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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 10:00 a.m., Room 016
SB 2044 SD1 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2, OF THE HAWAII STATE
CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE REAPPORTIONMENT
COMMISSION.

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2044 SD1 whose purpose is to ensure participation of all political parties on the Reapportionment Commission. We believe this version of the measure does provide that the minority party does select its representatives to the Reapportionment Commission should there be no minority members in one or both houses of the legislature.

The League supports having a State Constitution that provides for fair and adequate representation and periodic reapportionment. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran

02/14/2018 10:00 AM Room 211

SB2044 SD1 – Proposing and Amendment to Article IV, Section 2 of the Hawaii State Constitution to Address the Selection of Members of the Reapportionment Commission

TESTIMONY / SUPPORT with Amendments
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB2044 SD1 with amendments which would amend the appointment process to the Reapportionment Commission to ensure participation of all political parties if there are no members belonging to a minority party in a house of the Legislature.

When our state constitution was drafted, no one could have predicted that our State Senate would be dominated by a single party. Thus, we appreciate the Legislature being proactive to address this issue as our next census, the beginning of the reapportionment process, is quickly approaching.

As currently written, this bill works on the assumption that there are only two parties in our political system. We urge you to *define “minority party”* and suggest the following language.

If no member of the house of representatives belongs to a party different from that of the speaker, then the chairperson of the party which won the most votes in the most recent gubernatorial election that is not the speaker’s party shall nominate three persons to the speaker, who shall select two members of the commission from the three persons nominated.

If no member of the senate belongs to a party different from that of the president, then the chairperson of the party which won the most votes in the most recent gubernatorial election that is not the president’s party shall nominate three persons to the president, who shall select two members of the commission from the three persons nominated.

Ensuring partisan representation on our Reapportionment Commission is key to maintaining fair maps that reflect changes in our population and ensuring that everyone is fairly represented.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting SB2044 SD1 with amendments.**