



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/18/2019
Time: 03:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Judiciary

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1485, HD2 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a process, beginning on January 1, 2020, for automatically preregistering or registering public school-enrolled students who are at least 16 years old to vote. (HB1485 HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1485, HD2 to increase Hawaii's youth voter participation and encourage civic engagement. This measure proposes to establish a process for automatically pre-registering or registering public school-enrolled students who are at least sixteen-years-old to vote in our state.

We prioritize civic engagement and efforts to increase voter participation among future leaders in our public high schools. Towards this goal, the Department supports automatic voter registration as a mechanism to remove barriers to strengthen the voice and involvement of our youth.

Should this measure move forward, the following amendments are respectfully offered for the Committee's consideration:

Page 4, line 19-Page 5, line 1: The ~~superintendent of education~~ shall department of education may transmit the voter registration affidavit to the clerk of the county in which the applicant resides, as necessary:...

Page 6, lines 7-10:

The ~~board and the superintendent~~ shall may adopt and communicate guidelines policies as necessary to maximize and facilitate the preregistration and registration of qualifying students to vote as provided in section 11- ."

Further dialogue would be needed to address the issue in which there are a number of students who are on geographical exceptions attending a public high school outside of their residence.

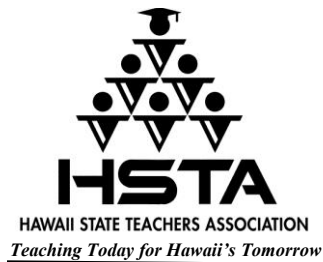
As a result, these affidavits may fall under another county and would require further vetting by the clerk.

As this proposed measure will involve all Hawaii public high schools, additional dialogue to ensure effective implementation of HB 1485, HD2 will be required. As the Department serves a diverse multi-cultural community, equity and access is needed for students and families whose primary language is other than English. The planning and provision of voter affidavits translated in other languages would be a critical element prior to any implementation.

Hawaii public schools continue to strengthen civic engagement as a critical avenue to cultivate positive change and a shared responsibility for our community well-being.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1485, HD2.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION and JUDICIARY

RE: HB 1485 HD2 - RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 1485 HD 2**, automatically preregistering to vote any public high school student who is at least sixteen years old but not yet eighteen years old and is otherwise eligible to vote.

This measure would set-up procedures to automatically preregister a public high school student who is at least sixteen years old but not yet eighteen years old and is otherwise eligible to vote.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and engaging the next generation of voters is imperative to its survival. By engaging future voters through automatic preregistration, the Hawaii State Teachers Association believes that this will help ensure they become regular voters. According to the Election Law Journal preregistering sixteen & seventeen years olds increased their engagement in voting over their peers that were not preregistered.

All studies show that if we are able to instill the habit of voting at young age they will become lifelong voters.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HB 1485 HD 2.



SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1485, HD 2
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

March 18, 2019

Chair Kidani, Chair Rhoads, and members of the committees on Education and Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1485, HD 2. The purpose of this bill is to establish an automatic preregistration and registration program for public school students who are least sixteen years old.

The Office of Elections believes that this bill will maximize voter registration by requiring the Department of Education to provide voter registration applications to all students who are at least sixteen years old enrolled in a public high school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1485, HD 2.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS

DIRECTORS

MAILING

ADDRESS

John Bickel, President
Alan Burdick, Vice President
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer
Dylan Armstrong, Secretary

Melodie Aduja
Guy Archer
Juliet Begley
Gloria Borland

Ken Farm
Chuck Huxel
Jan Lubin
Jenny Nomura

Stephen O'Harrow
Doug Pyle

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawaii'i 96823

March 15 , 2019

TO: Honorable Chairs Kidani & Rhoads & EDU/JDC Committee Members

RE: HB 1485 HD2 Relating to Voter Registration

Support for hearing on March 18

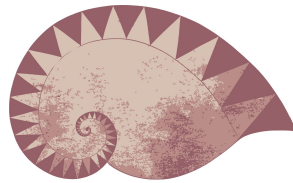
Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 1485 HD2 as it would automatically preregister or register public school-enrolled students who are at least 16 years old 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





Pono Hawai'i Initiative

LATE

Josh Frost - President • Kau'i Pratt-Aquino - Secretary • Patrick Shea - Treasurer
Kristin Hamada • Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Relating to Voter Registration
Testifying in Support

Aloha, Chair and Committee members

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB1485 HD2** Relating to Voter Registration. This measure will help to ensure higher rates of registered voters by preregistering/registering voters while they are attending public school. By creating a mechanism to reach new voters early we can remove one of the hurdles in the voting process. Teaching young people about their civic duty and preparing them for future elections is key to ensuring a strong democracy.

