



**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 FINANCE
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2239, SD 1, HD 1
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

April 2, 2026

Chair Todd and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding Senate Bill No. 2239, SD 1, HD 1. We appreciate the committee's efforts to expand access to voting and strengthen civic engagement.

This bill requires 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 requires 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2239, SD 1, HD 1.

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

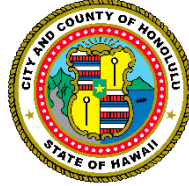
ADMINISTRATION

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O



April 1, 2026

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2239, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 - Relating To Voter Registration
HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) offers **comments** to S.B. No. 2239, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, which requires eligible applicants for driver's licenses and identification cards to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines, and requires 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. 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 Sections 11-15.7, 286-111.5, and 286-303.5, 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 applications for civil identification cards and driver's licenses;
- 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 S.B. No. 2239, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director



**House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports SB2239 SD1 HD1
Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 2:00 PM | Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB 2239 SD1 HD1, which strengthens Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system by shifting from an opt-in to an opt-out model.

Hawai'i's voter turnout numbers tell a clear story. In the 2024 primary, turnout dropped to around 32%. That is not a reflection of how much people care. It is a reflection of how many barriers still exist between eligible residents and the ballot box. Registration is one of the biggest ones.

SB 2239 fixes that in a simple, practical way. When eligible residents apply for or renew a driver's license or state ID, they will be automatically registered to vote unless they choose to opt out. For those already registered, their information will be automatically updated unless they decline.

This bill does not change who is eligible to vote. It does not register non-citizens. It simply removes an unnecessary extra step for people who are already verified and already eligible.

This approach works. Other states that have adopted automatic voter registration have seen significant increases in participation, especially among younger voters and communities that are historically underrepresented. That is what removing barriers looks like in practice.

Beyond participation, this bill improves accuracy. Voter rolls stay more current when registration updates automatically as people move or update their IDs. That reduces administrative errors and strengthens confidence in our elections.

At its core, this bill is about making participation the default, not the exception.

Thank you for your Consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick'.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action



**House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports SB2239 SD1 HD1
Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 2:00 PM | Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB 2239 SD1 HD1, which strengthens Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system by shifting from an opt-in to an opt-out model.

Hawai'i's voter turnout numbers tell a clear story. In the 2024 primary, turnout dropped to around 32%. That is not a reflection of how much people care. It is a reflection of how many barriers still exist between eligible residents and the ballot box. Registration is one of the biggest ones.

SB 2239 fixes that in a simple, practical way. When eligible residents apply for or renew a driver's license or state ID, they will be automatically registered to vote unless they choose to opt out. For those already registered, their information will be automatically updated unless they decline.

This bill does not change who is eligible to vote. It does not register non-citizens. It simply removes an unnecessary extra step for people who are already verified and already eligible.

This approach works. Other states that have adopted automatic voter registration have seen significant increases in participation, especially among younger voters and communities that are historically underrepresented. That is what removing barriers looks like in practice.

Beyond participation, this bill improves accuracy. Voter rolls stay more current when registration updates automatically as people move or update their IDs. That reduces administrative errors and strengthens confidence in our elections.

At its core, this bill is about making participation the default, not the exception.

Thank you for your Consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick'.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action



APRIL 2, 2026

SENATE BILL 2239 SD1 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: FIN

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

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 SB 2239 SD1 HD1, relating to voter registration, which requires a person who applies for an identification card or driver's license to be automatically registered to vote unless the person affirmatively declines; and requires 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.

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 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 effectively change our automatic voter registration system from an “opt in” to an “opt out” model, guaranteeing 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



APRIL 2, 2026

SENATE BILL 2239 SD1 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: FIN

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

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 SB 2239 SD1 HD1, relating to voter registration, which requires a person who applies for an identification card or driver's license to be automatically registered to vote unless the person affirmatively declines; and requires 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.

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 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 effectively change our automatic voter registration system from an “opt in” to an “opt out” model, guaranteeing 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



Committee: Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2239 SD1 HD1 Relating to Voter Registration**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SB2239 SD1 HD1**, which requires 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. The bill also requires the name and address of a person who applies for an ID card or driver's license and is already registered to vote to be automatically updated, unless they decline.

One of the most important mechanisms to a healthy democracy is easy access to voting. On this front, Hawaii has made positive strides in recent years. All-mail voting, while not without its challenges, has seen participation in local elections increase since its implementation. Similarly, the Legislature saw the wisdom in automatic, opt-in, voter registration.

This bill continues that positive trend by switching our current automatic voter registration (AVR) system from an opt-in to an out-out approach.

A 2024 study published by the Berkeley Initiative for Young Americans found that¹:

“[T]he general presence of AVR increases young voter turnout by 3.2%; Front-end opt-out AVR policies increase young voter turnout by 2.8% and back-end opt-out AVR policies increase young voter turnout by 3.9%. These results show statistically significant increases in young voter turnout when either type of AVR is present, and suggests that expanding AVR in all states, particularly with back-end opt-out AVR mechanisms, could encourage further young voter participation and enfranchisement.”

¹ Easy as Clicking 'Yes': How Automatic Voter Registration is Powering Up Youth Votes. October 2024. https://youngamericans.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024.09.26-AVR_working_paper.pdf.

And the benefits extend beyond reducing barriers to voting. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, AVR can keep “voter rolls more accurate by creating a constant stream of updates between registration agencies and election officials.”²

Finally, there has been some concern raised that moving to an opt-out AVR system might impose negative unintended consequences for our immigrant neighbors. While the concern is appreciated and may be understandable, it is in fact our current opt-in system that could result in some being unnecessarily removed.³

By moving to an opt-out system of AVR, this potential trigger for immigrants to become unwittingly entrapped into committing a violation of immigration law would be neutralized.

For all these reasons, the ACLU of Hawai‘i supports SB2239 SD1 HD1 and we encourage the committee to advance the measure.

Sincerely,

Josh Frost

Josh Frost
Policy Advocate
ACLU of Hawai‘i
jfrost@acluhawaii.org

With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai‘i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving our communities in Hawai‘i for over 60 years.

² Brennan Center for Justice. *Automatic Voter Registration, a Summary*. Updated October 26, 2023. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/automatic-voter-registration-summary>.

³ Any noncitizen who falsely represents himself or herself to be a citizen of the United States for any purpose or benefit under immigration laws or any state or federal law is removable. INA § 237(a)(3)(D)(i), 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(3)(D)(i).



Committee: Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2239 SD1 HD1 Relating to Voter Registration**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SB2239 SD1 HD1**, which requires 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. The bill also requires the name and address of a person who applies for an ID card or driver's license and is already registered to vote to be automatically updated, unless they decline.

One of the most important mechanisms to a healthy democracy is easy access to voting. On this front, Hawaii has made positive strides in recent years. All-mail voting, while not without its challenges, has seen participation in local elections increase since its implementation. Similarly, the Legislature saw the wisdom in automatic, opt-in, voter registration.

This bill continues that positive trend by switching our current automatic voter registration (AVR) system from an opt-in to an out-out approach.

A 2024 study published by the Berkeley Initiative for Young Americans found that¹:

“[T]he general presence of AVR increases young voter turnout by 3.2%; Front-end opt-out AVR policies increase young voter turnout by 2.8% and back-end opt-out AVR policies increase young voter turnout by 3.9%. These results show statistically significant increases in young voter turnout when either type of AVR is present, and suggests that expanding AVR in all states, particularly with back-end opt-out AVR mechanisms, could encourage further young voter participation and enfranchisement.”

¹ Easy as Clicking 'Yes': How Automatic Voter Registration is Powering Up Youth Votes. October 2024. https://youngamericans.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024.09.26-AVR_working_paper.pdf.

And the benefits extend beyond reducing barriers to voting. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, AVR can keep “voter rolls more accurate by creating a constant stream of updates between registration agencies and election officials.”²

Finally, there has been some concern raised that moving to an opt-out AVR system might impose negative unintended consequences for our immigrant neighbors. While the concern is appreciated and may be understandable, it is in fact our current opt-in system that could result in some being unnecessarily removed.³

By moving to an opt-out system of AVR, this potential trigger for immigrants to become unwittingly entrapped into committing a violation of immigration law would be neutralized.

For all these reasons, the ACLU of Hawai‘i supports SB2239 SD1 HD1 and we encourage the committee to advance the measure.

Sincerely,

Josh Frost

Josh Frost
Policy Advocate
ACLU of Hawai‘i
jfrost@acluhawaii.org

With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai‘i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving our communities in Hawai‘i for over 60 years.

² Brennan Center for Justice. *Automatic Voter Registration, a Summary*. Updated October 26, 2023. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/automatic-voter-registration-summary>.

³ Any noncitizen who falsely represents himself or herself to be a citizen of the United States for any purpose or benefit under immigration laws or any state or federal law is removable. INA § 237(a)(3)(D)(i), 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(3)(D)(i).



Committee on Finance
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair and Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Thursday, April 2, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

SB 2239, SD1 HD 1 – RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii comments on SB2239 SD1 HD1 intended to strengthen the State’s automatic voter registration program. We have a substantial number of unregistered, potentially eligible voters, and the percentage of those eligible to vote has apparently declined in recent years.¹ Those who support democracy, including the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, want to improve this situation.

This bill suggests a major change to Hawaii’s automatic voter registration program which is currently administered through the Department of Transportation. Applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver’s licenses, and identification cards would be automatically registered or preregistered to vote, ***unless the applicant affirmatively declines to register.***

This language is somewhat different than other “opt out” approaches. However, we believe an “opt in” approach is preferable because it places the responsibility for registration on the individual voter. The “opt out” approach proposed in this bill may strike some as coercive. Our view is that applicants should willingly attest that they wish to register to vote.

The last paragraph of Section 1 states that the “examiner of drivers shall not transmit any information if the applicant presents a document demonstrating a lack of United States citizenship.” We support the current statute which makes County Clerks responsible for determining citizenship for voter registration purposes, (not the Department of Transportation as described in this section).

¹ In the 2022 General Election, the voting-eligible population was estimated at 1,046,736 people, yet our total turnout was only 423,443, some 40.5%. Source: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/election-results/https://election.lab.ufl.edu>

If the legislature chooses to pass this measure, requirements for successful implementation need further attention. Though not specified in this bill, we expect that County Clerks might incur expense to mail new registrants an “opt-out” verification card post registration. Modifications to information technology systems and internal policies and procedures would also be needed, as previously noted by the Honolulu Department of Community Services. Other counties would likely face similar issues. We recommend that estimates of these costs be collected, and an appropriation be made for this bill.

We acknowledge that Hawaii’s current automatic Motor-Voter–style opt-in process requiring affirmative consent and signature differs from the opt-out automatic voter registration systems that are used in more than 20 states and the District of Columbia. However, given the current Federal efforts to influence voter registration, we hope the Legislature will adopt an effective date and adequate financing to ensure effective implementation.

Regardless of the outcome of this measure, more voter education about how to register to vote is needed. Elections officials will play a vital role in keeping the public informed about any changes in registration procedures such as those contemplated in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



April 1, 2026

House's Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 2:00 PM

RE: **Strong Support for Senate Bill 2239 SD 1 HD 1**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice. We write in **strong support of Senate Bill 2238 SD 1**.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i proudly stands in strong support of SB 2239, which would establish automatic voter registration for individuals applying for a driver's license or state identification card, and ensure voter registration records are updated unless a person affirmatively declines.

As an organization representing māhū, LGBTQIA+ and QTPI+ workers and their families across Hawai'i, we know that access to democracy is inseparable from economic justice. Working people, especially those in marginalized communities, often face unnecessary barriers to voter registration, including time constraints, frequent moves, and complicated bureaucratic processes. SB 2239 removes these barriers by meeting people where they already are: interacting with state services.

Automatic voter registration is a commonsense, efficient reform that strengthens participation while maintaining individual choice. By shifting from an "opt-in" to an "opt-out" system, this measure empowers more working people to engage in the democratic process without adding additional burdens to their already busy lives. At the same time, it respects personal freedom by allowing individuals to decline registration if they choose.

