



LATE

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HB2694 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2 OF THE HAWAII STATE
CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE REAPPORTIONMENT
COMMISSION

THURSDAY, February 25, 2016, 3:00 P.M., Room 308

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Co-Chair, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports this measure, which is intended to ensure fair participation of all political parties on the reapportionment commission, by providing that if there are no members belonging to the minority party or parties in a house of the legislature, the members belonging to the same minority party or parties in the other house of the legislature shall nominate persons to serve on the commission.

The League supports having a State Constitution that provides for fair and adequate representation and periodic reapportionment. Truthfully, having a nonpartisan Commission, rather than our current bi-partisan approach, deserves consideration. But studying a large-scale change like that is best left to the next state Constitutional Convention. In the meantime, it is important to continue ensuring each political district is equally represented.

It is clear that Article IV, Section 2 of our State Constitution envisioned a bi-partisan appointment process whereby nominations to the Commission would be provided by both the Majority and Minority leadership. This proposed amendment sets out a process by which this intent would be preserved in the event there are no members belonging to a minority party or parties in a house of the legislature. For this reason, we support the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.