



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2132
RELATING TO VOTING

February 10, 2026

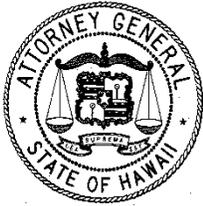
Chair Marten and members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding House Bill No. 2132. We appreciate the committee's efforts to expand access to voting and strengthen civic engagement.

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 respectfully request that the bill be amended as it relates to §11-15.7, HRS to reference requesting an electronic ballot rather than a large-print ballot (Section 3, page 8, lines 11-12). This change aligns with existing statutory requirements and current processes. The electronic ballot enables voters with accessibility needs to mark and cast their ballot independently using their own compatible personal device.

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.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 2132, RELATING TO VOTING.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Jung Min (Charles) Lee, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Marten and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to improve Hawaii's voter participation rate by strengthening the State's automatic voter registration program. The bill updates the State's automatic voter registration framework for Department of Transportation (DOT) transactions and expands its application to additional transaction types, including instruction permits, provisional licenses, duplicate credentials, and renewals. Currently, voter registration is already integrated into driver's license and state identification card transactions, and applicants are provided the opportunity to register or decline as part of the application process.

Under this bill, the submission of an application for a new, renewed, or duplicated instruction permit, provisional license, driver's license, or state identification card would be deemed to authorize the examiner of drivers to collect and electronically transmit the applicant's information to election officials for voter registration or preregistration; provided the applicant is of sufficient age, provides a Hawaii residence address, and has "presented documentation demonstrating United States citizenship." Applicants may decline registration or preregistration through the return form process described in the bill following the mailing of notice by the county clerk. Additionally, the bill allows the Office of Elections to designate other state agencies to implement similar automatic

registration procedures if they already collect proof of citizenship or externally verify citizenship.

The Department is concerned that conditioning DOT transmission on documentary proof of citizenship may create federal preemption risk under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) for registration used in elections for federal office. The NVRA's motor-voter provision is built around an attestation-based model: it requires an eligibility attestation signed under penalty of perjury, and it limits the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) registration portion to "only the minimum amount of information necessary" for election officials to assess eligibility and administer registration. 52 U.S.C. § 20504(c)(2)(B), (C).

That "minimum information" and attestation framework is problematic for this bill because the bill conditions transmission on additional documentary proof and record-based verification of citizenship status. This requirement could be challenged as exceeding what the NVRA permits in the motor-voter process for federal elections—particularly if the practical effect is to deny the motor-voter pathway absent documentation. To reduce this risk, the Department recommends removing the bill's documentary-proof condition for DOT transmission and instead relying on the existing attestation-based process, coupled with a "negative screen" that prevents transmission only where the applicant presents documentation demonstrating a lack of United States citizenship.

The Department also notes an internal inconsistency that increases legal and implementation risk. Although the bill conditions DOT transmission on documentary proof and verification of citizenship, (page 4, lines 14-15, and page 6, lines 1-2), it also states that "[n]othing in this section shall be construed to... [r]equire documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration or preregistration". (page 11, lines 11-15). To resolve this inconsistency, the Department recommends conforming the operative provisions to this limiting language by removing the documentary-proof condition from the DOT transmission authority, so the statute does not disclaim a proof requirement while effectively imposing one through the DOT automatic registration pathway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



LIBERTARIAN
PARTY of HAWAII
IN OPPOSITION TO HB2132/SB2831

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in opposition to HB2132/SB2831 because it violates fundamental principles of individual liberty, voluntary consent, and limited government. These are among the most vital values that should guide public policy in a free society.

HB2132/SB2831 expands Hawaii's automatic voter registration (AVR) by shifting from an opt-in system to one that presumes registration unless the individual affirmatively opts out. It authorizes the Office of Elections to designate additional state agencies to implement AVR and mandates automatic registration (or preregistration) for eligible applicants seeking driver's licenses, instruction permits, provisional licenses, identification cards, or other qualifying transactions at the Examiner's office or designated agencies.

This approach inverts the proper relationship between citizen and state. The government should not automatically enroll individuals in any political process without their **prior** explicit, affirmative consent. Voter registration is a voluntary act of civic participation, not a default administrative outcome. This measure would make registration the presumed action and requiring individuals to actively decline via a mailed opt-out form, with registration proceeding if no response is received within a prescribed period. The bill places the burden on the citizen to opt out of government action rather than requiring the government to secure opt-in consent.

This creates several serious concerns from a libertarian perspective:

1. **Erosion of Individual Consent & Autonomy** Government should never presume to act on behalf of individuals in matters of political affiliation or participation without clear, informed agreement. Automatic registration risks enrolling people who have no intention of voting, who may disagree with the process, or who simply wish to remain unaffiliated. Even with an opt-out mechanism, many may overlook or ignore mailed notices, leading to unintended registration. This is bureaucratic presumption over personal choice.
2. **Privacy & Data Collection Risks** The bill requires transmission of sensitive personal data such as name, date of birth, address, ID numbers, citizenship indicators, signature images, partial SSN, etc. from state agencies to county clerks and the Office of Elections. While records of decliners or ineligible applicants are exempted from public disclosure under Chapter 92F, the expanded collection and sharing of data across agencies increases vulnerability to breaches, misuse, or future expansions of surveillance. Libertarians view such mandatory data harvesting as an infringement on personal privacy.



3. **Election Integrity Issues & Government Overreach** Automatic systems tied to driver's license and ID applications can introduce errors, duplicate registrations, or registrations based on outdated/inaccurate data. More fundamentally, expanding the government's role in "improving voter participation" through presumption sets a dangerous precedent for further state intervention in elections. True voter engagement comes from voluntary action and education, not administrative defaults imposed by the state.

4. **Violation of Limited Government Principles** The state already has mechanisms for voluntary registration, including online systems and in-person options. HB2132/SB2831 is unnecessary government expansion. The government should be minimized, not empowered to assume more control over citizens' civic lives under the guise of increasing "participation" rates.

In summary, HB2132/SB2831 represents an overreach that prioritizes bureaucratic efficiency and higher registration numbers over individual liberty, explicit consent, integrity, and privacy. We urge the Committee to reject this bill and preserve a system where voter registration remains a deliberate, voluntary choice of the individual rather than an automatic action of the state.

Please reject these and the multiple similar measures on the table that bypass the consent of the individual and make our counting process even more questionable.

In Liberty,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI



Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB2132
Tuesday February 10th, at 9:30 am; Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, 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.

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', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:46:35 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i , would like to add our Strong Support for HB2132. The chant, " everybody in, nobody out" comes to mind.

This bill strengthens our democracy by modernizing Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, HB2132 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered, while fully preserving voter choice and eligibility requirements.

HB2132 increases the accuracy of voter rolls, and reduces administrative burdens, all without changing who is eligible to vote or compromising election integrity.

Green Party of Hawai'i asks for your support for HB2132.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

LATE



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
HB 2132 RELATING TO THE ELECTIONS
February 10, 2026, at 9:30 AM, State Capitol CR 329 and Videoconference

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and Members of the Committee,

While I agree with the intent of the bill, there are opportunities for misuse and abuse included in this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in OPPOSITION of HB 2132 for the following reasons:

HB 2132 may be misused, as it allows electronic ballots for homeless individuals or individuals intending to help homeless people to submit votes. Many of them do not have proper ID. They do not have physical addresses and are often mobile.

Since eligibility is based mainly on self-attestation of citizenship and electronic records, noncitizens could access the system, increasing the risk of unauthorized registration and voting.

Voter ID is critical in assuring eligible voters are voting.

For these reasons, please vote NO on HB 2132.

Respectfully,

Jamie Detwiler
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

LATE



FEBRUARY 10, 2026

HOUSE BILL 2132

CURRENT REFERRAL: HSH

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Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 2132, relating to voting, which 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 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.

Hawai'i has had partial public campaign financing in place for decades, rooted in the 1978 Constitutional Convention's direction to establish a campaign fund for partial public financing. Few candidates participate, however, because the current partial funding model fails to provide sufficient resources to run competitive campaigns.

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 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

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:47:10 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Personalized testimony is the most impactful way to influence lawmakers, please use this as a guide to draft your own words

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and Members of the Committee,

This bill strengthens our democracy by modernizing Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, HB2132 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered, while fully preserving voter choice and eligibility requirements.

HB2132 increases the accuracy of voter rolls, and reduces administrative burdens, all without changing who is eligible to vote or compromising election integrity.

Mahalo,

kimdonghyeon

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:58:37 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support strengthening Hawai‘i’s automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, HB2132 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered, while fully preserving voter choice and eligibility requirements.

HB2132 increases the accuracy of voter rolls, and reduces administrative burdens, all without changing who is eligible to vote or compromising election integrity.

We need to make sure everyone eligible can easily vote. This bill makes it easier and more certain that eligible voters actually get registered. Strengthening voter registration systems strengthens democracy.

Mahalo,
Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:02:10 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:02:32 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's protect voting!

Judith White, Psy.D.

Member, Kauai Indivisible

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:03:39 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Balangitao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi chair and committee members I support this bill. It makes so much sense to do it this way. We will all benefit from it. Thank you Jasmine Balangitao

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:08:44 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill to make elections open, fair, and more accessible. You know, the opposite of what they're trying to do in Washington.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:02:58 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and Members of the Committee,

This bill strengthens our democracy by modernizing Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, HB2132 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered, while fully preserving voter choice and eligibility requirements.

HB2132 increases the accuracy of voter rolls, and reduces administrative burdens, all without changing who is eligible to vote or compromising election integrity.

Thank you Pahnelopi McKenzie

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:00:27 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill strengthens our democracy by modernizing Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, HB2132 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered, while fully preserving voter choice and eligibility requirements.

HB2132 increases the accuracy of voter rolls, and reduces administrative burdens, all without changing who is eligible to vote or compromising election integrity. Mahalo.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:21:41 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and Members of the Committee,

This bill strengthens our democracy by modernizing Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, HB2132 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered, while fully preserving voter choice and eligibility requirements.

HB2132 increases the accuracy of voter rolls, and reduces administrative burdens, all without changing who is eligible to vote or compromising election integrity.

When I was 18 years old my parents made sure I signed up to vote and helped me learn the process. Not every child has civically engaged parents. By automatically registering them when they get a drivers license we give them immediate access to voting when they turn 18. No more hoops to jump through.

Mahalo,

Fitz,
Makawao

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:11:17 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2132.

First of all, the entire premise of this bill is incorrect; Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) in Hawaii is ALREADY "opt-out". The verbiage of the bill states that it is "opt-in".

AVR had been opt-out for several years now.

Secondly, AVR does not increase voter participation. We have had AVR for several years now and voter turnout is still low.

Thirdly, AVR further bloats the voter rolls with registrations of people that will 1) move away, e.g. college students and temporary residents, and 2) non citizens, as the citizen check is merely a self-attestation and not a verification, and noncitizens are able to obtain drivers licenses, permits, and state IDs

Hawaii's voter registration data is already estimated to be ~20% of inaccurate data.

Why pass a bill that will increase this even more? Hawaii citizens have ample opportunities to register to vote already. This bill is both unnecessary and detrimental to voter registration integrity.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:36:44 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joell Edwards I reside in Wainiha on Kaua'i, and I am testifying in strong support of HB2132.

I want to disclose for the record that I currently serve as Chair of the Kaua'i County Democrats; however, this testimony is submitted in my personal capacity.

HB2132 strengthens our democracy by modernizing Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, this bill removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered—while fully preserving individual choice and existing eligibility requirements.

This measure improves the accuracy of voter rolls, reduces administrative burdens, and increases participation without expanding eligibility or compromising election integrity. Eligible voters retain full control over whether they are registered, but the process becomes more accessible, efficient, and equitable.

A healthy democracy depends on broad participation and fair access. HB2132 is a practical, common-sense improvement that helps ensure our electoral system works as intended for all eligible Hawai'i residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2132.

Respectfully,
Joell Edwards

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:16:46 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am in **strong support of HB2132**, which strengthens Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system by shifting it from an opt-in model to an opt-out model when eligible residents interact with the DMV. Automatic voter registration is a proven, practical reform that strengthens democracy without compromising election integrity.

Democracy is most reflective of our communities when more people vote. Please support this bill to strengthen our democracy.

Mahalo,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:19:14 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Drivers licenses are not proof of citizenship

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:27:04 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support **HB 2132**. This measure helps increase voter participation in Hawai'i by implementing automatic voter registration through designated state agencies and ensuring eligible residents applying for instruction permits, driver's licenses, and ID cards are automatically registered or preregistered to vote unless they choose to opt out.

It modernizes our registration system, reduces barriers to participation, and supports a more inclusive democracy. I urge the Committee to pass this bill.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:37:11 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and Members of the Committee,

This bill strengthens our democracy by modernizing Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system. By shifting to an opt-out model during routine DMV transactions, HB2132 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible voters from being registered, while fully preserving voter choice and eligibility requirements.

HB2132 increases the accuracy of voter rolls, and reduces administrative burdens, all without changing who is eligible to vote or compromising election integrity.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:54:57 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

Please support!!

Mahalo,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:30:30 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members

I SUPPORT HB 2132 which authorizes state agencies to implement automatic voter registration if designated by the Office of Elections. 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.

This is a positive way to increase voter registration and allows the individual citizens to determine opt in or opt out. It also remains the personal right to vote or not.

Mahalo

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:55:54 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to make voting more accessible. It encourages voting and participation in our democratic electoral process.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:58:12 AM
Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2132 because I believe it strengthens our democracy. Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:05:47 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Gregory	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2132 because it expands automatic voter registration and electronic ballot process without first establishing RELIABLE AUDITS, VERIFIED VOTER ROLLS, OR SECURE CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY PROCEDURES. HI currently lacks transparent, comprehensive voter roll audits, and the CEO is under investigation for failures related to auditing and custody accountability. Expanding these systems before safeguards are in place creates serious LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LIABILITIES for the State and undermines public trust in our elections.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:57:31 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose any type of electronic voting system I only white paper ballots in person voting. Too much opportunity for fraud electronically.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:01:04 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaunani Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, HB 2132! Automatic registration has too many things that can go wrong! It is not a secure system...mistakes are bound to happen that can lead to ballots going to the wrong places, people that are ineligible end up on the rolls! This process is too weak, please oppose this bill. Mahalo for your time!

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:18:11 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolene Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:31:14 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:32:05 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:33:05 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:45:19 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Ann Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB2132

THANK YOU
DORIS ANN SANTIAGO

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:10:10 PM
Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to HB 2132:

Protecting Hawaii's Voting Integrity, California allows undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses under AB 60, primarily to reduce traffic citations for driving without a license and to improve road safety by ensuring more drivers are insured and tested.

However, California's "Motor Voter" program automatically registers eligible individuals to vote when they apply for or renew a standard driver's license or state ID—unless they opt out.

Importantly, AB 60 licenses for undocumented immigrants are excluded from this automatic registration process, and state law prohibits the DMV from forwarding their information to election officials. Undocumented immigrants remain ineligible to vote in any elections, as federal and state law restrict voting to U.S. citizens.

Despite these safeguards, critics argue that granting driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants creates pathways to other benefits and could indirectly affect civic participation—though no widespread noncitizen voting has been documented in California.

Now, Hawaii faces a similar proposal in HB 2132 (introduced in the 2026 legislative session).

This bill would implement automatic voter registration (or preregistration) for eligible applicants obtaining instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, or state IDs—unless they opt out.

Hawaii already allows undocumented residents to obtain driver's licenses (via a 2015 law), so combining this with automatic registration raises concerns about potential risks to election integrity.

While providing driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants may seem like a practical step for public safety, linking it to automatic voter registration could open the door to unintended consequences.

Undocumented immigrants enter the state in violation of federal immigration law—rewarding that with state-issued IDs and potential access to voter rolls is inappropriate.

A driver's license is a government-issued form of identification. If automatic registration were applied without proper safeguards, it could theoretically enable ineligible individuals to end up on voter lists, allowing them to influence elections for mayor, governor, or even president.

Hawaii should keep its elections for its citizens and legal residents only.

Do not dilute the votes of Hawaii's people by extending voting access—intentionally or through loopholes—to those who are not lawfully present.

Oppose HB 2132.

Protect Hawaii's elections for the people who built and sustain our state.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:43:57 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2132. Choosing to vote is a personal choice not something to be done automatically without a person's permission or knowledge.

I oppose HB 2132. Mahalo.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:51:58 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Espinda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. 24 other states, including Virginia, West Virginia, and Nevada have versions of this law. Therefore, this proposal strengthens a law Hawaii already passed, along with many other states, to allow for easy and verified voting, creating greater access to voting for Hawaii. There are strong requirements for required verification in the proposed language. I do find it interesting that the Good Government Caucus sponsored this bill because, yes, one would think that we could ALL agree that voting access for MORE of Hawaii, like those in the rural areas or for those who struggle with mobility, is a Really Good Thing.

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:10:20 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please SUPPORT HB2132 to strengthen automatic voter registration. We should be making it as easy as possible for people to register and remain registered so there are less obstacles to casting a vote and receiving your ballot. By switching this to an "opt-out" instead of an "opt-in" we are prioritizing registering eligible voters and hopefully increase participation in these processes that impact all of us.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai, Maui

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:13:10 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bulla Eastman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am in opposition of this bill because currently we are having enough issues with our voter registration system. To have someone automatically registered only compounds the challenges we are dealing with. In person registration and in person voting would eliminate the majority of the problems despite the position that Mr. Nago is taking. Transparency and accountability should be our focus and it is not hard to hit the mark if we can just follow the process and procedures in place.

Mahalo for your time,

Pastor Bulla Eastman

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:24:24 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The Bill Falsely claims that VR is “opt-in”. This couldn’t be further from the truth. AVR has been opt-out for several years now. Vote NO.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:51:01 PM
Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:49:53 PM
Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:37:52 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason K	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

I strongly oppose HB2132. By passing this bill, it demonstrates the lack of integrity over the voting system.

Respectfully,

Jason K

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:07:51 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Andrion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose, we need voters to be verified not automatically registered and expanding the vulnerabilities of our elections.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:11:28 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette Nakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB2132.

While I fully support lawful voter participation and secure elections, this bill expands automatic voter registration in a way that creates unacceptable risks to election integrity, personal privacy, and public trust.

HB2132 significantly broadens automatic voter registration by defaulting individuals into voter rolls unless they actively opt out, using electronic data transfers between multiple state agencies and election systems . Although described as an effort to increase participation, this approach introduces vulnerabilities that outweigh its intended benefits.

1. Expanded electronic systems increase the risk of abuse and tampering

HB2132 relies heavily on automatic, electronic transmission of sensitive personal data, including name, address, date of birth, signatures, and partial Social Security numbers, across multiple databases . Every additional system connection increases exposure to:

- Data breaches
- Unauthorized access
- Internal misuse
- Cyber tampering

Election systems should be designed with maximum restraint and minimal attack surfaces, not expanded automation.

2. Risk of improper or non-citizen voter registration

Although the bill references citizenship verification, it also allows reliance on prior records or agency determinations, rather than requiring a clear, affirmative voter action at the time of registration . This creates risk for:

- Erroneous registrations
- Data mismatches
- Improper inclusion of non-citizens
- Administrative assumptions replacing voter intent

Even rare errors in voter eligibility damage public confidence and invite legal challenges.

3. Voters may be registered or updated without meaningful awareness

Under HB2132, individuals may be registered or have their voter information altered without affirmatively requesting it, relying instead on mailed notices and opt-out procedures .

This is especially concerning for:

- Elderly residents
- Individuals with limited literacy or language barriers
- People experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Persons with disabilities

Many may never receive, understand, or respond to opt-out notices, yet could later discover that a ballot was issued — or even cast — in their name.

4. Automatic registration weakens personal accountability in voting

Voting is not merely a transaction; it is a civic responsibility that should require an intentional, informed choice. Automatically enrolling citizens without a clear affirmative act undermines:

- Personal accountability
- Public confidence in election outcomes
- The principle of consent

Higher participation numbers should never come at the expense of trust.

Conclusion

Hawaii's elections must remain secure, transparent, and trusted by all residents, regardless of political affiliation. HB2132 prioritizes administrative convenience and participation metrics over election integrity and voter protection.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Legislature to reject HB2132 and instead pursue reforms that:

- Preserve voluntary voter registration
- Strengthen verification safeguards
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Maintain public confidence in our democratic process

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Nakamoto

District of Hilo

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:21:21 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is designed to allow cheating and fraud!



HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:25:37 PM
Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to HB2132: A Threat to Voter Integrity and Privacy

As a concerned citizen of Hawaii, I strongly oppose HB2132, a bill that would expand automatic voter registration (AVR) by requiring eligible individuals applying for driver’s licenses, permits, or state IDs to be added to the voter rolls unless they explicitly opt out. While proponents claim it boosts participation, this opt-out system undermines the voluntary nature of voting and introduces serious risks. Here are a few pressing negative issues:

1. Risk of Registering Ineligible Voters: AVR relies on data from agencies like the DMV, where non-citizens and other ineligible individuals can obtain licenses or IDs. Errors in data matching could inadvertently register non-citizens, felons, or underage applicants, inflating rolls and opening doors to potential fraud or disputed elections.
2. Privacy and Consent Violations: By automatically sharing personal information (like names, addresses, and birthdates) across government agencies without affirmative consent, HB2132 erodes individual privacy. Many people may not notice or understand the opt-out process, leading to unwanted registration and exposure of sensitive data to risks like identity theft or misuse.
3. Administrative Burdens and Taxpayer Costs: Implementing and maintaining AVR would strain state resources, requiring new systems for data verification, error correction, and opt-out management. This could lead to higher costs for taxpayers, bloated voter lists with outdated information (e.g., from people who move), and increased administrative errors that complicate elections.

In a state like Hawaii, where we value personal freedom and accurate democracy, HB2132 prioritizes quantity over quality in voter rolls. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and focus on secure, voluntary registration methods that protect our electoral system.

LATE

HB-2132

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:53:10 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Nawahine Mansfield, Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Rep Lisa Marten, Vice-Chair, Ikaika Olds

Committee On Human Services & Homelessness

10 February 2026

09:00 a.m. Conference Room 329

IN SUPPORT OF HB 2132

Hello,

I am Robert Nawahine Mansfield, Jr and I urge you to join me in supporting this **HB 2132**.

Increased voter participation is key to a governance that represents all of the citizenship. **HB 2132** will strengthen the automatic voter registration protocol.

Please support **HB 2132**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Nawahine Mansfield, Jr.

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