When we preregister or register students we can encourage civic engagement and hopefully create a lifelong voter. Hawaii struggles with voter turnout, November 2018 saw that only 39% of those eligible actually voted. While our preference is registering voters via the drivers license process, if we can increase the number of those registered via the public school system that is another step in right direction of increasing Hawaii's voter turnout.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative, an organization member of the Common Good Coalition



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

LATE

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Education
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 18, 2019

H.B. 1485, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1485, H.D. 2 which establishes a process for automatically pre-registering public school-enrolled students who are at least sixteen years old.

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 permitting permanent absentee voter status, implementing online voter registration in 2015, and phasing in same-day registration in 2016. We must make it easy for future generations to participate in our democracy and the passage of H.B. 1485, H.D. 2 will allow that.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1485, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director



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

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Monday, March 18, 2019, 3:15 p.m., Room 229
HB1485 HD2 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION
TESTIMONY

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

Chairs Kidani and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Kim and Wakai and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters strongly supports HB 1485 HD2 that would provide public high school students age 16 but not yet 18 and otherwise eligible to vote to be automatically preregistered or registered. This is a very innovative approach to building lifelong voting habits among young people; our hope is it also starts a lifelong habit of being engaged in civic life and becoming informed voters who learn as much as possible about issues and candidates.

Your Committee on Judiciary clarified that students do maintain the option to subsequently opt in or opt out of preregistration or registration. This maximizes the window during which the student may change his or her mind about voter registration.

In response to the legitimate student privacy concerns of the Department of Education, the original version of this bill was amended so that it does not require electronic submission of pre-registration forms but does allow the Superintendent to manually transmit completed application forms to the County Clerk. The House Judiciary Committee also clarified that students retain the option to subsequently opt on or out of preregistration or registration. These two changes put procedures for implementing this measure on a very firm footing.

We note that this bill can be implemented in conjunction with other automatic **registration** approaches under consideration this session including HB1217 and SB 412, SD1, both of which require that people automatically be registered to vote if they meet the eligibility requirements to vote when they obtain a driver's license or State Identification card.

We support the measure's effective date of January 1, 2020. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



LATE

Young Democrats of Hawai'i
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Education & Senate Committee on Judiciary
Monday, March 18, 2019 at 3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 229

House Bill 1485, House Draft 2

Dear Chair Kidani, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Kim and Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committees:

House Bill 1485, House Draft 2 will increase voter participation and encourage civic engagement by establishing a process for automatic preregistration and registration of public school-enrolled students who are at least 16 years old.

The Young Democrats of Hawai'i (YDHI) stand in **strong support** of passing HB1485, HD2.

YDHI supports opportunities to better the political involvement and processes for Hawai'i's future generations. HB1485, HD2 will promote engagement for Hawai'i's younger generations who often see themselves underrepresented in our government's processes. Automatic voter registration for students in public school-enrolled students who are at least 16 years old will increase participation, while potentially enhancing accessible and convenient education to the democratic process. YDHI strives to encourage young people to take an active interest and role in governmental affairs and increase political representation of younger generations as decisions for the future of Hawai'i are made.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB1485, HD2.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee
Young Democrats of Hawai'i

Common Cause Hawaii • 307A Kamani St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.275.6275

To: The Senate Committees on Education; and the Judiciary
From: Brodie Lockard, for the Board of Common Cause Hawaii
Date: Monday, March 18, 2019, 3:15 pm

In support of HB1485 HD2

Dear Chairs Kidani and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kim and Wakai, and Committee Members—

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1485 HD2.

Preregistering and registering high school students brings them into the democratic system painlessly.

- ☐ Few high school students will make the effort to register, but once talk turns to an election, they may well take an interest. With this bill, they'll be ready to participate.
- ☐ People involved in the electoral process from a young age are more likely to be lifelong participants.
- ☐ Young people can duck responsibility with the slightest excuse. Already being registered removes one available excuse.
- ☐ Convenience is a strong force, especially for youth. This bill eliminates the need to find out about registering, find a form, and bother turning it in.

