



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 04/07/2026

**Time:** 10:45 AM

**Location:** CR 016 & Videoconference

**Committee:** EDU/JDC

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SCR105, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR TO REACHING VOTING AGE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Urging The Department Of Education To Provide Information To Students On How To Preregister To Vote Prior To Reaching Voting Age.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes the importance of preparing students for active and informed participation in our democracy and supports SCR105. Providing students with access to accurate and timely information about voter preregistration aligns with our commitment to civic education and student empowerment. Ensuring that students understand how and when they may preregister to vote can help establish lifelong habits of civic engagement.

The Department will provide students with information, including sharing resources on voter eligibility, preregistration and registration procedures, opportunities for civic participation, and information made available by the Office of Elections. The Department will also seek to proclaim the last two weeks of September as "high school voter registration and preregistration weeks" in conjunction with Constitution Week lessons and activities that schools may hold.

While information will be provided to all schools, implementation of this effort will be carried out in a manner that allows for flexibility at the school level. Individual schools will determine how best to incorporate and disseminate this information to students in ways that are appropriate for their unique contexts and student needs, including, where feasible, the presence of state or county election officials who can preregister and register students on school campuses. Schools may also reach out to the Office of Elections for assistance and to ensure that information provided is accurate, current, and responsive to any questions that may arise.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105  
AND SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 99

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION  
TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR  
TO REACHING VOTING AGE

April 7, 2026

Chair Kim and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 105 and Senate Resolution No. 99. These resolutions urge the Department of Education to provide information to students on how to preregister to vote prior to reaching voting age.

We appreciate the commitment to improve access to voting and strengthen civic engagement. As part of our efforts to engage Hawaii's high school students, we annually conduct our Future HiVoter Program. The program equips schools with voter registration applications and flyers that outline the eligibility requirements and provides students instruction on registering to vote. For the 2025-26 school year, we partnered with 22 participating public and private schools, statewide, distributing over 5,000 applications. We believe having the Department of Education make this part of their curriculum would increase student participation for the public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 105 and Senate Resolution No. 99.



April 6, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **SCR105/SR99**, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR TO REACHING VOTING AGE.

**To:** Senators Donna Mercado Kim and Karl Rhoads, Chairs  
Senators Michelle N. Kidani and Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairs  
Members of the Senate Committees on Education, and on Judiciary

**From:** Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

**Re:** Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR105/SR99, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR TO REACHING VOTING AGE.

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Committees for hearing this important measure. I would like to express our support of SCR105/SR99, as it promotes voter registration and preregistration among high school students through the Department of Education.

As a statewide feminist government body dedicated to advancing equality for women and girls, we recognize that civic participation is a cornerstone of gender equity and inclusive policymaking. Encouraging young people, particularly young women, to engage in the democratic process from an early age helps ensure that their voices and experiences are reflected in public decision-making.

Facilitating voter registration and preregistration in high schools can help address longstanding barriers to participation that disproportionately affect women and marginalized groups. Research and best practices suggest that early exposure to civic education and accessible registration opportunities increase lifelong voter engagement. This aligns with our mission to support data-driven actions that empower women and girls to be active participants in shaping their communities.

We respectfully urge these Committees to **pass SCR105/SR99**.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

**LATE**



April 6, 2026

RE: SR99 / HR26 / SCR105

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR TO REACHING VOTING AGE

POSITION: SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County is in full SUPPORT of Senate Resolution 99, House Resolution 26, and Senate Concurrent Resolution 105, which urges the Department of Education to provide information to students on how to preregister to vote prior to reaching voting age.

For over a century, the League of Women Voters have been providing voter education to the general public, as well as to college students who are of voting age. We believe that education is the key to an informed populace of voters who will successfully register and show up to vote with the knowledge of the process.

Access to voting starts with access to voter education. This is why the League of Women Voters exists today and why we are willing and fully capable to assist the State of Hawai'i with any voter education efforts being developed and provided to Hawai'i's public school system.

Mahalo the opportunity to testify,

The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County

**League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County, P.O. Box 665, Hilo, HI 96721.**

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