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State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: March 16, 2022

To: Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Re: Support for HB 1883, HD1, Relating to Elections

Hrg: March 17, 2022 at 3:00 PM, Conference Room 225 & via
videoconference

LATE

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is in **support of HB 1883, HD1**, which requires the ballot envelopes to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other languages.

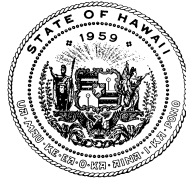
Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

One in nine people living in Hawai'i has limited English proficiency and a lack of language access creates dangerous barriers to meaningful civic engagement and participation. HIPHI supports increasing civic engagement and believes providing information on ballots about how to obtain language translation services will reduce barriers to participation in the democratic process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Fernandes".

Amanda Fernandes, JD
Policy and Advocacy Director



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS
1177 Alakea Street, Room B-100
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.ola@doh.hawaii.gov

APHIRAK BAMRUNGRUAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1883 HD1
RELATING TO ELECTION.**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 3/17/2021

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Agency Position:** The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports the intent of this measure, as
2 it requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package to include instructions on
3 how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and, at minimum, the five most utilized
4 foreign languages by Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons in the State.

5 **Agency Testimony:** OLA notes that the aspirational and exploratory goal of this measure are in
6 line with the mission of OLA, which is to address the language access needs of LEP persons.
7 OLA's task is to provide technical assistance and coordinate resources to reduce the burden of
8 meeting language access obligations. OLA is charged with providing oversight, central
9 coordination, and technical assistance to all state and state-funded agencies in their
10 implementation of language access compliance.

11 Voting in an election is one of the most important rights and responsibilities of US citizens.
12 However, LEP persons may not be able to fully participate in voting due to their limited ability
13 to understand English. This measure could provide an important component of language access
14 implementation by providing notice about the availability of language assistance services. This is
15 an important step to ensure meaningful access for LEP persons.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



**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 HUMAN SERVICES
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1883, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

March 17, 2022

Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support with amendments on House Bill No. 1883, HD 1. This bill requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages; and applies to all elections beginning with the 2022 Primary Election.

This bill supports voters needing assistance and specifies the languages that should be provided. While we support the intent of this bill, we propose amending the effective date to begin with the 2024 Primary Election. Due to supply chain issues, we have already started the production of the envelopes for the 2022 Elections and would not be able to add the languages.

For the 2022 Elections, the exterior of the envelope contains the statement, "For language assistance please call the Office of Elections at (808) 453-8683" in Traditional Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog, which are covered languages pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act. When calling our office, these voters would be assisted using a translation service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1883, HD 1.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services
Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

By
Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 1883 HD1 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1883 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 1883 HD1 that proposes to require instructions on ballots on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian.

UH Hilo is home to Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, that has been leading efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language while also serving as a model to national and international Indigenous communities who also seek to revive their endangered languages. The college has translation expertise among faculty, M.A. and Ph.D students and the Hale Kuamo'o Hawaiian Language Center at UH Hilo.

Having election materials available in Hawaiian is an important commitment to promoting Hawaiian and serving Hawaiian speakers. It also assures the some 3,600 students presently enrolled in schools and programs taught through Hawaiian that the state values their distinctive commitment to use the states Indigenous official language.

Mahalo for allowing UH Hilo to testify on this issue.



530 S KING ST RM 100
HONOLULU HI 96813
(808) 768-3800
WWW.HONOLULUELECTIONS.US

TESTIMONY OF REX QUIDILLA
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR,
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1883, HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

March 17, 2022

Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 1883, HD1 that proposes to include instructions on how to obtain language translation service in Hawaiian and, at a minimum, the five most utilized foreign languages by limited English proficient persons in the State.

Past efforts to provide multilingual support focused solely on “covered” languages pursuant to the Federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). The covered languages for Honolulu are Chinese and Filipino (Ilocano, Tagalog). The County of Maui is covered under Filipino. The Counties of Kauai and Hawaii are not covered by any language under the VRA.

VRA compliance entails the translation of the full suite of voter information available to English speaking voters. This includes brochures, forms, signage, website, and most importantly, the ballot. Support for languages not covered by the VRA is left to the discretion of the various elections offices and their respective resources.

To that end, the City mailed packets which included translated the ballot, ballot instructions, and return envelopes in the VRA-covered languages. The translated ballot packets are mailed to voters by request. In the 2020 General Election, approximately 1,102 and 682 ballot packets were mailed to Chinese and Ilocano voters, respectively.





530 S KING ST RM 100
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WWW.HONOLULUELECTIONS.US

For the 2020 elections, recognizing the significant change in election scheme, the City produced a primer explaining the mechanics of voting. The primer was not only translated in the 2 languages required by the VRA but we added 15 additional language translations, which included Hawaiian. We think this effort was positive first step in enhancing accessibility to the elections process

For the 2022 Elections, the Honolulu Elections Division will continue to support language access by providing Over the Phone Interpretation (OPI) to voters who call our office as well as Video Remote Interpretation (VRI) for voters at the Voter Service Center. Additionally, the City will be expanding the written translated materials available to voters.

The City and County of Honolulu supports HB 1883, HD1 and will work with the State Office of Elections on the exterior of the ballot packet envelope.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1883, HD1.



Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Thursday, March 17, 2022
3:00 PM
Via Video Conference and Conference Room 225
in consideration of

HB 1883, HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

Chair SAN BUENAVENTURA, Vice Chair IHARA, and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1883, HD1, which (1) requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages and (2) applies to all elections beginning with the 2022 primary election.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy by improving and modernizing our voting and elections systems to ensure that they are equitable and work for everyone.

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires that, once determinations are met¹, state and counties must provide language assistance during elections for certain language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. Under Section 203 of the VRA, according to the calculations recently released on Dec. 8, 2021 in the Federal Register, Honolulu County must provide translation services in Chinese (including Taiwanese) and Filipino and Maui County must provide translation services in Filipino. 86 Fed. Reg. 69611 (Dec. 8, 2021).

While this is a good start for Hawaii, this is insufficient, and Hawaii must do better for our voting limited English proficient citizens. The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%. See <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). Further, fifteen percent of

¹ “Section 203 mandates that a state or political subdivision must provide language assistance to voters if more than five (5) percent of voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group and do not ‘speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,’ and if the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade. When a state is covered for a particular language minority group, an exception is made for any political subdivision in which less than five (5) percent of the voting-age citizens are members of the minority group and are limited in English proficiency, unless the political subdivision is covered independently. A political subdivision is also covered if more than 10,000 of the voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group, do not ‘speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,’ and the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade.” See <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/12/08/2021-26547/voting-rights-act-amendments-of-2006-determinations-under-section-203> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).

eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants. See https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/02/GMD_2020.02.26_Immigrant-Eligible-Voters.pdf (retrieved Feb. 25, 2022).

The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014. See https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii. *Id.* However, English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low -- less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well. *Id.*

Voting “is regarded as a fundamental political right [] preservative of all rights.” *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 US 356, 370 (1886). A voting citizen’s right to notice of ballot translation services should not be dependent, especially here in Hawaii, on which county the person resides, especially when printing of ballots and translation services are provided by the State Office of Elections.

Moreover, amendments to the Hawaii State Constitution in 1978, including the reinclusion of the Hawaiian language as an official language of the state of Hawaii, were intended to require the State to institute measures that are reasonably calculated to revive the Hawaiian language. See *Clarabal v. Department of Education*, 145 Haw. 69, 446 P.3d 986 (2019); Haw. Const. art. XV, § 4. Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

Thus, according to Section 203 of the VRA, Honolulu and Maui counties must provide electoral “information that is provided in English . . . in the minority language as well. This covers not only the ballot, but all election information - voter registration, candidate qualifying, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, and absentee and regular ballots - from details about voter registration through the actual casting of the ballot, and the questions that regularly come up in the polling place.” See <https://www.justice.gov/crt/language-minority-citizens> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). Hawaii’s voting citizens on Kauai and Hawaii counties should also be informed of language access rights, and HB 1883, HD1 will help to achieve that. We should also endeavor to provide more than the minimum language translations required by law to ensure that all our limited English proficient citizens may fully engage in the electoral process.

For these reasons, Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1883, HD1 and respectfully urges the Committee members to pass HB 1883, HD1 out of your Committee with an effective date upon approval. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii





www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1883 HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Hearing Date: 3/17/2022

Dear Committee Members,

We write to SUPPORT HB 1883 HD1. Voting is a fundamental right, and language access must not be a barrier. It is not only necessary as a matter of civil rights—it is also the federal law.

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires that once language assistance determinations are met, state and counties must provide language assistance during elections for certain languages.¹ As the Department of Justice has explained, Section 203 of the VRA requires that “[a]ll information that is provided in English.... covers not only the ballot, but all election information - voter registration, candidate qualifying, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, *and absentee and regular ballots.*” (emphasis added).²

Thus, under federal law, the Hawai‘i state Office of Elections is required to provide all registered voters ballots in the required Section 203 languages (“Chinese including Taiwanese for Honolulu

¹ Federal law mandates that a state or political subdivision must provide language assistance to voters if more than five (5) percent of voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group and do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,” and if the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade. When a state is covered for a particular language minority group, an exception is made for any political subdivision in which less than five (5) percent of the voting-age citizens are minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. See *Section 203 Language Determinations*, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/voting-rights/voting-rights-determination-file.html> (last accessed Feb. 2, 2022).

² *Language Minority Citizens*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/language-minority-citizens> (last accessed Feb. 2, 2022).



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com**

County and Filipino for Maui County”).³ This applies to all forms of ballots, including absentee/mail-in ballots or regular ballots.

These requirements create a legal “floor” and Hawai`i must do at least these federal requirements to provide language assistance, whether or not the state have other measures to further language access. *See California Fed. S.L. Assn. V. Guerra*, 479 U.S. 272 (1987).

Finally, in addition to federal requirements, this bill is important, because the entire electorate, including limited English proficient individuals, deserves to have their voices heard. More than 23 million U.S. naturalized immigrants were eligible to vote in the 2020 presidential election, making up more than 10% of the nation’s overall electorate.⁴

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Catherine Chen, Co-chair, Hawai`i Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Liza Ryan Gill, Co-chair, Hawai`i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

³ Under Section 203 of the VRA, according to the calculations recently released on Dec. 8, 2021 in the Federal Register, Honolulu County must provide translation services in Chinese (including Taiwanese) and Filipino and Maui County must provide translation services in Filipino. 86 Fed. Reg. 69611 (Dec. 8, 2021).

⁴ Naturalized Citizens Make-Up Record One in Ten U.S. Eligible Voters in 2020, Pew Research Center, <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2020/02/26/naturalized-citizens-make-up-record-one-in-ten-u-s-eligible-voters-in-2020/>, (Accessed 1/31/2022).



HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS

March 14, 2022

TO: Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

FROM: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair & Pat McManaman, Co-Chair

SUBJECT: **HB1883, HD1 Relating to Elections**

HEARING: March 17, 2022, 3:00 PM
Via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights stands in **Strong Support of HB1883, HD1** including the Hawaiian language and the addition of the five most foreign languages spoken by limited English proficient persons to the exterior of ballot envelopes mailed to voters.

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires states and counties to provide language assistance during elections for certain languages once the federal threshold is triggered.¹ Language assistance, as defined under Section 203 of the VRA, means “all

¹ “Section 203 mandates that a state or political subdivision must provide language assistance to voters if more than five (5) percent of voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority group and do not ‘speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process,’ and if the rate of those citizens who have not completed the fifth grade is higher than the national rate of voting-age citizens who have not completed the fifth grade. When a state is covered for a particular language minority group, an exception is made for any political subdivision in which less than five (5) percent of the voting-age citizens are minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. Under Section 203 of the VRA, according to the calculations recently released on Dec. 8, 2021, in the Federal Register, Honolulu County must provide translation services in Chinese (including Taiwanese) and Filipino and Maui County must provide translation services in Filipino. 86 Fed. Reg. 69611 (Dec. 8, 2021).

information that is provided in English.” This includes voter registration materials, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, **and ballots**. As such, the state Office of Elections is **required** to provide **mail-in ballots** in “Chinese including Taiwanese” and “Filipino” for Oahu County and in “Filipino” for Maui County, in addition to English ballots.

This measure preserves the Section 203 requirements and extends assistance to additional limited English proficient persons. Voting is a fundamental political right. See, *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 US 356, 370 (1886). Yet, Between January 1 and December 7, 2021, at least 19 states passed 34 laws restricting access to voting.² This measure sets Hawai‘i apart from those states seeking to limit voting access and signals to our sister states that access sustains democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure,

² Voting Laws Roundup: December 2021, Brennan Center for Justice, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-december-2021>, (Accessed 1/31/2022).

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:12:49 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liza Ryan Gill	Testifying for HI Coalition for Immigrant Rights	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

We write to SUPPORT HB 1883 HD1 and offer a suggestion. Voting is a fundamental right, and language access must not be a barrier. It is not only necessary as a matter of civil rights—it is also the federal law.

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires that once language assistance determinations are met, state and counties must provide language assistance during elections for certain languages. As the Department of Justice has explained, Section 203 of the VRA requires that “[a]ll information that is provided in English.... covers not only the ballot, but all election information - voter registration, candidate qualifying, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, and absentee and regular ballots.” (emphasis added).

Thus, under federal law, the Hawai`i state Office of Elections is required to provide all registered voters ballots in the required Section 203 languages (“Chinese including Taiwanese for Honolulu County and Filipino for Maui County”). This applies to all forms of ballots, including absentee/mail-in ballots or regular ballots.

These requirements create a legal “floor” and Hawai`i must do at least these federal requirements to provide language assistance, whether or not the state have other measures to further language access. See *California Fed. S.L. Assn. V. Guerra*, 479 U.S. 272 (1987).

We suggest that language be inserted into the bill noting that the proposed legislation does not exempt or supplant the requirements of Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Finally, in addition to federal requirements, this bill is important, because the entire electorate, including limited English proficient individuals, deserves to have their voices heard. More than 23 million U.S. naturalized immigrants were eligible to vote in the 2020 presidential election making up more than 10% of the nation’s overall electorate.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Catherine Chen, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Liza Ryan Gill, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights



Senate Committee on Human Services

Thursday, March 17th, 2022, 3:00p.m. Conference Room 225

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action Supports: HB1883 HD1

Aloha Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara Jr and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of HB1883 HD1.

HB1883 HD1 requires the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages. Applies to all elections beginning with the 2022 primary election.

HAPA supports this measure and measures that help to boost voter engagement and help the government be more representative of our diverse population. We support this and all measures that make our government more accountable, transparent, open and accessible to residents.

This measure is specifically relevant to Hawai'i, given our huge diversity and "melting pot" of cultures and races. The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%¹ and we know that about fifteen percent of eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants².

The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014³. Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii.

¹<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html>

²https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/02/GMD_2020.02.26_Immigrant-Eligible-Voters.pdf

³https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf

Further, providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

We are well aware of, and concerned about, the growing apathy and lack of participation in the government process and encourage all measures that will help boost engagement.

Please pass HB1883 HD1 and help increase voter engagement and turnout.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 3:11:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Love it! Another proactive action embracing Hawaii's indigenous language, along with recognizing Hawaii's diverse community, the end result may be more engagement of such members of our community. Please pass this bill out of committee.

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 3:47:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This most diverse state has fifteen percent of eligible voters immigrants.

- Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 5:10:21 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear HMS Chair and Committee,

I support [HB1883](#) because the US as well as the rest of the world should be promoting multiculturalism and giving migrants ways in which to vote and be more engaged. The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation. Fifteen percent of eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants. So having ballots in their own language will promote a more engaged electoral. The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014. English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low -- less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well.

My supportive statement isn't original. However I am a volunteer for Common Cause and believe in their mission and action across the US. I usually agree with their positions and if not I will express those views.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 6:28:38 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB1883 for the simple reason that all eligible citizens registered to vote should have easy access to voting instructions, whether it is in Hawaiian, Portuguese or other native tongue.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:05:55 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

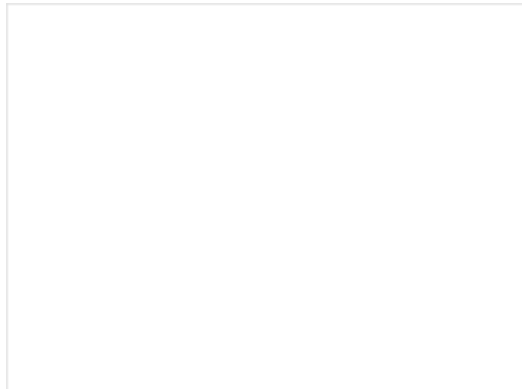
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This, to me, seems like a 'no-brainer'. I hope you will support it and vote "aye" for it.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marjorie Erway



HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:34:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meizhu Lui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sen. Buenaventura and the Human Services Committee,

Thank you for your support for the expansion of democracy, and making sure that every vote counts. HB1883 HD1 helps do that by requiring the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages. My parents are Chinese immigrants, and most of us in Hawaii have parents or grandparents who came without a lot of English language skills. This bill will help them exercise their democratic right to vote.

With appreciation,

Meizhu Lui

Papaaloa, Hawaii Island

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:35:51 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1883. Our state is very diverse, with many U.S. citizens who want to vote but are not proficient in English. My community in Ka'u has many Ilocano speakers who need translation services to enable them to understand the ballot. This bill would facilitate their voting by providing directions on how to obtain needed language translation services.

Please pass HB1883.

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:59:49 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Human Services Committee,

I support HB1883, HD 1, Relating to Elections, requiring the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in hawaiian and in certain foreign languages.

The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawai'i is the most diverse state in the nation, with a diversity index of 76.0%, and 15% of the State's eligible voters are immigrants. Many public documents and services already include these instructions, and certainly, elections are one of the pillars of our democracy that everyone should participate in. A measure that is already practiced in other areas and which has been proven to boost voter turnout rates needs to be passed.

Further, providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue, and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB1883, HD 1.

Michele Mitsumori
District 1, Hilo, Hawai'i Island

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:45:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1883.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 12:38:42 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%.
See <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).
- Fifteen percent of eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants.
See https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/02/GMD_2020.02.26_Immigrant-Eligible-Voters.pdf (retrieved Feb. 25, 2022).
- The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014. *See* https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).
- Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii. *See* https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).

English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low -- less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well.

Voting is fundamental constitutional right.

Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:59:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jake Jacobs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1883 for the following reasons:

- The recent Decennial Census shows that Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation with a diversity index of 76.0%. See <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).
- Fifteen percent of eligible voters in Hawaii are immigrants. See https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/02/GMD_2020.02.26_Immigrant-Eligible-Voters.pdf (retrieved Feb. 25, 2022).
- The April 2016 DBEDT Research and Economic Analysis Division report on Non-English Speaking Population in Hawaii indicates that non-English speakers at home in Hawaii increased by 44% from 1980 to 2014. See https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).
- Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii. See https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).
- English proficiency among the non-English speaking population varied substantially by language with proficiency being low -- less than 40% of the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Ilocano speaking population speak English very well. See https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf at Executive Summary (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022).
- Voting is fundamental constitutional right.
- Providing notice of translation services on voting materials in the Hawaiian language is long overdue and would be an important step in recognizing the equal dignity of Hawaiians and their language in Hawaii.

HB-1883-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:35:47 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/17/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO ELECTION BALLOTS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANY ILLEGALS. If you can not understand English you should not be Voting!!