



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2048  
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

January 28, 2020

Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2048. The purpose of this bill is to extend the voter registration deadline from thirty to fifteen days prior to each election.

This bill allows new voters more time to register and have a mail ballot packet sent to them. We would note that active voters would still receive their mail ballot packet at the mailing address associated with their voter registration pursuant to HRS §11-102.

We would like to propose two amendments. The first proposed amendment would address HRS §11-15.2 which states that "providing false information may result in a class C felony, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both." The monetary fine should be amended to \$10,000 to match class C felonies and Chapter 19 regarding election offenses.

Our second proposed amendment would be to allow the Offices of the City/County Clerks the flexibility to continue sending mail ballot packets following the 15-day voter registration deadline if they believe there is reasonable time to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2048.

**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800  
TTY: (808) 241-5116



**SCOTT K. SATO**  
Deputy County Clerk

Facsimile: (808) 241-6207  
E-mail: elections@kauai.gov

**ELECTIONS DIVISION**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**  
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101  
LĪHU'Ē, KAUA'I, HAWAI'I 96766-1819

January 28, 2020

**TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
**COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I**  
**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,**  
**INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**ON SENATE BILL NO. 2048**  
**RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

Chair Nishihara and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2048. This Bill would extend the voter registration deadline from thirty to fifteen days prior to each election and make conforming amendments.

Senate Bill No. 2048 will minimize the number of days that voter registration is closed to new registrations by aligning the registration deadline closer to the start of same day voter registration services which are offered at the Voter Service Center.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Bill No. 2048.

Sincerely,

**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
County Clerk

Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
1:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**SB 2048**  
**RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.**

Chair NISHIHARA, Vice Chair WAKAI, and Members of the Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2048, which would extend the voter registration deadline from thirty (30) to fifteen (15) days prior to each election.

Hawaii has the lowest voter registration rate in the Nation, according to American's Health Ranking from the United Health Foundation. Providing additional time for Hawaii's busy people, who work multiple jobs and have family obligations on top of hectic lives, would hopefully increase our voter registration rate and correspondingly our voter turnout rate, which also is the lowest in the Nation.

However, without additional voter service centers to assist first time voters and those who are not accustomed to voting absentee, efforts to increase Hawaii's lowest in the Nation voter turnout rate may not be successful. First time voters may need help navigating the ballot, especially Hawaii's primary ballot where a voter may not vote across party lines, or the ballot becomes spoiled.

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2048 to extend the voter registration deadline from thirty (30) to fifteen (15) days prior to each election. We encourage the establishment of additional voter service centers with more convenient locations and times in all counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2048. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



**LATE**

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Relating to Relating to Voter Registration  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2048 Relating to Voter Registration**, which extends the voter registration deadline from thirty to fifteen days prior to each election – giving people more time to register to vote before election day.

Improving access to voting is fundamental to the democratic process. Whatever we can do to help encourage citizens to vote we should do. Empowering people to play an active role in their government is essential to democracy. The more accessible and available we can make voting the better our community will be.

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.

For all these reasons, we urge you to **vote in favor of SB2048**.

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

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:57:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2020 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the committee,

I support SB2048. Hawaii has the lowest voter registration rate in the nation as compared to other states. Extending the voter registration day from 30 to 15 days before the election days will allow more people to be registered to vote, improving our voter registration rate.

I am organizing a campaign to register young people to vote. And this bill's passage would definitely help. Young people don't need any obstacles to vote. We need to make it as easy as possible. Please pass SB2048.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching (concerned citizen)

Honolulu (makikirandy@yahoo.com)

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 12:23:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2020 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of this bill, associating with Common Cause.

Thank you.

Martha Nakajima

member of Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 12:55:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2020 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:17:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2020 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:40:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2020 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Governors and mayors are fulltime positions. Incumbants should be focused on their offical duties and not be distracted with outside interests. This bill would promote integrity of the government. Moveover, legislators should consider expanding coverage of SB2048 to include all senate confirmed executive branch employees.

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 4:23:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2020 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it is especially important this first year for Voting By Mail, to have time to educate and encourage voters to participate. This bill allows for more time to encourage family and friends to register and participate in upcoming elections & could help increase voter turnout.