AVR is a step towards much needed modernization of elections in Hawaii.

- ☐ Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout in the country for the last 20 years. This will help turn that around by increasing convenience and improving access to voting.
- ☐ As of December 2018, AVR has been approved in 17 states and the District of Columbia.
- ☐ The data shows that AVR improves the likelihood that people will vote by minimizing bureaucracy and requiring less time and effort from eligible voters.

AVR improves access to voting for eligible voters in Hawaii.

- ☐ AVR helps ensure that voting isn't needlessly difficult for working and military families who move frequently, as well as homebound seniors, students, and voters in rural areas
- ☐ AVR reduces unnecessary barriers to voting and time demands on people holding two jobs or who are juggling school, work and family.

AVR will enhance the security of our elections.

- ☐ Recent court challenges surrounding local races highlight the need for greater security.
- ☐ Elections will be more secure with AVR, due to increased accuracy of voter rolls, and use of an encrypted system, rather than paper forms, to transfer data
- ☐ Automatic Voter Registration helps ensure that all eligible voters in Hawaii are registered to vote at their current address. This increases the security of our elections because we know that ballots are sent to the correct location and correct voter.
- ☐ Privacy and freedom are protected, as people may choose to opt-out.

Automatic Voter Registration will save us money.

- ☐ Traditional paper registration typically costs 30 times more than AVR! The cost of implementing AVR is outweighed by the long-term savings it will yield.
- ☐ Processing paper forms in Hawaii during the 2016 election cycle cost nearly \$575,000 for labor. This does not include the printing of voter registration forms, mailings related to duplicate registration entries, and the postage of forwarding registration forms to the proper

recipient. It does not include more than 33,000 applications submitted during the 2016 election cycle that the state did not categorize when reporting the data.

- ☐ Up-to-date voter rolls will help reduce the cost of sending ballots to wrong addresses.

Please support HB1485 HD2 and create new voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Board of Common Cause Hawaii



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

March 18, 2019 3:15 PM Room 229

In SUPPORT of HB 1485 HD2: Relating to Voter Registration

Aloha Chair Kidani, Chair Rhoads, and members of the Education and Judiciary committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **strongly supports HB 1485 HD2**. This bill automatically pre-registers high school students to vote, with an opt-out option.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to ensuring a fair, open, and transparent democratic process. We encourage our members to actively protect their right to vote, have their voices heard in government, and engage in elections. Automatic voter registration would make these efforts easier, especially for high school students who are not familiar with the process to vote. Automatic registration, coupled with outreach and education on how to vote, has the potential to make new voters aware of Hawai'i's issues and motivate them to participate in our democracy.

Hawai'i has had the lowest voter turnout in the U.S. in the last twenty years. Automatic voter registration for students could help increase participation of young adults. It removes voter registration as a barrier to engagement and is one step to create a more convenient and accessible process amongst Hawai'i's youngest voters.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 1485 HD2**.

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 6:46:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Shin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:38:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1485, which will help increase the typically dismal voter turnout here in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 12:27:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. Vibrant democracy! Empowering youth! As the legislature has recognized, voting at a young age creates and empowers lifelong voters. Data shows that after an individual votes once, he or she becomes a habitual voter. Therefore, expanding voter rights to those sixteen years of age and older will empower a new generation of lifelong voters.

Sixteen-year old youth have demonstrated that they want to be civically involved. Let's engage them and utilize their knowledge, skills, and abilities to help make informed public policy decisions that impact upon generations.

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair; Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Education Members as well as Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Judiciary Members
From: Dara Carlin, M.A.
Date: March 18, 2019
Re: **OPPOSITION** to HB1485 HD2

An excerpt from the State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General's Report of the Age of Consent Task Force submitted by (now Senator) Laura Thielen states, "While a 19-year old is a teenager, Hawaii's laws classify persons 18 and older as adults."

When Hawaii RAISED the drinking age from 18 to 21 in 1986, then Governor George Ariyoshi's concern was not to ruin spring break experience for high school and college populations for generations to come nor to deprive a strong source of revenue to Hawaii retail stores and restaurants - the impetus was to reduce traffic deaths - the loss of life being a greater evil than the loss of a privilege, not even handled so well by more matured adults (as I'm sure the number of DUIs, the amount of too many adult children of alcoholics and Al-Anon support group participants could attest to).

