CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REP. NO. 130 -26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAY 1 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2239
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir and Madam:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 2239, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to:

(1) Require a person who applies for an identification card or driver's license to be automatically registered to vote unless the person affirmatively declines, subject to certain conditions; and

(2) Require the name and address of a person who applies for an identification card or driver's license and is registered to vote to be automatically updated on the person's voter registration record unless the person affirmatively declines.

Your Committee on Conference finds that the State's current voter registration system uses an "opt-in" approach for applicants of driver's licenses and identification card applications. However, some applicants may overlook this option. This measure will implement an "opt-out" system that will automatically register eligible applicants to vote while preserving individual choice.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

(1) Inserting language prohibiting the examiner of drivers from transmitting any voter registration information unless the applicant provides documentation demonstrating proof of United States citizenship or records maintained by the examiner of drivers conclusively indicate that the applicant provided documentation demonstrating United States citizenship as part of a previous transaction;

(2) Inserting language clarifying that if the applicant provides documentation indicating that the applicant is not a United States citizen during the transaction, the examiner of drivers shall not transmit any voter registration information to the appropriate county clerk and the applicant shall not be offered a voter registration or preregistration opportunity;

(3) Inserting language requiring the examiner of drivers to provide an applicant with certain voter registration information if the documents provided by the applicant do not provide sufficient information to verify citizenship status or if the examiner of drivers is unable to verify that proof of citizenship was presented during a previous transaction; and

(4) Making it effective on January 1, 2027.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2239, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2239, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1.





Respectfully submitted on behalf of the managers:

of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

DAVID A. TARNAS
Co-Chair

AMY A. PERUSO
Co-Chair

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE

KARL RHOADS
Chair

**Hawai'i State Legislature**

## Record of Votes of a Conference Committee

CCR 130-26

| Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: **SB 2239, SD 1, HD 1** | Date/Time: 4/28/26; 2:09 pm |
|---|---|

☒ The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.

☐ The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure

☐ The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.

| Senate Managers | A | WR | N | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RHOADS, Karl, Chr. | ✓ | | | |
| CHANG, Stanley | ✓ | | | |
| AWA, Brenton | | | | ✓ |
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| TOTAL | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| House Managers | A | WR | N | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TARNAS, David A., Co-Chr. | ✓ | | | |
| PERRUSO, Amy A., Co-Chr. | ✓ | | | |
| POEPOE, Mahina | ✓ | | | |
| GARCIA, Diamond | | | ✓ | |
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| TOTAL | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**A** = Aye **WR** = Aye with Reservations **N** = Nay **E** = Excused

Senate Recommendation is: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

House Recommendation is: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: Karl Rhoads

House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: David Tarnas

**Distribution:** **Original** *File with Conference Committee Report* **Yellow** *House Clerk's Office* **Pink** *Senate Clerk's Office* **Goldenrod** *Drafting Agency*