



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

Friday, January 27, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Room 016 and Via Videoconference  
SB 9 RELATING TO BOARDS OF REGISTRATION

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, 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 9**, that would require members of the Boards of Registration in each County be Hawaii be a registered voter in the respective county of the board to which the member is appointed and remain a registered voter in that county for their term of office. The bill also establishes methods for determining and verifying a board member's political party membership.

Board of Registration volunteers play an important part in maintaining the integrity of our elections, by reviewing and deciding appeals that arise from a voter challenge or a clerk's decision regarding voter registration. If they reside in the County which they represent they are more like to be familiar with residents of the County, the County Clerk's operation and political parties active in the County.

Each member of the Board is expected to make fair decisions concerning voter appeals and a Clerk's decisions. To avoid overt bias, the law already requires that as a whole the three-member Board represent more than one political party. It is necessary and appropriate to have a procedure such as that outlined in the bill to determine a member's political party membership.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.