LegalMatch.com reports that "In Hawaii, the legal age of consent to have sex is 16 years-old" which was RISEN from 14 years-old. Now that we have a better understanding about child sexual abuse (CSA), how widespread it actually is and the severe long-term consequences of CSA (ie: the Center for Disease Control's ACE Study, traumatic impact, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease) not to mention how abusers have been able get away with such crimes thanks to such laxity of law, don't such considerations beg the question who/what the law is *really* protecting? Because like the drinking age being raised, the 16 year-old age of consent concern was not to ruin the sexual freedom for the keiki and teens in Hawaii (and knowing what we do now about CSA, shouldn't the age of consent be reconsidered and raised?)

No one's ever dropped the Selective Service age below the age of 18 or added girls/young women to the registry; why do you think that is?

And anyone with a kid in school under 18 can tell you how much parental consent is required for/on everything; why do you think that is?

Actually, Section 302A-1132, of Hawaii Revised Statutes (re: compulsory education) defines a juvenile as a youth between 5 and 18 years of age; why is it so important for us to have such inclusions/limitations one age?

I point out all these "random" issues to point towards the "unseen impetus" behind all such legislation and the potential ramifications of decreasing age limits because while I am all for youth empowerment, maturity and responsibility, as a former Marriage & Family Therapist who specialized in adolescent populations, **there's more to this than meets the eye**. An effort like

HB1485 needs to be well thought out and considered *before* jumping onto a seemingly well-intentioned bandwagon of "Yay! Voting for 16 year-olds!" But one simple consideration:

How many "kids"/parents do you think have had the (angry) exchange of, "I'm 18 years-old now, I don't have to listen to you!"/"You're 18 years-old now, you need to start contributing!"?

The familial implications alone should cause everyone to rethink the wisdom of HB1485, ie: what happens if you have a Republican teen with Democratic parents?

- Do mom/dad have *the parental right* to override and veto that child's vote and/or prevent that child from voting?
- Does the child then have legal recourse against his/her parents for tampering or interfering with his/her right to vote?
- Considering the violence, hostility and bitterness that's erupted over political differences already dividing adults, we *want* to throw *kids* into the mix?!

As it is, the United States Election Project at <http://www.electproject.org>, cites that "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". Adding 16 and 17 year-olds is only going to widen the margin and embarrass us more if we don't find out why the adults already registered don't go to the polls and why our existing voting-eligible adults fail to register to vote.

If teachers can't even get through one class without a student violating the "no cell phones policy" and 16/17 year-old teens in Hawaii aren't allowed to drive without a 21 year-old in the car for their own safety and that of everyone else, I can't see how we're going to "only" give them the right to vote and be naïve enough to think that *nothing else will follow*.

Ever try to tell a 16/17 year-old "NO" and have him/her graciously accept your "no" as an answer without argument? Or how about forcing a 16/17 year-old to do something he/she doesn't want to do? Any provisions for voter fraud? Bullying and CWS response also need to be considered.

HB1485 is premature at best and a genie you do not want to let out of the bottle; please give this issue the time it deserves to be well-thought through before passing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in Opposition to HB1485 HB2.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.

Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:27:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Melling	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Our free election and voting process is sacred and automatic enrollment creates alot of votes being added that are either fraudulent or uninformed. Let the people who are of age (18) and interested vote with conviction.

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:28:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danny Melton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Representative of Hawaii

I oppose this bill. Before you force registration on high school students, how about mandating Civics and American Government courses in middle school and high school so students understand why they have the right and privilege to vote.

Respectfully

Dan Melton

Col USMC (ret)

Waipahu

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:41:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Kerr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Voting is a right and there shouldn't be any form of forced registration regardless of age. This is also part of the progressive left movement to change the voting age to 16.

