



**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  
& HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2132 HD 1  
RELATING TO VOTING

February 19, 2026

Chair Tarnas and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding House Bill No. 2132 HD 1. We appreciate the committee's efforts to expand access to voting and strengthen civic engagement.

This bill authorizes state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if designated by the Office of Elections; and requires eligible applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless the applicant opts out.

Our office supports the intent of the bill as it increases access to voter registration. We would defer to other government agencies and the county clerks regarding the further impacts on operations as well as the implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2132 HD 1.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES**  
**KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KUPA**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION

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February 18, 2026

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 2132, H.D. 1 - Relating To Voting  
HEARING: Thursday, February 19, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) offers **comments** to H.B. No. 2132, H.D. 1, which requires eligible applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless the applicant opts out. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) administers, among other things, the motor vehicle driver licensing and state identification card programs for the island of O'ahu. While CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

CSD supports efforts to increase voter participation, but has concerns regarding the operational and financial impacts the proposed legislation will have on the City and County of Honolulu.

The proposed legislation would require modifications to CSD DMV's information technology system, CSD DMV forms, and CSD DMV internal policies and procedures. Specifically, amendments to Section 11-15.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), would introduce new responsibilities for CSD DMV, including but not limited to:

- Integrating automatic voter registration mechanisms into licensing and identification systems;
- Implementing changes to license renewals (Section 286-107, HRS); instruction permits (Section 286-110, HRS); applications for licenses, provisional licenses, instruction permits, limited purpose driver's licenses, limited purpose provisional driver's licenses, or limited purpose instruction permits (Section 286-111); duplicate permits, provisional licenses, and licenses (Section 286-117, HRS); and identification cards (Section 286-303, HRS);
- Ensuring compliance with federal and state data privacy and security requirements; and
- Conducting staff training and public outreach to support implementation and administration of the revised voter registration process.

These additional responsibilities would be true statewide, as each county is responsible for administering licensing and identification programs. Additionally, the proposed legislation may have unintended consequences for Hawai'i's current licensing processes and require further clarification on implementation timelines and funding support from the state.

Given these significant operational considerations, we respectfully request the Legislature provide clear guidance on funding, resources and the necessary time available for implementation. CSD DMV urges the Legislature to consider the impact on county operations and, should this matter move forward, requests a phased approach to implementation that will allow for a reasonable and adequate amount of time for the counties to research and assess implementation requirements, staffing, funding requirements, information technology and other resource impacts, necessary updated administrative procedures, staff training, and good public outreach.

With these considerations in mind, CSD appreciates the opportunity to comment on H.B. No. 2132, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

*for* Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director



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TESTIMONY  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2132 HD1  
RELATING TO VOTING

February 18, 2026

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the City Clerk generally supports the intent of HB2132 HD1. Under Hawai'i's vote-by-mail election system, voter registration has a direct and tangible relationship to voting because a ballot is mailed to every properly registered voter. Expanding voter registration opportunities directly supports voter access and participation. The measure is also consistent with the framework of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires certain agency-based voter registration while authorizing states to designate additional agencies to expand access to registration services. See 52 U.S.C. § 20506(a)(3).

The City's primary concern is with the proposed implementation structure. Federal law already establishes centralized statewide voter registration database administration through the Help America Vote Act of 2002, which requires a single, uniform, official statewide voter registration list. In Hawai'i, this function is carried out through the State Office of Elections that administers the Statewide Voter Registration System's information technology and data transfer functionality.

Consistent with this framework, the Office of Elections should play a central role in coordinating participating agencies, managing data transmission standards and agreements, and receiving and initially processing agency data prior to import into the statewide voter registration system. This centralized role is particularly important because this initiative may create multiple potential points of data intake across participating state agencies, making statewide coordination essential to ensure uniformity, data integrity, and consistent implementation practices.

As currently drafted, the bill appears to create operational impacts for counties while providing limited authority for counties to manage agency participation or compliance. Counties have observed similar structural considerations in the existing driver licensing voter registration program, which also requires the electronic transfer of data. Based on the counties' experience in this context, data transfer functionality remains a challenge that has required significant and ongoing State-level interagency

coordination. Centralized statewide coordination may help support consistent implementation and avoid duplicating similar implementation challenges as additional agencies are designated to participate in data transfer activities.

Since this appears to be creating a new state program, a more effective structure would have the State Office of Elections coordinate directly with participating agencies, manage data transmission arrangements, and conduct statewide quality assurance functions, including the issuance of opt-out mailers. Counties would continue their existing role by processing the returned opt-out notices and any resulting voter record corrections, maintaining statewide uniformity and alignment with State law.

Finally, the bill does not provide funding for implementation. As currently drafted, program costs, including printing and mailing opt-out notices, appear likely to result in implementation costs without an identified appropriation. A state-administered structure would provide the Legislature with a clearer mechanism to directly support implementation costs and ensure consistent execution.

As a county agency, we are unable to provide an estimate of the program costs for “opt out mailers” since we are not certain how many state agencies might be designated and the number of transactions that each may perform in any given year.

For these reasons, the Office of the City Clerk supports the policy intent of HB2132 HD1 and respectfully recommends clarifying centralized program administration through the State Office of Elections while preserving counties’ operational role in voter record maintenance and voter correspondence processing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





**House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB2132  
Thursday, February 19th, at 2 P,M Conference Room 325**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee,

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports HB2132, updating Hawai'i's automatic voter registration by moving from an opt-in to an opt-out system, while still protecting voter choice and keeping strong eligibility checks. When people apply for or renew a driver's license or state ID, they already give verified information to the State. This bill ensures our election system uses that secure process more effectively.

This bill aims to strengthen our democracy by making voter registration easier, more accurate, and better matched to our residents. Hawai'i often has low voter turnout, and the main problem is not lack of interest but unnecessary obstacles in the registration process.

This approach helps more people participate without sacrificing security. It does not change who can vote, does not register non-citizens, and does not take away the option to decline registration. Instead, it reduces mistakes, helps eligible voters stay on the rolls, and keeps voter lists accurate and current.

We are always asking young people to get involved in our democracy. HB2132 helps remove unnecessary barriers so participation is actually accessible. We know this approach works. According to a report by the Center for American Progress, automatic voter registration helped register more than 116,000 people in Oregon who would otherwise not have registered. Notably, 40 percent of those registered through AVR were under 30, compared to just 13 percent under traditional registration.

Across the country, automatic voter registration has increased participation, especially among young people, working families, and groups that are often underrepresented. It also saves money and makes things easier for election officials by simplifying registration and reducing paperwork and repeated tasks.

Democracy is strongest when many people can take part, access is fair, and systems fit real life. HB2132 helps Hawai'i reach that goal by updating our voter registration system to be practical, secure, and focused on people's needs.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge support of HB2132

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the typed name.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director

Dear Committee members,

My name is Camron Hurt Program Director of Common Cause Hawaii, I am writing in support of HB2132 Automatic Voter Registration. The current System is a remarkable step in ensuring access to the ballot box for all in the State. It is imperative that lawmakers improve our current program by passing SB 81 to adapt our system to an opt-out system. By making this change this would allow citizens to be registered to vote automatically while signing up for other services with the State. With greater access to voter registration, we can seek to improve not just voter turnout but also overall participation in democracy. It is for these reasons and more that I urge all members to vote in favor of HB2132

### **Hawaii Secure AVR: Cost Estimate**

We have estimated the cost of implementing Secure AVR (“AVR”) in Hawaii, as outlined in HB2132. This analysis is based on the up-front and ongoing costs of implementing AVR in other states, savings from AVR implementation in other states, and factors specific to Hawaii. Based on this analysis, we estimate Hawaii would need to expend \$317,510 in up-front costs to implement AVR, and would incur \$78,273 per year in ongoing costs.

But those costs would be more than offset by the cost savings of implementing AVR.

Hawaii would see net **savings** of approximately **\$309,077** in the first year of

implementation, even when accounting for up front costs. If there is an election that year, the savings would be even greater—roughly **\$1,046,397**. Moreover, once the up-front costs have been incurred, Hawaii would see net savings of roughly **\$626,587** in off years and **\$1,363,907** in election years going forward.

### **Up-Front Cost (Tech Systems Upgrades)**

The cost of implementing AVR varies by state but ranges from tens of thousands to a few hundred thousand dollars, as shown in the table below. We think the most reasonable comparison from the table below is New Mexico, since its population numbers are similar to Hawaii. Adjusted for Hawaii’s slightly smaller population, we estimate Hawaii would need to expend roughly **\$317,510** in up-front upgrades to its technology systems to implement AVR.

As the table shows, New Mexico has a “live link”, an optional feature that makes AVR more efficient by allowing for two-way information sharing between the DMV and the Secretary of State’s office. As written, HB2132 does not include a live link. If there is no live link, the cost of upgrading Hawaii’s tech systems is probably even lower than our estimate of \$317,510.

State	Total Up-Front Cost for AVR <sup>1</sup>	Cost to DMV	Cost to SOS/Dep't of Elections	Includes Cost of Live Link?
Colorado	\$148,840	\$130,840	\$18,000	Yes
Delaware	\$21,900	\$21,900	\$0	No
Minnesota	\$286,000	\$109,000	\$177,000	No
Oregon	\$829,261 <sup>2</sup>	\$33,200	\$796,061	No
New Mexico	\$462,000	Unclear	Unclear	Yes
Nevada	\$1,082,830	Unclear	Unclear	No
Washington	\$644,500	\$497,000	\$147,500	No

### **Ongoing Costs**

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1 This analysis only includes a cost estimate for implementation AVR at the DMV. Estimating the cost of implementing AVR at other agencies (such as the state Medicaid agency), as some states have done, would require a separate analysis.

2 This cost includes declination mailers, which are paid for by the Oregon Secretary of State.

The two ongoing costs of AVR are the staff time required for elections officials to process registrations and the mailers that local elections offices must send to voters after they are automatically registered.

1. **Staff time:** A case study from Arizona found that processing an online voter registration cost roughly 3 cents of staff time.<sup>3</sup> From the processing side, AVR is even more efficient than online voter registration. But for purposes of this cost estimate, we treat them the same.

Meanwhile, data from Colorado shows that in the first year of AVR implementation, the state likely registered or updated the registration of 660,775 voters. Adjusting for the number of eligible voters in Hawaii (which is lower than Colorado) and the percentage of unregistered voters in Colorado vs. Hawaii who will be signed up through AVR, we estimate Hawaii will register or update the registration of 146,999 voters in the first year of AVR (and likely even fewer after that, once Hawaii's unregistered population goes down because of AVR).<sup>4</sup> The total processing cost of this will be roughly \$4,410.

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3 The Costs of Modernizing Voter Registration Systems, ACLU, [https://www.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/022415-aclu-voterregcostsonline\\_0.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/022415-aclu-voterregcostsonline_0.pdf), at p.13.

4 Univ. of Fl. Election Lab: 2024 General Election Turnout, <https://election.lab.ufl.edu/2024-general-election-turnout/> (provides eligible voter population by state); U.S. Census Bureau: Table 4a, [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/587/vote04a\\_2024.xlsx](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/587/vote04a_2024.xlsx) (provides registration rates by state).

2. **Mailer cost:** The mailer sent to voters who are automatically registered can be a simple postcard with return postage pre-paid. The cost to produce it is therefore similar to other pieces of election mail (like change of address notices). When Minnesota implemented AVR, it estimated the cost at 50 cents per mailer.<sup>5</sup>

As discussed above, we estimate Hawaii would send mailers to roughly 146,998 voters in the first year. At a cost of 50 cents per mailer, this would total roughly \$73,500.

Finally, a small percentage of those mailers will be returned because the voter does not want to register, which means the elections office will need to pay for return postage. In 2023, Minnesota estimated the return postage cost at 45 cents per mailer.<sup>6</sup> And in its first year of AVR, the return rate in Colorado for newly registered voters was 0.55%. There is no reason to think the return rate for voters whose registration is updated by AVR will be any higher. The cost of postage is therefore negligible—based on this analysis, we estimate it at \$364 per year.

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5 Minn. Legislature: Fiscal Notes Estimate:

<https://mn.gov/mmbapps/fnsearchlbo/?number=HF3&year=2023> (scroll to document HF3-4E, p. 8).<sup>6</sup> Minn. Legislature: Fiscal Notes Estimate:

<https://mn.gov/mmbapps/fnsearchlbo/?number=HF3&year=2023> (scroll to document HF3-4E, p. 8).

Therefore, we estimate the total annual ongoing cost of implementing AVR at **\$78,274** per year.

### **Cost Savings**

Hawaii will likely see very significant cost savings from implementing AVR, as has been the case in other states.

1. **DMV Staff Time:** AVR significantly reduces transaction times at the DMV, and therefore saves money in the form of staff time. To estimate these cost savings, we multiplied a \$20 average hourly wage for a Hawaii DMV employee,<sup>6</sup> a 90 second reduction in the time per DMV transaction,<sup>7</sup> and the 1,262,693 annual number of new vehicle registrations at the Hawaii DMV in 2023.<sup>8</sup>

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6 Ziprecruiter: Dmv Salary in Hawaii, <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Dmv-Salary--in-Hawaii> (last accessed Sept. 18, 2025).

7 Motor Voter Registration: Colorado Case Study, Democracy Fund (Dec. 2021), [https://electionline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Colorado-Case-Study\\_12.2021-Update1.pdf](https://electionline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Colorado-Case-Study_12.2021-Update1.pdf).

8 U.S. Dep't of Transportation: State Motor Vehicle Registrations 2023 (Nov. 2024), [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2023/mv1.cfm#:~:text=Table\\_title:%20Table%20MV](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2023/mv1.cfm#:~:text=Table_title:%20Table%20MV)

This analysis certainly undercounts the number of DMV transactions, but that undercounting is offset by the fact some DMV transactions will be reduced by less than 90 seconds (if the voter does not show proof of citizenship or non-citizenship).

Based on this estimate, the Hawaii DMV will save roughly **\$631,346** per year if the state implements AVR.

2. **Paper Registration Processing Costs:** A 2016 study estimated the cost of processing paper voter registration applications based on county size. In that study, labor costs rely on 2016 estimates of the average cost of full-time staff processing applications, following up with applicants about missing or erroneous information, and temporary staff processing applications.<sup>9</sup> The table below pulls from that study and adjusts the labor costs for inflation using the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation

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<sup>9</sup> Doug Chapin & David Kuennen, The Cost (Savings) of Reform: An Analysis of Local Registration-Related Costs and Potential Savings Through Automatic Voter Registration (Mar. 2017), [https://www.vote.org/wp-content/uploads/registration-related-costs\\_030817.pdf](https://www.vote.org/wp-content/uploads/registration-related-costs_030817.pdf).

calculator.<sup>10</sup> It then multiplies those costs by the number of paper applications submitted to each county in

the 2022 election cycle, which is available in federal Election Assistance Commission data.

We estimate the annual cost savings from reducing paper-based voter registration forms to be roughly **\$73,513**.

#### **Estimated Labor Cost of Paper-Based Registration in Hawaii, 2022 Election Cycle**

County Name	Paper-based processed	Est. Avg. Labor forms Cost per Form	Est. Total Labor Cost
Honolulu	6,526	\$4.63	\$30,215.38
Hawaii	3,013	\$7.97	\$24,013.61
Maui/Kalawao	1,641	\$7.97	\$13,078.77
Kauai	868	\$7.15	\$6,206.20
Statewide	12,048		<b>\$73,513.96</b>

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10 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: CPI Inflation Calculator, [https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm) (last accessed Sept. 18, 2025).

3. **Reducing Undeliverable Mail Ballots:** AVR can similarly achieve savings by reducing the number of undeliverable vote-by-mail ballots, because most voters will have a current registration address. This is particularly significant in a state like Hawaii where every registered voter receives a mail ballot.

According to Election Assistance Commission data, Hawaii sent out 733,360 mail ballots in 2022.<sup>11</sup> In other places that send mail ballots to every voter, undeliverable rates can be around 11%.<sup>12</sup><sup>13</sup> Based on an analysis of Washington state, the cost of a mail ballot in 2012 was \$3.24.<sup>14</sup> Adjusted for inflation, that is now roughly \$4.57 per ballot.

Assuming a similar mail ballot cost in Hawaii and an 11% undeliverable rate, Hawaii would save roughly **\$737,320** each election year (including both the primary and the general election) in reducing undeliverable ballot costs.

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11 U.S. Election Assistance Comm.: EAVS Data Interactive (July 2025), <https://www.eac.gov/research-and-data/studies-and-reports/eavs-data-interactive>.

12 Martin Austermuhle, Audit Finds High Number Of D.C. Mail Ballots Returned As 'Undeliverable' In

13 , DCIST (Nov. 16, 2021), <https://dcist.com/story/21/11/16/large-number-of-dc-mail-ballots-were-returned-as-undeliverable-in-2020/>.

14 Tracking the Costs of Mail Voting in Washington, Pew (Sept. 9, 2014), <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2014/09/09/tracking-the-costs-of-mail-voting-in-washington>.

In short, based on the above estimates, Hawaii can expect gross savings of roughly \$704,860 in an off-year and \$1,442,180 in an election year if it implements AVR. Accounting for the ongoing costs of implementing AVR, Hawaii can expect net savings of **\$626,587** in an off-year and **\$1,363,907** in an election year after AVR is initially implemented.



FEBRUARY 19, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 2132 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

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Kris Coffield,  
*President*

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Beatrice DeRego,  
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Corey Rosenlee,  
*Director*

Amy Zhao,  
*Policy and Partnerships  
Strategist*

### POSITION: SUPPORT

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Imua Alliance supports HB 2132 HD1, relating to voting, which authorizes state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if designated by the Office of Elections; and requires applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, and identification cards to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant opts out.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending all forms of exploitation, which necessitates strengthening access to democracy. Government should work for the public interest, not special interests.

Our democracy belongs to we, the people. At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties—including the right to vote—are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. Every eligible person should be able to register to vote in a convenient and secure way that is beneficial to new voters and administrators alike. Key voter registration improvements can elevate electoral confidence, save public funds, and preserve the voice of our community in determining the course of our society's future.

In 2021, Hawai'i established automatic voter registration to increase the state's historically low voter participation rates. Yet, the automatic voter registration system established by the legislature was an opt-in system that places responsibility for registration on individual voters, thereby failing to fully include the total potential population of new voters. This undermines the full impact of our automatic voter registration program, which is desperately needed to curb low voting rates. **In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot.**

To improve those statistics, we must enact measures that strengthen the right to vote. This measure will make registration more efficient by

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empowering applications at public-facing state agencies—such as for Med-Quest licenses, permits, change of address forms, recertifications, or services offered by the state—to serve as “dual-purpose” voter registration applications, with the applicant being given the option to affirmatively declines (rather than being forced to affirmatively opt-in) to voter registration or preregistration.

This will change our automatic voter registration system from an “opt in” to an “opt out” model, which will guarantee that the intent of the program—to maximize democratic participation by making voter registration as “automatic” as possible—is fully effectuated, especially in light of other forward-thinking electoral programs that the state has undertaken, like mail-in voting.

We are especially hopeful that this proposal will strengthen democratic participation by enabling survivors of gender violence and sexual exploitation to engage more fully and safely in civic life. **Survivors frequently face barriers to participation—including trauma, fear of retaliation, economic instability, and distrust of institutions—that can silence their voices in public processes.** By removing structural obstacles to voter registration, this bill helps create a more inclusive democratic space. In this way, the bill enhances Hawai‘i’s democratic fabric by empowering historically underrepresented voices to participate with dignity and confidence in our civic processes.

Women, racial minorities, and members of the working class fought for years to obtain the right to vote. Sadly, we are seeing draconian efforts today to roll back those rights to entrench the power of autocratic regimes. We cannot allow these authoritarian actions to go unchallenged. We have a responsibility to fortify the voting franchise for generations to come.

With aloha,

*Kris Coffield*

President, Imua Alliance



## IN OPPOSITION TO HB2132

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii strongly opposes HB2132, which would authorize state agencies to implement automatic voter registration on an opt-out basis and require eligible applicants for driver's licenses, instruction permits, provisional licenses, and state identification cards to be automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless they actively decline.

This bill represents a dangerous expansion of government authority that bypasses individual consent and personal liberty. Automatic enrollment presumes affiliation with the electoral process. Voter registration must remain a voluntary, affirmative choice, never a presumed default imposed during unrelated interactions of any kind. Opt-out mechanisms invert true consent, compelling individuals to actively resist enrollment rather than respecting voluntary association. By forcing registration without explicit agreement, **the bill threatens the fundamental freedom of association protected under the First Amendment.** Individuals have the explicit right to choose whether and with whom to affiliate politically.

Compounding these concerns are the well-documented and legitimate issues surrounding the Office of Elections' current ability to accurately manage voter rolls, track ballots, and maintain election integrity under Chief Election Officer Scott Nago. Recent years have seen repeated public outcry, investigations, and legal challenges highlighting discrepancies in ballot counts (such as the reported 19,000+ envelope mismatch on the Big Island and hundreds of excess ballots counted on Kaua'i in 2024), failures in record preservation (including missing cast vote records and chain-of-custody gaps), refusals to provide voter list maintenance data under federal and state requests, and ongoing litigation from entities like the U.S. Department of Justice and the Republican National Committee over access to voter registration records. Public testimony before the Elections Commission has repeatedly called for accountability, with hundreds of residents demanding Nago's removal due to perceived incompetence in core duties, ignored integrity concerns, and unverifiable processes.

However, the legislature has suggested several new laws this session that would only expand the amount of responsibilities, disregarding their current blatant inability to manage the tasks already before them. Expanding automatic voter registration would only add substantial new burdens to an already strained system. It would flood the Office of Elections and county clerks with additional data reconciliation tasks, error-prone entries from DMV records, and increased challenges in purging ineligible registrations without risking election integrity. If the current framework struggles with basic verification, audits, and transparency, imposing this expansion risks further degrading accuracy and conflating results.



Hawai'i's existing opt-in automatic voter registration during DMV transactions already allows voluntary enrollment without forced enrollments. Turnout problems arise from deeper issues like voter disengagement, institutional distrust, and access barriers. These issues cannot be solved with automation. Forcing registration does not create informed voters; it burdens an already overburdened system that has yet to demonstrate reliable handling of what it already manages.

Don't force people onto lists they are not consenting to.

Protect individual rights and privacy.

Avoid compounding existing deficiencies in election administration that threaten integrity and confidence in our democratic processes.

Reject HB2132.

In liberty,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | [LibertarianHawaii.com](http://LibertarianHawaii.com) | (808)824-LPHI

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:05:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People need to be responsible for their own voter registration and also agencies must have knowledge of a person's eligibility to vote. This is really dumb.

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 5:37:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully oppose HB2132. Expanding voter participation is an important goal, but it must be pursued in a way that preserves affirmative consent, data privacy, and public trust in the electoral system. HB2132 moves Hawaii from an opt-in framework to a default registration model that treats routine government transactions as implicit authorization to register to vote, shifting the burden onto individuals to later opt out.

This approach raises three significant concerns:

First, informed consent. Voting is a core civic right that should be exercised by choice, not assumption. Automatically registering individuals through driver’s license or identification transactions—often conducted for unrelated, time-sensitive reasons, risks enrolling people who did not intend to register or were unaware that registration would occur unless they actively declined after the fact.

Second, data minimization and privacy. The bill authorizes the routine transmission and cross-use of sensitive personal data, including signatures, partial Social Security numbers, and contact information, across agencies for non-primary purposes. Even with safeguards, expanding data flows increases exposure risk and undermines public confidence in how personal information is handled.

Third, election integrity and administrative burden. Automatic systems that rely on post-transaction mailers and default registration can increase downstream corrections, disputes, and list maintenance, placing added strain on election officials while creating confusion for voters,

especially those who move frequently, share addresses, or interact with state agencies for limited purposes.

Importantly, Hawaii already offers multiple accessible ways to register to vote, including same-day registration. Rather than default enrollment, the State should focus on clear, voluntary, and well-informed registration, paired with voter education and outreach that respects individual agency.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to reject HB2132 or substantially amend it to preserve explicit, affirmative consent for voter registration and limit unnecessary data sharing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 3:05:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support  
Tina Marie Even

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 5:28:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shelli'Lynn K Souza-Motta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose!

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 6:03:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ralph Cushnie	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please vote no

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 8:22:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Ladies and Gentlemen,

Automatic enrollment for voting through the DMV although convenient is the wrong answer. My reasons for opposing this bill are as follows:

- Proof of US Citizenship. By not proving that the voter is a legal US Citizen you are eliminating one of the core foundations of what makes this country great. Also, by not having this checks and balances how can you guarantee that outside influences (i.e., foreign nation-states) are not going to influence local elections? federal elections? Moreover, this feeds into corruption, bribes, etc. all of which are possible by not having a proof of US Citizenship.

- Mail in voting. I understand the convenience of mail-in voting. It eliminates having to pay for individuals to oversee the voting process, manually count the votes, etc. But as we have seen in the past within the state of Hawai'i and others that utilize this process corruption and influence are rampant.

- Future outlook. I believe that a possible way forward would be to first elect a new Chief Elections Officer, one appointed by the people of Hawai'i. Second, refine the electoral process that exists within the state by making voters prove US Citizenship (note being born a US Citizen or becoming one legally and having the ability to vote for your leader is a core foundation of the United States). Finally, in-person voting. In-person voting worked in the past and received little scrutiny when conducted correctly. Currently, many citizens of Hawai'i do not vote for a myriad of reasons one of those reasons being that they do not trust the electoral process (thanks to the current Chief Elections Officer) or they believe the system is corrupt, hence the reason why only roughly 30% of Hawai'i's population votes. If you want more people to vote create a positive election process environment for the people of Hawai'i. One that they can trust.

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:20:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Herold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our legislators to pass this bill. Our citizens need easier access to voting. There should be no barriers to voting. Mahalo.

**HB-2132-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:32:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bonnie Margolis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support automatic(opt out) voter registration!