For LGBTQIA+, māhū, and QTPI+ workers, this bill carries additional significance. Many in our community, particularly māhū, QTPI+, transgender and nonbinary individuals, navigate complex systems when updating identification documents to reflect their names and identities. Ensuring that voter registration information is automatically updated alongside those changes reduces the risk of disenfranchisement and helps affirm the dignity and full participation of our community members in civic life.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Re: SB 2239 SD 1 HD 1

SB 2239 also improves the accuracy of voter rolls, reducing outdated registrations and helping ensure smoother elections. A modern, efficient system benefits not only voters, but also the state agencies and election officials tasked with administering our elections.

At its core, this bill is about fairness. It recognizes that democracy works best when it is accessible to all, not just those with the time and resources to navigate outdated systems. Expanding voter registration strengthens the collective voice of working people and helps ensure that elected leaders are accountable to the full diversity of Hawai'i's communities.

For these reasons, Pride at Work – Hawai'i strongly urges the Committee to pass SB 2239.

In Solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

Mailing Address: LGBTQ+ Commission, c/o The Department of Human Services,
P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0339

Email: hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

April 1, 2026

House's Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 2:00 PM

RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 2239 SD 1 HD 1

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2239 SD 1 HD 1 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature to

“improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.”

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission offers its strong support for SB 2239, which establishes automatic voter registration for individuals applying for a driver's license or state identification card, and ensures that voter registration records are updated unless a person affirmatively declines.

This measure is a critical step toward strengthening democracy in Hawai'i by removing unnecessary barriers to civic participation. Automatic voter registration is a proven, efficient, and secure method to increase voter engagement while improving the accuracy of voter rolls. By streamlining the process, SB 2239 ensures that more eligible residents—particularly those from historically underrepresented communities—can exercise their fundamental right to vote.

For māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ individuals, access to fair and equitable participation in the democratic process is especially vital. Members of our community, particularly māhū, transgender, QTPI+ and nonbinary individuals, often face unique challenges when navigating identification systems due to discrepancies in personal documentation. By integrating voter registration with existing state processes and allowing individuals to

Proudly established pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 369, as enacted through Act 41, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Support of SB 2239 SD 1 HD 1

opt out if they choose, this bill reduces administrative burdens while respecting personal autonomy.

Additionally, automatic updates to voter registration records when individuals update their identification information will help ensure that voter rolls remain accurate and current. This is especially important for individuals who may move frequently or who are in the process of aligning their legal documents with their lived identity. SB 2239 supports both accessibility and integrity in our electoral system.

Hawai'i has long been a leader in expanding access to voting, and this measure continues that legacy by modernizing and simplifying voter registration in a way that benefits all residents. It reflects our shared commitment to an inclusive democracy where every eligible voice has the opportunity to be heard.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB 2239 SD 1HD 1.

If you or any member of your staff has any questions regarding my testimony you can reach me at hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Sandy Harjo Livingston (he/him/they/them)
Chair
[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)

[Inclusive LGBTQIA+ Glossary](#)

The [Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#) has this webpage and that is dedicated to understanding and being able to use the correct terms when talking about the rainbow community from māhū to LGBTQIA+ to QTPI+ to MVPFAFF+ and beyond. The list found on this page is not an exhaustive list and will be updated as appropriate.



H.O.K.U.
POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE

HA‘AHEO, ‘OHANA, KAULIKE‘UI
Pride Family Justice Activate
WHERE PRIDE BECOMES POLITICAL POWER

Website: www.hokupac.org ♦ Email: info@hokupac.org

April 1, 2026

House's Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2239 – Relating to VOTER REGISTRATION.

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi and fellow committee members,

This testimony on behalf of **HOKU PAC**, Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ political action committee dedicated to building queer political power and advancing policies that protect our communities. HOKU PAC submits this testimony in unequivocal support of SB 2239 SD 1.

At its core, this bill is about whether our democracy reflects the people it is meant to serve. Right now, participation in our elections still depends too heavily on whether someone has the time, information, and stability to navigate a separate voter registration process. SB 2239 corrects that imbalance by making voter registration a standard part of engaging with government—simple, seamless, and expected—while preserving every individual's right to opt out.

Hawai'i's communities are dynamic. People move, change jobs, transition in their identities, and rebuild their lives. Yet our voter registration system too often lags behind those realities. By automatically registering eligible voters and updating their information when they interact with the state through driver's licenses or identification cards, this measure ensures that our election system keeps pace with the lives people are actually living.

For QTPI+, LGBTQIA+, and māhū individuals—especially those whose names or gender markers have changed—outdated records can create confusion, barriers, and, in some cases, discouragement from participating at all. SB 2239 helps eliminate those friction points. It affirms that participating in democracy should not require navigating unnecessary administrative hurdles or risking mismatched documentation.

This bill also reflects a broader principle: access should be the default, not the exception. When government systems are designed to include people automatically, participation grows, representation improves, and trust in public institutions is strengthened.

HOKU PAC believes that a healthy democracy is one where every eligible person is not just allowed, but enabled, to participate fully. SB 2239 SD 1 moves Hawai'i closer to that vision in a practical, responsible, and forward-thinking way.

We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.



Protect Democracy

Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org

info@indivisiblehawaii.org

To: Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date/Time: 04-02-26 2:00 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Re: Comments on SB2239 SD1 HD1

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

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai'i, I am submitting comments on SB2239 SD1 HD1, which seeks to improve the state's automatic voter registration system by making it an opt-out program rather than the current opt-in one.

Although it is true that Hawai'i has a substantial number of eligible voters who are not registered, resulting in low voter turnout election after election, we believe the approach proposed in SB2239 SD1 HD1 is not the most efficient way to address the issue. Rather, the existing opt-in program that requires applicants for instructional permits, driver's licenses, provisional licenses, or state identity cards to **affirm** their decision and eligibility to vote is preferable to the opt-out alternative.

While amendments in the current House Draft 1 attempt to clarify the proposed change, the possibility of accidental registration of an applicant who misunderstands the option to "affirmatively decline" automatic registration or who has not provided adequate proof of eligibility to vote remains, especially if staff such as the "examiner of drivers" has not received appropriate or adequate training that County Clerks currently have. Further, SB2239 SD1 HD1 does not propose funding that would be needed to modify databases and other digital systems or to provide explanatory materials to applicants.

In sum, although we support the intent of this bill to simplify the voter registration process, we urge the committee to adopt a defective effective date for this measure to allow for further consideration and amendment.

Mahalo,

Marlene Thom

Indivisible Hawai'i Good Government & Secure Elections team

The mission of the 14-chapter Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) is to protect Hawai'i and democracy by defending civil rights, communities and values, most importantly, Hawai'i's Constitutionally protected spirit of Aloha. In October 2025, IHSN with other partners turned out over 22,000 residents on all major islands to say No Dictators! and to stand up for democracy. This call-to-action was part of Indivisible national's mobilization of more than 7 million across the country as the voice of the people, committed to election integrity and to evolving as a place of equity, opportunity and peace.

Responsive GOV ACTION

April 2, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for Aligning SB 2239 with HB 322

Dear Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

Responsive Gov Action is a non-partisan organization that works to identify and promote practical solutions that make government more efficient, accessible, and responsive to residents.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to ensure Hawaii has the most effective voter registration system possible by adopting an “opt-out” model of voter registration at a Driver Licensing Center. To that end, we respectfully request that you adopt the reforms proposed in HB 322, which provides for a fully opt-out system of voter registration that registers as many eligible voters as possible while better protecting non-citizens engaging in transactions at a Driver Licensing Center.

As currently written, SB 2239 provides the option for verifiably eligible voters who go to the Driver Licensing Center—that is, those who present proof of citizenship as part of their transaction—to decline voter registration at the point of transaction. Unfortunately, evidence from other states shows that roughly 50% of eligible voters decline under this system—not due to lack of interest, but instead due to language barriers or the simple desire to complete their transaction quickly.

By contrast, the process adopted by HB 322 would automatically register verifiably eligible voters and they would have the opportunity to decline *after* the transaction. In other states with this system, less than 1% of eligible voters decline to register. In short, this subtle change is the difference between registering every eligible voter who wants to be registered and leaving half of the voting eligible population unregistered.

Furthermore, the process outlined in HB 322 contains vital safeguards against accidental non-citizen registration. Under the bill, if someone presents proof of non-citizenship—like a green card—during their transaction, they will not be asked whether they want to register to vote. This ensures that someone who has limited English proficiency or is just in a rush will not accidentally attempt to register to vote, protecting the individual from the severe criminal and immigration consequences of a false attestation of citizenship.

Finally, HB 322 automates address updates for those who are already registered—so if someone goes into a Driver Licensing Center or updates their address online, their voter

registration address is updated automatically. This will ensure vital election mail—including mail-in ballots—are sent to the right address.

Because of these seemingly subtle yet critical differences between the processes outlined in HB 322 and SB 2239, we respectfully urge this committee to adopt the House-passed language of HB 322 by substituting it into the current Senate bill, SB 2239. By aligning the Senate's action to match the House-passed version of HB 322, Hawaii can ensure a streamlined transition to a model that has already been adopted by 11 other states and Washington, D.C.--registering more eligible voters and better protecting non-citizens.

Thank you for your hard work on this important legislation and for your consideration of these amendments.

For more information or any questions, we can be reached at info@responsivegovaction.org.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 1:29:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2239, which modernizes Hawai‘i’s voter registration system by implementing automatic voter registration (AVR) at the Department of Motor Vehicles. This simple, commonsense reform removes unnecessary barriers to participation and ensures that every eligible Hawai‘i resident can exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Why Automatic Voter Registration Matters

Voting is the foundation of our democracy. Yet for too many eligible residents, the process of registering to vote remains an unnecessary hurdle. Paper forms, confusing deadlines, and bureaucratic steps can discourage participation—particularly for young people, working families, and those who are already navigating complex systems.

SB2239 fixes that. Under this bill, when an eligible resident applies for or renews a driver’s license or state ID, they are automatically registered to vote unless they actively choose to decline. It also ensures that when a registered voter updates their address with the DMV, their voter registration is automatically updated—eliminating the need for a separate, redundant process.

This approach is simple, efficient, and proven to work.

Proven Success Across the Country

Automatic voter registration is not a new or untested idea. More than 20 states—including California, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado—have implemented AVR, with remarkable results. Oregon, the first state to adopt AVR, saw voter registration rates increase by over 300 percent in the months following implementation. States with AVR consistently report higher registration rates, more accurate voter rolls, and reduced administrative costs.

Hawai‘i should join these states in embracing a system that makes voting more accessible, not harder.

Strengthening Our Democracy, One Step at a Time

This bill does not create new voters where none exist. It simply ensures that eligible residents who are already interacting with a government agency are given the opportunity to register without jumping through extra hoops. It respects individual choice—no one is registered against their will, and anyone can decline—but it removes the friction that too often prevents participation.

In a state that prides itself on community, on looking out for one another, and on the principle that every voice matters, we should be making it easier, not harder, for our residents to make their voices heard.

Voting should be accessible. Registration should not be a barrier. SB2239 brings Hawai‘i into alignment with best practices across the country and ensures that our democracy reflects the full participation of our people.

I urge this Committee to pass SB2239 and take a meaningful step toward a more inclusive, accessible, and representative Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 5:16:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

My name is Tina Holt and I live in Hilo. I am a proud working class person in this community and I am submitting testimony in support of SB2532.

Honestly? I want less paperwork. I want government to use the tools it already has to work better and cost less. And this bill does exactly that.

Right now certain campaign finance forms can still be submitted by mail or hand delivery. That means slower processing, more room for errors, and delays in getting information to the public. SB2532 fixes this by requiring electronic submission through the Campaign Spending Commission's upgraded filing system. Infrastructure that already exists, working the way it should.

Faster processing. Fewer errors. Better public access to campaign finance data. And real savings in administrative costs over time. No new programs. No new bureaucracy. The Campaign Spending Commission asked for this themselves because it will help them enforce our campaign finance laws more effectively.

For a Finance committee, this should be an easy yes. More accountability, less cost.

Please pass SB2532.

Mahalo, Tina Holt Hilo, Hawai'i

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 5:16:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

My name is Tina Holt and I live in Hilo. I am a proud working class person in this community and I am submitting testimony in support of SB2532.

Honestly? I want less paperwork. I want government to use the tools it already has to work better and cost less. And this bill does exactly that.

Right now certain campaign finance forms can still be submitted by mail or hand delivery. That means slower processing, more room for errors, and delays in getting information to the public. SB2532 fixes this by requiring electronic submission through the Campaign Spending Commission's upgraded filing system. Infrastructure that already exists, working the way it should.

Faster processing. Fewer errors. Better public access to campaign finance data. And real savings in administrative costs over time. No new programs. No new bureaucracy. The Campaign Spending Commission asked for this themselves because it will help them enforce our campaign finance laws more effectively.

For a Finance committee, this should be an easy yes. More accountability, less cost.

Please pass SB2532.

Mahalo, Tina Holt Hilo, Hawai'i

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:57:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB2239

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

I stand in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2239.

This bill automatically registers individuals to vote when they apply for a driver's license or state ID, unless they affirmatively opt out. It also automatically updates voter registration information through these same systems.

Let me be clear:

This expands voter registration through automated government systems without first ensuring accuracy, transparency, and accountability in the existing system.

That is the issue.

Before expanding voter registration pipelines, Hawai'i must first ensure that:

- voter rolls are accurate
- systems are secure
- and elections are verifiable

Right now, those foundational issues have not been fully addressed.

This bill increases the flow of personal data between agencies and into election systems, raising real concerns about:

- data accuracy
- data security
- and unintended or automatic registrations without full awareness

An opt-out system is not the same as informed consent.

People should clearly choose to register - not be automatically enrolled through unrelated government processes.

Additionally, this bill does not adequately address how long-term residency and genuine connection to Hawai'i are considered in voter participation.

Voting carries real impact on our communities, our 'āina, and our future.

There should be stronger consideration of long-term residency and connection to Hawai'i before automatically registering individuals into the system.

This is about maintaining integrity, trust, and accountability.

Expanding systems before fixing foundational issues risks further eroding public confidence.

Elections must be verifiable - not just convenient.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to OPPOSE SB2239.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:57:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB2239

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

I stand in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2239.

This bill automatically registers individuals to vote when they apply for a driver's license or state ID, unless they affirmatively opt out. It also automatically updates voter registration information through these same systems.

Let me be clear:

This expands voter registration through automated government systems without first ensuring accuracy, transparency, and accountability in the existing system.

That is the issue.

Before expanding voter registration pipelines, Hawai'i must first ensure that:

- voter rolls are accurate
- systems are secure
- and elections are verifiable

Right now, those foundational issues have not been fully addressed.

This bill increases the flow of personal data between agencies and into election systems, raising real concerns about:

- data accuracy
- data security
- and unintended or automatic registrations without full awareness

An opt-out system is not the same as informed consent.

People should clearly choose to register - not be automatically enrolled through unrelated government processes.

Additionally, this bill does not adequately address how long-term residency and genuine connection to Hawai‘i are considered in voter participation.

Voting carries real impact on our communities, our ‘āina, and our future.

There should be stronger consideration of long-term residency and connection to Hawai‘i before automatically registering individuals into the system.

This is about maintaining integrity, trust, and accountability.

Expanding systems before fixing foundational issues risks further eroding public confidence.

Elections must be verifiable - not just convenient.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to OPPOSE SB2239.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:06:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiālae-Kahala

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:06:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:06:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 1:16:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2239, which strengthens Hawai'i's automatic voter registration system by shifting from an opt-in model to an opt-out model when eligible residents apply for or renew a driver's license or state identification card. This bill also ensures that the name and address of an applicant who is already registered to vote is automatically updated unless the applicant affirmatively declines.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 5:45:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

I urge you to support SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Hawai'i's low voter turnout is not about apathy, it's about access. This bill removes one of the biggest barriers by making voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

This is a practical, proven way to increase participation and strengthen our democracy.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Thank you

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 6:18:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Hawai'i's low voter turnout is not about apathy, it's about access. This bill removes one of the biggest barriers by making voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

This is a practical, proven way to increase participation and strengthen our democracy.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 6:32:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is simple: Democracy works best when everyone participates. We should make participation as easy as possible. Automatic registration (preservng the right to opt out) is a simple way to reduce a barrier to voting.

Please advabce this bill.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:20:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this bill regarding automatic voter registration. The ability to vote should be prioritized and promoted in any democratic society.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:58:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in favor of SB2239 because I believe it will help increase voter participation and is good for the civic culture of Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:02:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2239 shifts Hawai'i's voter registration system from opt-in to opt-out. This matters because a democracy only works when people can easily participate in it. Right now, too many eligible voters are left out simply because the system requires extra steps. Automatic voter registration removes those barriers, ensures more voices are heard, and helps our government better reflect the people it serves

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible. Please support SB2239.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:02:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo. I am writing in strong support of SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Hawai‘i’s low voter turnout is not about apathy—it is about access. This bill removes one of the most significant barriers by making voter registration automatic when residents interact with government services they already use.

In Hawai‘i, many eligible voters—especially young people, working families, kūpuna, and Native Hawaiians—face structural barriers to civic participation. Busy schedules, limited access to transportation, and navigating multiple systems can make registering to vote unnecessarily difficult. By streamlining the process, this measure ensures that more people can participate in our democracy without added burden.

Importantly, this bill does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply modernizes our system to make participation easier for those who already qualify. Automatic voter registration has been successfully implemented in multiple states, resulting in increased registration rates, more accurate voter rolls, and stronger civic engagement overall.

At a time when many communities feel disconnected from government, we should be making it easier—not harder—for people to have their voices heard. This is a practical, proven approach that strengthens our democratic process and ensures it is more inclusive and representative of all people in Hawai‘i.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:07:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

The ongoing attempts at the national level to erode election integrity have made me committed to fortifying free and fair elections in Hawai‘i. One very important step is to ensure easy access to the ballot box. SB 2239 removes one of the biggest barriers by making voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

When so many attempts are being made to make voting more uncertain and more difficult, it is vital that steps are taken here in Hawaii to counterbalance these forces with legislative action.

This is a practical, proven way to increase participation and strengthen our democracy.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo.

Mahalo,

Pamela Elders

Laupahoehoe, Hawaii 96764

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:35:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I'm writing in strong support of SB2239 SD1 HD1. By automatically registering eligible applicants during DMV or state ID transactions—unless they opt out—it doesn't change who can vote; it just removes an unnecessary barrier for people who are already eligible. This is an excellent way to encourage more participation in our elections.

Mahalo for your attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 11:08:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Hawai'i's low voter turnout is not about apathy, it's about access. This bill removes one of the biggest barriers by making voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

This is a practical, proven way to increase participation and strengthen our democracy.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo.

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 11:23:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Hawaii' has long been among those states with the lowest voter turnout in the nation. We need to make voting as easy as possible for people to keep our democracy intact.. This bill removes one of the biggest barriers by making voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

This is a practical, proven way to increase participation and strengthen our democracy.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo.

Mahalo,

Beth McDermott

Honolulu

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:58:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to ask that you support of SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

This bill makes voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 7:28:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Hawai'i's low voter turnout is not about apathy, it's about access. This bill removes one of the biggest barriers by making voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

This is a practical, proven way to increase participation and strengthen our democracy.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-2239-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:13:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Deets	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

This bill removes one of the biggest barriers by making voter registration automatic when people interact with government services they already use.

It does not change who is eligible to vote. It simply makes participation easier for people who are already eligible.

This is a practical, proven way to increase participation and strengthen our democracy.

Please pass SB 2239 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo.

Mahalo,

Megan Deets, Kapaa, Kauai