LATE

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 4:34:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toby Rushforth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I must be losing my mind. You obviously think teen age children are old enough to vote. FOR SHAME

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 4:55:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Vote NO on HB1485. Voting is a right but not mandatory. Forced registration has no place in a free society, regardless of age. This is also part of the progressive left movement to change the voting age to 16. If this age is too young to purchase a firearm, it is also too young to vote. The ages should match. 16 is too young to make good decisions. How many 16-year olds will study the candidates and issues and not be tempted to vote according to skin color, sex, or some other irrelevant characteristic that has nothing to do with a candidate's qualifications and character? With maturity comes more wisdom and it is hard to imagine how a 16 year old could have the wisdom to make the right choices. It also dilutes the vote of more mature citizens who have enough life experiences to know how to make choices based on facts, past performance, and logical reasoning. Vote NO on HB1485

LATE

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 7:15:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I most strongly oppose this bill. We already have a large number of registered voters who choose not to vote. This impractical proposal will make our statistics worse. Few sixteen year olds are aware of what is happening in politics/the legislature. They are more concerned about graduating high school. Many older citizens do not have the time to keep up with which legislators are voting for certain bills and the impact on their daily lives. Recent findings in California is that 16 year olds are already registered ... and "someone" voting in their name. Every ineligible voter disenfranchises the vote of a valid voter. We have enough errors and mistakes being made by our Office of Elections as evident by the re-vote for the City Counsel. This bill wastes taxpayer dollars and increases the workload of the already problematic Office of Elections. The end result will not ensure that elected officials were better represent the will of the people. Most sixteen year olds will admit they know nothing about politics. Do not pass this bill. Vote no on HB1485 HD2.

LATE

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 8:21:07 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SUSAN P HUGHES	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:44:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Hino-Agustin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Voting is a right and a personal decision, not one that should be forced on another.

LATE

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 12:28:54 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I OPPOSE Hb1485 as I question the emotional stability and maturity of vulnerable 16 yr olds who may be easily persuaded by biased teachers, peers and news organizations. I'm also concerned about voter fraud and cheating.

If they are qualified to VOTE would they be qualified to be on a JURY? I think not.

One may think our educational system would have encouraged FREE THINKING 18 yrs olds to exercise their right to vote in Hawaii and yet our voter turnout is still dismal. What makes you think we will be any more effective with 16 yr olds? This is a waste tax payer dollars setting up a voting system in the schools.

Let them wait for the privilege to vote when they are 18 yrs old.

Thank you,

Lois Young

LATE

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:43:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

TO: SEBATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

RE: HB 1485, HD2 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

Establishes a process, beginning on January 1, 2020, for automatically preregistering or registering public school-enrolled students who are at least 16 years old to vote. (HB1485 HD2)

FOR HEARING ON Monday, March 18, 2019

FROM:

Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Apt. 1205
Kane'ohe, HI, 96744
Tel. 808.247.7942

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Registration to vote is a precious right, not to be taken for granted. Registration should be a conscious, affirmative decision made by an eligible person who knows what he/she is doing. Registration to vote should not be something that happens automatically, accidentally, or by default while engaged in some other activity such as: filing a tax return or application for public assistance or driver license or state ID or merely turning 16 years old.

Automatic voter registration does nothing to prevent non-citizens or even illegal aliens from voting. There are news reports that California explicitly encourages illegal aliens to get driver licenses or state ID cards, and to get public welfare assistance. Therefore automatic voter registration as a part of such activities is reported to have allowed many thousands of non-citizens and illegal aliens to vote.

Do-gooders think society should do everything possible to increase voter participation by making it easy and convenient to register and then to vote. But I think it's better to require people to go out of their way first to register, and then to vote.

If someone has such little knowledge about the candidates, or cares so little about the election that he is unwilling to make the effort to register, or to go to the polling place on election day, then perhaps we're all better off if he does not vote.

Low voter registration or turnout is evidence that people can't find issues or candidates they consider worthy of voting for. Personally, I don't mind if voter turnout is low, because that magnifies the effectiveness of my own vote. Ignorant or apathetic people are welcome to abstain.

The right to vote should be exercised by people who know how precious is the blood and treasure sacrificed to make it possible. The founders of our nation signed the Declaration of Independence right below its closing words "... we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Surely we can show our respect by sacrificing a few minutes to register before the deadline, or by spending a few minutes extra at the polling place on election day to do same-day registration.

The next step in this mad rush to increase voter turnout would be to abolish voter registration altogether. Simply adopt the system we all saw in news reports a few years ago about voting in Iraq and Afghanistan — INKY PINKY. Let anyone who wants to vote go to a polling place near home, stick the right-hand index finger into a can of indelible black paint, grab a ballot, fill it in, and drop it in the ballot box. The paint will not wear off for at least a day, thereby preventing someone from voting twice. This foolproof method also saves county clerks a lot of time and money, and saves the lives of several trees no longer needed for making the paper for the poll books.

LATE

HB-1485-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:52:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Snow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: