



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1593  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

January 30, 2024

Chair Tarnas and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1593. This bill requires the Office of Elections to print and mail a physical copy of the digital voter information guide to any voter upon request and appropriate funds.

We believe an informed electorate is important for the health of our democracy. Beginning with the 2024 Primary Election, our office will compile and distribute a digital voter guide, made available at least 45 days before each election on our website, elections.hawaii.gov, and copies will be made for public viewing at various public libraries approximately 18 days prior to each election.

We estimate making copies available by request for mailing, would total \$552,044. Our estimate is based on:

- 5% of the total registered voters of 861,358 at the time of the 2022 General Election for a total of 43,068 printed copies of the digital voter information guide at \$0.75 per piece.
- 100 printed copies each in Olelo Hawaii, Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog at \$0.75 per piece.
- Mailing rate of \$5.60 per piece.

We would note, that since the 2024 Elections would be the first year of the digital voter guide, we would be in a better position next election to determine what portion of the population will prefer to receive a physical copy of the voter information guide and how that might impact future appropriations to continue with this service and the impacts for future budget requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1593.

**HB-1593**

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 4:29:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Detwiler	Hawaii Federation of Republican Women	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on HB1593.

While I support the intent of this bill, I question why the dollar value fields and percent value fields on page 2 are not completed. May I respectfully recommend that if this bill is passed for this hearing that all of the information contained in the bill be completed.

Respectfully, Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawaii Federation of Republican Women

**HB-1593**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:52:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacob Wiencek	Hawaii Young Republicans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

On behalf of Hawaii Young Republicans, we support this bill. Providing physical copies of voter information is crucial. Not all citizens have access to the digital resources or internet connectivity necessary to full participate in our civic processes.



**LATE**

**Committee on JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Rep. David Tarnas, Chair**

**Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, January 30 2024 – 2:00pm**

**Conference Room 325 and VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HB 1593 Relating to Elections**

**TESTIMONY**

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB1593** regarding the **Digital Voter Information Guide** including the addition of the sentence: “The office of elections shall print and mail a physical copy of the digital voter information guide to any voter upon request.” The League also supports the appropriation of general revenues to cover the costs of these requests.

It is important to free and fair elections standards that the state serve its citizens with information about candidates and a few of those citizens may not have access to digital services to view the Digital Voter Information Guide and may need to request a physical copy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-1593**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 3:33:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fenton K lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members,

My name is Fenton Kaulana Lee, and I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1593. This bill, which mandates the Office of Elections to print and mail physical copies of the digital voter information guide upon request, poses significant concerns in several areas.

1. Financial Implications:

HB1593 could lead to substantial financial expenditures for the state. The process of printing and mailing physical voter guides to voters upon request could incur significant costs. In a time where budget efficiency is paramount, it is crucial to consider the necessity and cost-effectiveness of such an initiative.

2. Environmental Concerns:

The environmental impact of printing and mailing large quantities of voter guides is also a major concern. This bill contradicts the broader societal shift towards sustainable and eco-friendly practices. Digital guides are more environmentally responsible, reducing paper waste and the carbon footprint associated with physical mail.

3. Efficiency and Modernization:

In our digital era, the focus should be on enhancing and securing digital platforms for voter information. Digital guides are accessible, efficient, and align with the modernization of information dissemination. The bill's focus on traditional methods seems counterintuitive to the progress made in digital accessibility.

#### 4. Limited Impact:

The necessity of this bill is also questionable. With the increasing prevalence of digital media, most voters may prefer accessing information online. The printing of physical copies could result in underutilized resources, benefiting only a small fraction of the electorate.

In conclusion, while the intent of HB1593 to provide accessible voter information is commendable, the approach proposed by the bill is financially, environmentally, and practically inefficient. I urge the committee to reconsider the bill's implications and to explore more sustainable, cost-effective methods of distributing voter information.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Fenton Kaulana Lee

**HB-1593**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:58:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and JHA Committee Members,

I support HB 1593

This bill helps make voter education materials accessible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Corinne Solomon HD20