

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

SCOTT T. NAGO CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER 802 LEHUA AVENUE PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782 elections.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY OF THE

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

ON SENATE BILL NO. 2005

RELATING TO VOTING

February 26, 2020

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2005. This bill requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote, unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote; and authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system.

This bill will increase the opportunities for members of our community to register to vote, as it requires the applicant to directly address the question of whether they want to register to vote or to opt out as part of the driver license and identification card application process.

Additionally, this bill ensures the accuracy of the voter registration rolls by electronically transmitting voter registration data between the driver license and identification card database and the statewide voter registration system. The electronic sharing of data between driver licensing officials and election officials will help to ensure timely compliance with the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act. 52 USC §21083(a)(5)(B) & 52 USC §20504.

Testimony on SB 2005 – Relating to Voting February 26, 2020 Page 2

Finally, as we transition to elections by mail, we would propose the bill be amended to remove the references to requesting a permanent absentee ballot as all voters will automatically be sent a ballot to their mailing address associated with their voter registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2005.





TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY

Deputy Directors LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN DEREK J. CHOW ROSS M. HIGASHI EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

869 PUNCHBOWL STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 26, 2020 1:10 P.M. State Capitol, Room 211

S. B. 2005 RELATING TO VOTING

Senate Committee(s) on Ways and Means and Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 2005 but only with the following amendments.

Pursuant to Section 286-172, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Director of Transportation has the authority to determine the distribution of the personal information contained in the driver license and civil identification statewide traffic records system. The Federal Drivers Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. §2721, prohibits the release and use of data to any government agency except when used to carry out its function. Similarly, Section 92F-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, limits the disclosure of government records to any other agency unless it is necessary for the performance of the requesting agency's duties and functions. Therefore, we do not support giving the chief election officer unlimited access to the driver license and State ID database as proposed in SECTION 1 (d) of the bill. The bill allows the chief election officer to make the determination on what data is pertinent for election purposes. This could be a source of unintended misuse of the data without prudent checks and balances. More importantly, this will result in a direct conflict with Federal and existing State laws.

SECTION 1, new section 11- (d), which begins on page 3, line 10 should be amended to limit access of the driver's license or identification card information for registration purposes since this new section is proposed to specifically address and increase voter registration, DOT strongly recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

§11- Automatic registration.

(d) Databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information, including any documents or images, shall be directly accessible and provided electronically to election officials and the statewide voter registration system to allow for the timely processing of voter applications, ensure the integrity of the voter registration polls, and for any other

voter registration[-or election purposes], as determined by the chief election officer and with the approval of the director of transportation."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





SB2005 RELATING TO VOTING

Ke Kōmike 'Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho'okolokolo Ke Kōmike 'Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki'ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai

Pepeluali 26, 2020 1:10 p.m. Lumi 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) <u>SUPPORTS</u> SB2005, which would require that any person who is eligible to vote and who applies for a new or renewed motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewed, or duplicate identification card, be automatically registered to vote, unless the applicant affirmatively declines to do so. It also authorizes the electronic transmission of databases from the counties and the Department of Transportation to election officials, to facilitate the entry of newly registered voters into the statewide voter registration system.

This bill will increase the ease with which voter registration can be accomplished, and thereby ensure that greater numbers of Hawai'i citizens have the opportunity to vote at a later time. By making voter registration a default part of obtaining or renewing a driver's license or state identification card, and requiring no additional action on the part of citizens, this measure would drastically facilitate greater civic participation at the polls. Notably, this measure would not force any citizen to register to vote if they truly do not wish to participate in the process, and provides an opt out provision for individuals who do not want to become a registered voter.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to <u>PASS</u> SB2005. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JON HENRICKS

County Clerk



AARON BROWN
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elections Division

County of Hawaiʻi Hawaiʻi County Building 25 Aupuni Street Hilo, Hawaiʻi 96720



TESTIMONY OF JON HENRICKS

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

ON SENATE BILL NO. 2005

RELATING TO VOTING

February 26, 2020

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2005. This bill requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote; and authorizes access to electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registrations system.

This bill would maximize registration of eligible voters, would provide a convenient way to register, and an opportunity to decline. The bill also ensures that all applicants will meet the qualifications to register to vote.

Also, as we transition to Elections by Mail, this bill would keep the accuracy of voter registration records current and updated as every registered voter will now receive a ballot by mail.

Lastly, we ask that permanent absentee ballot be removed from the bill given that all registered voters will now receive a ballot by mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2005.



Testimony to the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and on Judiciary Senators Donovan Dela Cruz and Karl Rhoads, Chairs Senators Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 1:10 p.m., Conference Room 211 SB 2005 Relating to Voting

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the WAM and JDC Committees:

On behalf of the Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like express support of SB 2005, Relating to Voting.

Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits. Our mission is to unite and strengthen the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai`i. Our member organizations provide essential services to every community in the state.

HANO supports a civically engaged populace and believes all citizens should participate in the democratic process of voting to have a say in community matters.

SB 2005 requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. Hawaii's voting record has been the lowest in the country for the last 20 years. Automatic voter registration (AVR) will help improve access to voting.

AVR will help modernize the election system and make it more accurate and secure. AVR is cost-effective, estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

AVR will help vote-by-mail implementation, which is how Hawaii will be conducting elections statewide starting 2020. AVR will ensure that Hawaii's voter rolls are accurate and up to date.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Lisa Maruyama
President and CEO



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2005

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary; Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Nikos Leverenz, Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: February 26, 2020 (1:10 PM)

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Judiciary Committee: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Ways & Means Committee:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) <u>strongly supports</u> SB 2005, which provides for automatic voter registration (AVR) for anyone eligible to vote who applies for a new, renewal, or duplicate driver's license or state identification, with an opt-out provision. This measure also expressly authorizes access to relevant databases by to office of elections.

HHHRC supports measures that facilitate increased voter registration and participation. HHHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Making voter registration automatic, particularly when combined with an all-mail election, would give many currently not inclined to participate in the electoral process a tangible opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

As noted by the Brennan Center for Justice (BCJ), automatic voter registration reforms that have an optout provision where agencies transfer voter registration information electronically to elections officials "increase registration rates, clean up the voter rolls, and save states money." BCJ also notes that 16 states and D.C. have approved the policy, with over a third of all Americans living in a jurisdiction that features AVR of some kind.

This is an important measure that will foreseeably expand registration and voter participation. It builds upon reforms, including vote-by-mail, enacted by the Hawai'i Legislature and signed into law in recent years. Ideally, Hawai'i would be among those seven states where voter information is provided to elections officials by other social service agencies. New York's state Senate recently passed a measure that would create an AVR system that includes its DMV and its Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 5:20:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Tomchak	Testifying for League of Woman Voters	Support	No

Comments:

In this electronic age, voting should be made efficient and accessible. Young people are more comfortable voting online and older people need options when their mobility is compromised. It is very important that we give all that are eligible an opportunity to vote.

L.Tomchak, retired college instructor, UH



Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice In Support of SB 2005 – Relating to Voting Senate Committees on Ways and Means and on Judiciary Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 1:10 PM, in conference room 211

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 2005**, which would automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they apply for or renew their motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, instruction permit, or identification card, unless they choose to opt out.

According to the United States Election Project, fewer than 4 in 10 of Hawai'i's voting-eligible population voted in the 2018 general election, yet again placing us last in the nation.¹

The logistical barriers to registering to vote are especially high for our low-income neighbors, since they are less likely to have the time or flexibility in their schedules to register in person or via mail or to have internet access to register online.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) would help overcome those barriers. The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters. Implementing AVR would:

- Save the state of Hawai'i a lot of money. It costs almost 30 times more to process a paper application versus an electronic one. For the 2016 election, the labor costs to process paper forms totaled over half a million dollars.
- Make elections more secure and accurate with frequent updates to the voter rolls.
- Make voting more convenient for seniors, voters in rural areas, and working and military families who move frequently.

We need to act to get more than 4 in 10 of our eligible voters to vote in our elections. Hawai'i should join the 16 other states and the District of Columbia that have already approved AVR.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

¹ http://www.electproject.org/2018g





Holding Power Accountable

Statement Before The SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND SENAE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:10 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of SB 2005 RELATING TO VOTING.

Chairs DELA CRUZ and RHOADS, Vice Chairs KEITH-AGARAN and KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees

Common Cause Hawaii is testifying in support of SB 2005, which would provide that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. SB 2005 would also authorize the electronic transmission of information and databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system. SB 2005 is known as Automatic Voter Registration ("AVR").

Common Cause Hawaii supports AVR as a much-needed voter modernization tool for Hawaii. AVR will benefit Hawaii in several ways. One, AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections. This does not mean that a U.S. citizen will be "automatically" registered to vote by simply enacting AVR. It will still be necessary for a U.S. citizen to interact with a government official through the DMV—and not decline voter registration—to be registered to vote.

Two, AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to possibly save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

Three, AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive society in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal #16. AVR is a vital step to making sure that all Hawaii US citizens have an equal voice in the political process by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2005. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours, Sandy Ma Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii





















Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Time: 1:10 pm

Place: State Capitol Conference Room 211

Testimony in support of SB 2005, Relating to Voting

Aloha, we are testifying on behalf of the AVR Hawaii Coalition in support of SB 2005, which provides for the voter registration of any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification unless they decline to be registered to vote. This bill also authorizes access to and electronic transmission of databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation to election officials.

While mail-in voting will certainly enable registered voters to more conveniently exercise their right to vote, it won't increase voter registration. Hawaii's voter rolls still need to be updated and accurate for voting by mail to function properly, improving our voter participation rates.

- SB 2005 will give voters the opportunity to register to vote or update their address at the same time they complete their driver license application or application for a state identification card. They will also have the opportunity to decline to register to vote. For any applicant who does not decline, the driver licensing office then transmits application information securely and electronically to election officials. Please be assured that no U.S. citizen is "automatically" registered to vote simply by the passing of this legislation. It will be necessary for the U.S. citizen to interact with a government official to be registered to vote or to update their address.
- Any person who does not want to register to vote or to update their address simply ticks a checkbox on the application to decline. No information will be transmitted for any person who ticks the decline checkbox. "Automatic" simply refers to the transfer of information and data between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections for those who want to vote.

If voting is the cornerstone of Democracy, voter registration is its bedrock. 'A 'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia – no task is too big when done together by all. Please support SB 2005.

The AVR Hawaii Coalition is comprised of organizations and individuals who support automatic voter registration in Hawaii. For more information go to avrhawaii.com

OFFICERS

John Bickel, President Alan Burdick, Vice President Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer Doug Pyle, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Melodie Aduja Chuck Huxel Juliet Begley Jan Lubin Ken Farm Jenny Nomura Stephanie Fitzpatrick Dave Nagaji Stephen O'Harrow P

Lyn Pyle

P.O. Box 23404 Honolulu Hawai'i 96823

MAILING ADDRESS

January 25, 2020

TO: Chair Inouye and Committeee on Transportation

RE: SB2005 Relating to Voting

Support for hearing on January 29

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 SB2005 as it requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. As fewer than 4 in 10 of Hawaii's voting-eligible population voted in the 2018 general election, it put us last in the nation. Political Scientist, Ray Wolfinger, cites voter registration requirements as the biggest impediment to voter turnout. So this bill will help improve our turnout.

Sincerely, John Bickel President





To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on

Judiciary

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 1:10 p.m.

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

Re: Testimony of Hawaii Women's Coalition in support of

SB2005, Relating to Voting

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees,

The Hawaii Women's Coalition is testifying in support of SB2005, known as Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). The Hawaii Women's Coalition supports SB2005 because it:

- 1. Will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the DMV and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections.
- 2. Is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.
- 3. Does not mean US citizens are "automatically" registered to vote if they have a driver's license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not "opt-out" to be a registered voter.
- 4. Will help vote by mail implementation, which is how Hawaii will be conducting elections statewide starting 2020. AVR will ensure that Hawaii's voter rolls are accurate and update to date.

Thank you for your support for this important measure.

Sincerely, Hawaii Women's Coalition

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:10 PM – Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2005 - AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee!

MY NAME IS KAT BRADY AND I AM THE COORDINATOR OF COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS, A community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of JAMES BORLING SALAS, ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE, including the eleven (11) people that we know of, who have died in the last six (6) months. We also remind the committee of the approximately 5,200 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day, and we are always mindful that more than 1,200 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. Democracy demands participation and we support all strategies to increase voter turnout in Hawai`i nei.

SB 2005 will give voters the opportunity to register to vote or update their address at the same time they complete their driver license application or application for a state identification card. They will also have the opportunity to decline to register to vote by simply ticking a checkbox on the application to decline. No information will be transmitted for any person who ticks the decline checkbox.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully urges the committee to pass this important bill to make voter registration more convenient. With Vote By Mail a reality, this should increase voter turnout in Hawai'i and move us out of the basement!

Let's get Hawai'i back to where we once were - when registered voters turned out!

See the next page for the voter turnout statistics from Hawai`i Office of Elections - https://elections.hawaii.gov/resources/registration-voter-turnout-statistics/.

REGISTERED YEAR	VOTER VOTERS	TURNOUT	TURNOUT %
1959	174274	147078	84.4%
1960	190504	139049	73.0%
1962	212861	172401	81.0%
1968	265253	166271	62.7%
1970	282470	202401	71.7%
1976	353249	251457	71.2%
1998	582558	291069	50.0%
2000	629162	262487	41.7%
2008	667647	246299	36.9%
2010	684481	293016	42.8%
2012	687500	290766	42.3%
2014	697033	289398	41.5%
2016	726,940	252,725	34.8%

Community Alliance on Prisons is a steadfast proponent of democracy and this bill will definitely help engage more citizens! We respectfully urge the committee to pass this important measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

"Not voting is not a protest. It is a surrender."

Keith Ellison

SB-2005

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 8:59:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Testifying for aauw of hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2005, which would automatically register any person who is eligible to vote and applies for state issued license/ID.

Automatic Voter Registration would make our voter registration system more accurate, secure, and cost-effective. Sixteen states and Washington DC already have AVR law; twelve states and Washington DC have already implemented AVR.[1]

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and includes just over 650 active members with over 3800 supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Please pass this important bill to modernize our voting system. Mahalo.

Younghee Overly, Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii

[1] https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx



HIPHI Board

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Rachel Novotny, PhD, RDN, LD University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

Garret Sugai Kaiser Permanente

Catherine Taschner, JD McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP Date: February 25, 2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Members of the Judiciary Committee

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran Vice Chair Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Re: Support for SB 2005, Relating to Voting

Hrg: February 26, 2020 at 1:10 PM at Conference Room 211

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of SB 2005**, which would automatically register any person who is eligible to vote by default when they apply for a state driver's license or state ID.

This measure, also known as Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), will help to modernize Hawaii's elections process and complement the new "Vote by Mail" law. With AVR, the information of eligible voters that do not opt out are transferred electronically and automatically from the Department of Motor Vehicles to the State Office of Elections. This system is efficient, saves money, and keeps the voter rolls up to date.

HIPHI supports increasing civic engagement and believes AVR will reduce barriers to participation in the democratic process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Jessica Yamauchi, MA Executive Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813 www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com | @LWVHawaii on Facebook

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 1:10 p.m., , Room 211 SB 2005 RELATING TO AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

TESTIMONY

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

Chairs Rhoads and Delacruz, Vice-Chairs San Buenaventura and Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB 2005. 17 states and the District of Columbia have passed this reform¹, and last year 10 bills were introduced in Hawaii with widespread support. The demand signal from the public is clear - they want "Opt-Out" Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

"Opt-Out" AVR builds upon Congress's findings in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that 1) voting is a fundamental right and 2) it is the duty of governments to promote the exercise of that right². This bill empowers voters by letting them affirmatively choose whether their information is used to update their registration, or to register them at all, when they interact with the Department of Motor Vehicles. "Opt- Out" AVR will promote - but not mandate - registration by making it convenient and cost-effective.

"Opt-Out" AVR would also help the state keep the voter registration rolls more accurate. The same proven and secure processes are used to update a voter's information. The measure complements voting by mail, since accurate registration information avoids errors in ballot delivery and reduces demand for registration services at Voter Service Centers. The savings in time and money add up quickly.

Language in the bill provides that applicants for a Provisional driver's license be automatically registered to vote. Our understanding is that such licenses are issued to citizens 16 years of age, but not yet 18. It appears that the intent of including provisional licenses was to permit drivers under 18 to preregister to vote, since they are not currently old enough to vote. The League supports this "Automatic Pre-Registration."

"Opt-Out" AVR improves access to voting by providing a secure, convenient, and cost-effective approach to voter registration. It does not guarantee that turnout will rise, but it will remove a barrier to that turnout.

This is a simple, cost-effective bill, widely supported by the public and elections officials. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

^{1. &}quot;Automatic Voter Registration Bills, 2015-Present". Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/automatic-voter-registration-bills-2015-present, accessed 28 December 2019.

^{2. 52} USC §20501(a).

<u>SB-2005</u> Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:27:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



To: Senator Karl Rhoads Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From:

Zonta Club of Hilo, Legislative Advocacy Committee

Feb 25, 2020

RE: Zonta Club of Hilo SUPPORT for SB2005 Relating to Voting

Aloha Senators Rhoads, Dela Cruz and the members of the Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB2005. Women typically hold many different responsibilities in our society. Giving busy women easier access to voting by supporting Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), which reduces red tape and saves them a few steps on the road to being able to cast their vote. It benefits them, their children and our entire community.

Zonta Club is an organization that is dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy. That mission is especially important this year as we mark the 100th year of women's suffrage in America. This gives added significance to the proposed enactment of AVR in Hawaii. By complementing our new Voting By Mail process and ensuring that Voter rolls are updated promptly, AVR could do much to encourage women voters to become more fully engaged in our democratic processes. AVR simply cuts out needless duplicate paperwork, minimizes human error and saves all eligible voters and the state time and money.

The Zonta Club of Hilo supports making AVR a reality in Hawaii with SB2005. Women need it. We all need it.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Mahalo,

Heather Kimball

Zonta Club of Hilo Legislative Advocacy Committee

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men. Our membership includes both current and former small business owners in Hilo



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 | 1:10 PM | State Capitol, Conference Room 211 SB 2005 RELATING TO VOTING.

Chairs DELA CRUZ and RHOADS, Vice Chairs KEITH-AGARAN and KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees:

Faith Action for Community Equity is testifying in **support** of SB 2005, which would provide that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. SB 2005 would also authorize the electronic transmission of information and databases maintained or operated by the counties or the department of transportation containing driver's license or identification card information to election officials and the statewide voter registration system. SB 2005 is known as Automatic Voter Registration ("AVR").

Faith Action for Community Equity supports AVR as a much-needed voter modernization tool for Hawaii. AVR will benefit Hawaii in several ways. One, AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the County of Department of Motor Vehicles and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections. This does not mean that a U.S. citizen will be "automatically" registered to vote by simply enacting AVR. It will still be necessary for a U.S. citizen to interact with a government official through the DMV—and not decline voter registration—to be registered to vote.

Two, AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated, according to one evaluation, to possibly save approximately \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.

Three, AVR encourages good policy and governance through the promotion of a more inclusive society in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal #16. AVR is a vital step to making sure that all Hawaii US citizens have an equal voice in the political process by allowing voters to automatically register to vote when they interact with DMV.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2005.





Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Relating to Relating to Voting Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2005 Relating to Voting**, which updates the option to register to vote on an individual's license application (new, provisional and renewal) to an opt-out rather than an opt-in. This small change means that a person would be automatically registered to vote unless they actively affirm not to be.

Improving access to voting is fundamental to the democratic process. The more accessible and available we can make voting the better our community will be. Upgrading how we encourage voter registration is the foundation to reforming and improving our elections.

Hawai'i struggles with voter turnout, November 2018 (a general election in a Presidential voting year) saw that only 39% of those eligible actually voted. Arguably that election should be the higher turnout than any of the elections since it contained a major race. One can assume primary elections in non-presidential voting years would yield and even lower turnout. If we can increase the number of those registered, that is the first step in right direction of increasing Hawaii's voter turnout.

This measure will create a seamless modernized system with the information collected from the licensing officials being electronically transferred and linked to the elections offices resulting in a more efficient, secure, convenient process that saves money. Hawai'i is presently using out-of-date systems and decades-old technology. It's time to modernize both the system and the process in which people vote.

For all these reasons, we urge you to **vote in favor of SB2005.**

Mahalo for the opportunity, Gary Hooser Executive Director Pono Hawai'i Initiative

<u>SB-2005</u> Submitted on: 2/24/2020 3:45:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Testifying for Pride @ Work - Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:





To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair The Honorable Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2005, Relating to Voting

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 Time: 1:10 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

The Hawaii Community Foundation supports Senate Bill 2005, relating to voting. Voting is a hallmark of civic participation and one of the cornerstones of our democracy. This bill will help collective community efforts to engage all our citizens. It requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or a new, renewal, or duplicate identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote. It allows an applicant to affirmatively decline to have any of the applicant's information electronically transmitted.

Hawaii has the lowest voter turnout in the nation and this trend is unlikely to reverse itself without new strategies. Data by generation shows substantially more voting interest by Baby Boomers compared to other groups and trends show a declining participation by younger age groups. The 2016 election would have been the first presidential election for which some of the Millennial generation were eligible to vote. Only 40 percent of eligible millennials registered, while only 30 percent of those registered voted.

Automatic voter registration can lead to cleaner registration rolls because the process updates existing registrations with current addresses. Incorporating automatic voter registration during routine and necessary transactions like license renewal removes barriers to registration for eligible voters. Removing barriers to voter registration is a step in the right direction to increasing voter participation in Hawaii.

Please advance this measure.

<u>SB-2005</u> Submitted on: 2/24/2020 3:44:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2005

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 6:11:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

Please approve this bill to alpprove Automatic Voting Registration. This opt-out provision will assist individuals in registering to vote at the same time they are renewing or obtaining their drivers' licenses.

Registering to vote is the first step in involvement in the political process. While a precinct chair in 2016, I was surprised by the number of people who registered and voted on Election Day to support their children, who were voting for the first time. Sadly, had AVR been in effect, they could or would have registered years before.

Mahalo!

Barbara J. Service MSW (retired) Child Welfare

Senior Advocate

Chair(s) Donovan Dela Cruz & Karl Rhoads Vice Chair(s) Gilbert Keith-Agaran & Jarrett Keohokalole Senate Committee on Ways & Means Senate Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:10 PM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2005 RELATING TO VOTING

Aloha Chair(s) Dela Cruz & Rhoads, Vice Chair(s) Keith-Agaran & Keohokalole, Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means and Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a Sophomore at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and currently serve as the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). Today, I am testifying as an **individual** in **support of SB2005**, Relating to Voting.

I appreciate that the legislature continues to have important discussions with the community on how we can improve participation in politics and civics, one of these big ideas that is now in the process of being implemented is Vote-By-Mail starting from this year's election. However, we can't stop and we shouldn't stop. We need to continue to find ways to build on the work we've already done such as the expansion of voting rights over the course of U.S. history, and continue to make our democratic institutions easier to understand and more accessible to take part in.

For me, automatic voter registration really seems to be the natural next step. Automatic voter registration is going to really make being a registered voter much easier and efficient, and we don't even need to create a new process. We all go to the DMV, even as a non driving busser, I went to the DMV for a State ID and will have to go back soon to renew it. People have the option of having the information that they gave to the DMV, the DMV being a government office where you regularly update your information, and opt in for that information to be used to register you to vote. It really sounds like a natural transition for me. Then when Vote-By-Mail happens, it will be run even more smoothly, as voter rolls will be accurate and up-to-date. We can make this happen.

I support SB2005 and request for this measure to be passed through your committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin 1561 Kanunu St. Honolulu, HI 96814

Cell: 808-255-6663

Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SB-2005

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:46:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in support of SB2005.

- *AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the DMV and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections.
- *AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.
- *AVR does not mean US citizens are "automatically" registered to vote if they have a driver's license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not "opt-out" to be a registered voter.
- *With AVR, this will help vote by mail implementation, which is how Hawaii will be conducting elections statewide starting 2020. AVR will ensure that Hawaii's voter rolls are accurate and update to date.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, 02-26-20 01:10PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong is in support SB2005 relating to Voter Registration.

Aloha Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and Members of these Committees,

I, Judith Armstrong, am writing in strong support of SB2005.

- *AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the DMV and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections.
- *AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.
- *AVR does not mean US citizens are "automatically" registered to vote if they have a driver's license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not "opt-out" to be a registered voter.
- *With AVR, this will help vote by mail implementation, which is how Hawaii will be conducting elections statewide starting 2020. AVR will ensure that Hawaii's voter rolls are accurate and update to date.

I strongly urge our legislators to support this important benefit change.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely, Judith Ann Armstrong 1717 Ala Wai Blvd Apt 3006 Honolulu, HI 96815

SB-2005

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:31:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This year is the 100th Anniversary of women winning the right to vote. The busy working women of Hawaii who are juggling family and work responsibilities at one or two jobs to make ends meet deserve and need to be able to participate in our democracy. Vote By Mail (VBM) this year improves their access to voting. THANK YOU for making that happen. Now let's take the next logical step and enact Automatic Voter Registration(AVR). It will complement VBM and ensure everyone's voter registration is current simply by having their information updated anytime they renew or apply for a new driving license or state ID. Their data will be automatically transferred to the Office of Elections electronically unless they decline to allow it. This reduces the burden of paperwork on the Office of Elections, saves time and money and encourages civic engagement by those who are often on the margins of our democracy because of poverty, distance or other pressures. It's not often we get a chance to enact public policy that makes for more efficient government while also saving individuals and the state time and money. Please don't pass up this opportunity to lift Hawaii from the doldrums as the state with the lowest voter participation in the nation.

As someone who teaches, I see a great hunger to be more involved by my students at the University of Hawaii and Chaminade. But the pressure of studies and working causes many to neglect to update their voter registration. AVR will help make them more engaged citizens. Hawaii needs the next generation to be more engaged if we are to tackle the challenges facing us. Please move this bill forward and make AVR a reality. Thank you.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 6:38:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees,

I strongly support SB2005, commonly known as the Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) bill. AVR will improve our vote-by-mail system thusly:

- *AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate and secure. When a person goes to the DMV and does not "opt-out" of being a registered voter, the person's information and data are automatically transferred between the County Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Office of Elections.
- *AVR is cost-effective. AVR has been estimated to possibly save more than \$1 million statewide in each election cycle by eliminating paper-based registrations and decreasing undeliverable mail related to registration issues.
- *AVR does not mean US citizens are "automatically" registered to vote if they have a driver's license or state ID. People must still interact with a government official with AVR and not "opt-out" to be a registered voter.
- *With AVR, this will help vote by mail implementation, which is how Hawaii will be conducting elections statewide starting 2020. AVR will ensure that Hawaii's voter rolls are accurate and update to date.

Please pass SB2005. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

<u>SB-2005</u> Submitted on: 2/25/2020 7:28:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We want to modernize voter registration & make it more accurate & secure, which this bill does in a cost-effective manner.

SB-2005

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:13:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Donna Ambrose	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

Automatic Voter Registration will modernize and improve the accuracy of Hawaii's voter registration system. Eliminating paper-based registration activities should save taxpayers' money as well. Those who really don't want to vote can easily opt out when applying for or renewing their driver's license.

<u>SB-2005</u> Submitted on: 2/26/2020 1:13:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



<u>SB-2005</u> Submitted on: 2/26/2020 9:04:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

HGEA A F S C M E

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922



The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 26, 2020

S.B. 2005, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO VOTING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2005, S.D. 1 which requires that any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a new or renewal motor vehicle driver's license, provisional license, instruction permit, or identification card be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote.

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy and essential to protect all other rights, therefore we must ensure that the voting process is easy to understand and participate in. Given Hawaii's infamously low voter turn out, the Legislature has taken appropriate steps to make it easier for residents to vote, which include implementing online voter registration in 2015, phasing in sameday registration in 2016, and establishing an all-mail election in 2019. The next logical step to improve and increase access to voting is to implement automatic voter registration, as many other states have done. Automatic voter registration reduces the time and effort it takes to register, ensures current addresses are on file, and reduces the overall costs to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2005, S.D. 1.

1/2

Randy Perreira Executive Director

