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OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 97
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 1, 2019

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 97. This bill requires the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Joining ERIC would help us to maintain the accuracy of the voter registration rolls by allowing us to compare our voter registration file and driver license/identification card file with other member states. This will permit our election officials to determine if voters have moved to other jurisdictions, as they register to vote or obtain a driver license in another jurisdiction.

In order to join ERIC, jurisdictions are required to provide the voter registration file and the complete driver license/identification card file. ERIC membership also requires all driver license/identification card holders who are eligible to register to vote, but are not currently registered, to be sent a mailer encouraging them to register.

Currently, we do not have the necessary access or rights to the driver license/identification card file. As such, we would propose that the bill be amended to provide that the contents of the driver license/identification file associated with membership with ERIC and compliance with federal and state election laws be made available to election officials and authorized to be released to ERIC and similar nonprofit organizations. As such, the following language is submitted for your consideration.

SECTION _____. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§11-A Driver's license and civil identification card databases. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, databases maintained or operated by the counties or the state department of transportation containing driver's license and civil identification card information, including any documents or images, shall be electronically accessible by election officials and the statewide voter registration system, to allow for the timely processing of voter registration applications, facilitate verification of information provided by online voter registration applicants under section 11-15.3, ensure the integrity of the voter registration rolls, disclosure associated with membership in non-profit organizations for an election purpose, or for any other election purpose."

SECTION _____. Section 286-311, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) [All] Except for purposes of sections 11-A, information and records acquired by the examiner of drivers under this part shall be confidential. All information and records shall be maintained in an appropriate form and in an appropriate office in the custody and under the control of the examiner. The information shall be available only to authorized individuals under such restrictions as the director shall prescribe. The examiner may dispose of any application or identification card, or information or record relating to the application or identification card, which does not include a social security number, without regard to chapter 94, whenever, in the examiner's discretion, retention of the information or record is no longer required or practicable."

SECTION _____. In codifying the new section added by section ____ of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute an appropriate section number for the letter used in designating the new section in this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 97.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
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LATE

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February 1, 2019

**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 97
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill No. 97. This Bill would require the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center and share information with the counties to encourage voter participation and ensure integrity of voter registration rolls.

Our Office has no position on the Bill at this time but notes that the security of voter data is an on-going concern. We hope that the security measures utilized by the Electronic Registration Information Center are sufficient to protect the personally identifiable information of Hawai'i's voters, especially given the on-going efforts to influence our elections and breach election systems.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 97.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

FRIDAY, February 1, 2019, 9:00 A.M., Room 016
SB 97 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 97 which requires the Office of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) and share information with counties to encourage voter participation and ensure integrity of voter registration rolls.

Joining ERIC would permit Hawaii voting officials to have the benefit of cross-checking voting list information from voter registration, motor vehicle lists, and US Post Office changes-of-address records from twenty states and the District of Columbia.

ERIC may help to resolve unintentional errors in a voter's Hawaii registration while preventing voter registration in more than one State. This is important for Hawaii, since we regularly have many people moving into and out of the State. We know registration officials are diligent in trying to maintain the integrity of our registration rolls; this modest investment with ERIC would be helpful.

According to a 2016 report from the federal Government Accounting Office,¹ a state's participation in ERIC leads to more accurate voter registration lists and cost savings for state and local election offices. State officials noted that ERIC data improve the accuracy of voter registration lists by identifying registrants whom elections administrators should remove for various reasons. For example, local officials in Oregon noted that ERIC lists identified over 900 registrants who died in another state, enabling election officials to remove most these registrants from Oregon's registration list.

¹ United States Government Accountability Office, "Elections; Issues Related to Registering Voters and Administering Elections," June 2016, p. 31



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This same report found that improved accuracy of registration lists translates into cost savings from decreased mailing costs as well as decreased staff time to maintain the voter registration lists. “Vote-by-mail” states, such as Colorado and Oregon, have a heightened interest in maintaining clean voter registration lists because of the costs associated with mailing a ballot to an incorrect address.²

In a study by The Pew Charitable Trusts, of King County, Washington, which conducts elections entirely by mail, there was a drop in undeliverable ballots from 17,911 in the 2013 primary to 11,174 in the 2014 primary, which county election officials attributed to Washington’s participation in ERIC.³

States without all vote-by-mail elections cited similar benefits. In Delaware, officials reported receiving about three bins of returned postcards instead of eight bins from the state’s bi-annual mailing to verify voters’ addresses, resulting in less money wasted on printing and postage for mailings that do not reach the intended recipient. And according to a Pew Charitable Trusts report, the director of elections in Minnesota cited approximately \$116,250 in savings to counties since the state joined ERIC in August 2014.⁴

The goal is to get voters registered accurately and \$25,000 for Hawaii to join ERIC strikes us as reasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

² Officials in Oregon specifically cited the identification of deceased registrants from ERIC as particularly helpful.

³ The Pew Charitable Trusts, ERIC Reduces Undeliverable Ballots in King County, Washington, October 16, 2014.

⁴ The Pew Charitable Trusts, ERIC Promotes Long-Term Cost Savings in Minnesota, March 24, 2015.

SB-97

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:26:29 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: