 17 years old. I am a senior at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I am a resident and future voter in H District 12.

I am writing in support of SB 4/HB 1280 which would lower the voting age to allow 16 and 17-year olds to vote in local and state elections.

Hawai‘i has had a long history of losing their voice in the vast sea. Physiologically this has effective the identity of native Hawaiian youth. Starting to be civically engaged in local politics can assist youth to find their voice and identity.

This year I took a global studies class and had the opportunity to learn so much not only about national politics but how it compares to the rest of the world. In European countries students are taught to be politically aware and civically engaged increasing their ability to knowledgeablely vote. Allowing Hawai‘i youth to vote at the age of 16 can spark the fire early to use their democratic right of voting in turn increasing the range of young adults voting.

Lastly Hawai‘i youth should vote because the decisions made by representatives, senators, mayors, etc; will affect them and their futures. The systemic shambles that Hawai‘is government and representation is in can only be solved with new mind sets, not the same ones that created the mess. The direction that Hawai‘is is heading is opening doors for mainland families to move in and pushing local families out.

So whether it be the primary or general it is important that the age of Hawai‘i voters is lowered to help the state and its people as a whole. I want to vote to find my voice, my identity and help my people.

Mahalo ‘ia ‘oe no kou kokua a me ho‘ā‘o,

Kiare Cabanting
759 Onipa‘a Pl
Makawao HI 96768

LATE

SB-4

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 6:02:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Dierking	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

16 years is too young, they are still in high school. I doubt they will keep up with current events and be able to make a wise and important decision in voting like most people.