STAND. COM. REP. NO. 539

Honolulu, Hawaii

## FEB 2 5 2015

RE: S.B. No. 442 S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim President of the Senate Twenty-Eighth State Legislature Regular Session of 2015 State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred S.B. No. 442 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- Establish the forwarding address for receiving absentee ballots permanently as the mailing address in a voter's registration record; and
- (2) Require voters seeking to have permanent absentee ballots forwarded to another address to reapply for an absentee ballot.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Elections; Office of the City Clerk, City and County of Honolulu; Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui; Office of the County Clerk, County of Kauai; Office of the County Clerk, County of Hawaii; and League of Women Voters of Hawaii. Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that a permanent absentee voter is required to maintain current information in two separate records: a voter registration record and a permanent absentee record. Permanent absentee ballots are mailed to the mailing address on the permanent absentee record. However, some permanent absentee



STAND. COM. REP. NO. 538 Page 2

voters update their voter registration record, but not their permanent absentee record. As a result, the absentee ballots are returned to the respective county clerk's office as undeliverable by the United States Postal Service. This measure will increase efficiency by automatically updating the permanent absentee record when the voter registration record is updated.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adopting the language suggested by the Office of the City Clerk that inserts a conforming amendment to the requirements for the voter registration affidavit to clarify that the mailing address required to be included in the residence information be within the county of the applicant;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of January 7, 2059, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 442, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 442, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair



## The Senate Twenty-Eighth Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

## Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary and Labor JDL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee	Referral:	Dat	e: ,	1
SB 442		JDL		2/4/	15
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Ауе	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (C)		/			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (VC)		1	· · ·		
ESPERO, Will					
GABBARD, Mike					
IHARA, Jr., Les					
THIELEN, Laura H.		<i>✓</i>			
SLOM, Sam					
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
	· · ·				
				<u></u>	
TOTAL		6			/
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod   File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes