



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 383
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

February 10, 2023

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 383. This bill requires that any person who applies for an identification card or driver's license be automatically registered to vote; and requires that the applicant be provided the opportunity to opt-out of voter registration.

The election officials work with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement automatic voter registration. Since the enactment of Act 126 Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, we worked with DOT to update the voter registration portion of the driver license and State ID application to include the opportunity to opt-out of registering to vote or to proceed with completing the requirements of the voter registration affidavit. The additional information on the voter registration portion of the driver license and State ID application includes phone number, email, a statement attesting that the applicant is eligible to register, and the ability for a special needs voter to request an electronic ballot.

Given the implementation of automatic voter registration in 2021 and that this bill does not provide substantive changes, we do not believe that this bill is necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 383.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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February 5, 2023

TO: Chair Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: SB 383 Relating to Voter Registration

Support for Hearing on Feb. 10

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 this bill as it would automatically register people to vote when they apply for an identification card or driver's license. As shown in the book, Who Votes, by Ray Wolfinger, voter registration requirements reduce voter turnout and reducing those requirements raise turnout. We have traditionally low voter turnout as compared with other states. This bill will help.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:56:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalene McCormick	Testifying for West Hawaii GOP	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our voter roles are already bloated with people who should be deleted. It makes no sense why you would want to make them even worse.



**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 10, 2023 9:35am (HST) Committee Room 016
and Via Videoconference
SB 383 RELATING TO AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION**

TESTIMONY

Holly Plackett, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 383 that requires any person who applies for an identification card or driver's license be automatically registered to vote and the clarification language that requires that the applicant be provided the opportunity to opt-out of voter registration.

The League supports the updated language in this bill that includes the statement "The applicant shall be offered the opportunity to opt-out of voter registration" and we do not feel this weakens the Automatic Voter Registration law that became effective in July 2021. The added language makes clear that the decision to *not register to vote* while obtaining a drivers' license still remains with the individual.

The Automatic Voter Registration bill made effective in July, 2021 has led to a steady statewide increase in voter registration across our state. For the General Election in 2018, 756,751 people were registered and by the General Election in 2022, 861,358 people were registered. An increase of 100,000 voters in four years is impressive and in addition to the Automatic Voter Registration bill, the hard work of our County Clerks and Office of Elections share in this progress as they are significantly supported by this legislation.

Making voting registration easy and convenient is very, very important in a modern democracy. Let's keep up this good work!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:50:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Miyajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Registering people to vote automatically, while still allowing them to opt out if they want, would make it much easier for people to go and vote. Easier voting means that more people will vote, and while I can't say if that'll make a huge change or not, I think any change that makes things easier is worth doing.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:36:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:49:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivek Pathela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:14:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Betlyon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB383!

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:50:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Shedko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

We need to get all extra names (moved, died, fictitious) off of our voter roll, and find a way to keep it maintained accurately, before we start automatically adding additional names.

Mahalo!

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 6:35:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica E	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Automatic registration is a horrible idea. Adding people to the registration list who have no interest or intention to vote presents risks that people will submit ballots which do not belong to them. Unsuspecting people who are issued ballots because they were automatically added to the list will not be keeping an eye out for their ballot to arrive and someone else may collect these people's ballots and vote them illegally.

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:50:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. The easier our citizens have a pathway to voting, the more stable our democracy can be. Our government only thrives if all of its people can participate in it. And combining voting registration with state ID feels like a natural choice, which makes me wonder why this wasn't thought of years ago. But I digress. I support this bill.

SB383 Relating to Voter Registration

Testimony IN OPPOSITION

Corinne Solomon, Oahu Resident

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB383.

I OPPOSE SB 383.

According to Chief Elections Officer Scott Nago and Honolulu City Clerk Glen Takahashi, there are approximately 100,000 “deadweight” registrants on our voter rolls^{1,2}. The voter rolls are obscenely bloated, this needs to be addressed and remedied BEFORE any legislation is passed that increases potential deadweight on our voter rolls.

Hawaii is in the top ten states with percentage of noncitizens as residents.^{3,4} It is illegal for noncitizens to vote.

How will these individuals be properly screened to prevent them from automatic voter registration when they get a drivers license?

In researching to prepare testimony for this bill, I was hoping to find robust legislation that addresses this.

Instead, I found the opposite. [HRS § 286-104.5](#) Limited Purpose Drivers License, allows for noncitizens to show their HAWAII VOTER REGISTRATION CARD as proof of residency to obtain a drivers license.

Apparently noncitizens are already voting, and can use their voter registration to get a drivers license. Unbelievable.

Focus on fixing the current broken laws instead of flooding the universal mail-in voting system with more ballots.

References

1. <https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2022/01/13/hawaii-news/voter-registration-database-questioned/>
2. <https://www.khon2.com/local-news/second-all-mail-election-offers-some-changes/>
3. https://censuscope.org/us/rank_mig_non_citizens.html
4. https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/Hawaii_Migration_Flows_2013-2017_Dec2019.pdf

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:19:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALEX RIVERA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIS BILL IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. ONLY UNITED STATES CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE. A DRIVERS LICENSE DOES NOT PROVE CITIZENSHIP. A DRIVERS LICENSE CAN BE GIVEN TO ANYONE WHO SHOWS PROOF OF RESIDENCY AS LONG AS THEY SHOW A CURRENT HOME UTILITY BILL. THIS IS NOT PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP. THIS MEANS THAT FOR EVERY NON-US CITIZEN THATS VOTING THEY ARE TAKING AWAY A LEGIT US CITIZENS VOTE. THIS NEEDS TO BE REJECTED. OUR LEGISLATORS ALL TOOK AN OATH TO THE CONSTITUTION. THEY NEED TO UPHOLD IT.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:54:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would we have automatic voter registration. That leaves more errors and more chances of voting fraud. To combat this, we should have more voting polls. What happened when we had more than 2 voting stations, the public schools used to have voting polls. Thats voter suppression. Make it accessible to everyone and do it the right way. Everyone knows whats going on here, everyone is watching you.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:51:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M M	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB383, voting is a right, with responsibilities. Gun ownership is a right, but each owner goes through multiple levels of verification. Voting is just as powerful and deserves the same vigorous checks. It is a right that deserves attention to detail.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 4:26:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!