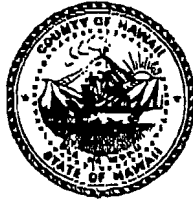


CONSTANCE R. KIRIU
County Clerk



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elections Division
County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

March 2, 2006

Chairman David Ige and
Members of the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2539 HD1 relating to Elections, with minor amendments. HB 2539 HD1 seeks to clarify the felony reporting information provided by the judiciary and the reporting schedule to the city and/or county clerks.

The purpose of HB 2539 HD1 is to clarify state law to ensure that the right to vote by persons convicted of a felony is preserved upon completion of terms and conditions of the sentencing order.

Section 831-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides that persons sentenced for a felony, from the time of the person's sentence until the person's final discharge, may not vote in an election, while committed to imprisonment. However, if the sentence is suspended without the defendant being placed on probation; or the defendant is paroled after commitment to imprisonment, the defendant may vote.

Currently, the clerks of each city/county receive varying judicial certificate reports from the circuit courts that do not provide sufficient information to identify an individual sentenced for a felony. The inability to properly identify the citizen due to insufficient information has posed problems in administering the voter rolls.

House Bill 2539 HD1 proposes to amend section 806-76, HRS, to standardize the reporting requirements to provide the following:

1. Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Social Security Number
4. Known Aliases, if any

Chairperson Ige and Members
March 2, 2006
Page Two

5. Copies of the judgment of conviction and sentence; and
6. Mittimus (Warrant of Commitment).

We believe the phrase "readily ascertainable" should apply only to the person's residence address or last known address. All other personal information is vital in our efforts to positively identify the voter and maintain the integrity of the voter registration rolls.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2539 HD1 with amendments.

Sincerely,



Constance R. Kiriu
County Clerk