

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu HI 96822

SENATE RESOLUTION 09-19

IN SUPPORT OF AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

- WHEREAS,* the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Senate is the elected body representing approximately 11,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,
- WHEREAS,* the voter turnout percentage in Hawai‘i has continually declined since statehood¹; and,
- WHEREAS,* Hawai‘i ranks at the bottom of registered voters who turn out to vote²; and,
- WHEREAS,* individuals who are between the ages 18 to 29 have the lowest turnout among age groups³; and,
- WHEREAS,* voter participation is a defining feature of an effective democracy; and,
- WHEREAS,* the ASUH has pushed for higher voter participation among college students in Senate Resolution 27-14⁴ and Senate Resolution 15-16⁵; and,
- WHEREAS,* automatic voter registration increases accuracy and efficiency and improves access to voting by removing barriers to registration for eligible voters⁶; and,
- WHEREAS,* automatic voter registration will improve security and accuracy of voter rolls through the use of an encrypted system to transfer voter registration data rather than paper voter registrations; and,

¹ <https://elections.hawaii.gov/resources/registration-voter-turnout-statistics/>

² <http://www.electproject.org/2016g>

³ <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/04/03/millennials-approach-baby-boomers-as-largest-generation-in-u-s-electorate/>

⁴ https://d3n8a8pro7vmtx.cloudfront.net/asuh/pages/57/attachments/original/1487808570/Senate_Resolution_27-14_CODIFIED.pdf?1487808570

⁵ https://d3n8a8pro7vmtx.cloudfront.net/asuh/pages/57/attachments/original/1463175888/SR_15-16_IN_SUPPORT_OF_VOTER_REGISTRATION_AND_CIVIC_ENGAGEMENT_AT_THE_UNIVERSITY_OF_HAWAI%E2%80%99I-Codified.pdf?1463175888

⁶ https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pes_assets/2012/pewupgradingvoterregistrationpdf.pdf

WHEREAS, automatic voter registration will reduce processing costs and material costs as it would be on an electronic system; and,

WHEREAS, automatic voter registration provides eligible voters an opportunity to register to vote when applying for or renewing a driver's license or a civil identification card, commonly known as a state identification card, unless the eligible voter affirmatively declines to be registered to vote; and,

WHEREAS, fifteen states and the District of Columbia have already authorized the use of automatic voter registration⁷ and have seen increased voter participation after implementation⁸; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports and urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to enact legislation that authorizes the implementation of automatic voter registration in Hawai'i; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the advantages of automatic voter registration have been realized by other states, and Hawai'i could greatly benefit from automatic voter registration as well.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Transportation, Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Judiciary, Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Hawai'i State House Committee on Transportation, Hawai'i State House Committee on Judiciary, Hawai'i State House Committee on Finance, Governor David Ige, the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Chair Lee Putnam and Members, President and UHM Interim Chancellor David Lassner, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chancellor for Research Michael Bruno, Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta, Interim Dean of Students and Student Housing Services Director, the Graduate Student Organization, and Ka Leo O Hawai'i.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO DISCHARGE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Aye(s): Vice President Simeona, Treasurer Honda, Secretary Sakamoto, Senators-at-Large Chun, Kim, Li, Negrillo, Senators Abara, Balico, Dahmen, Gapet, Juliano, Rafid, Su, Transfiguracion, Urasaki, Vargas, Yoshida **[18]**

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ACCEPT

Aye(s): Vice President Simeona, Treasurer Honda, Secretary Sakamoto, Senators-at-Large Chun, Kim, Li, Negrillo, Senators Abara, Balico, Dahmen, Gapet, Juliano, Rafid, Su, Transfiguracion, Urasaki, Vargas, Yoshida **[18]**

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]

Introducers: Landon Li, Senator-at-Large, Starshine Chun, Senator-at-Large, Joshua Jungha Kim, Senator-at-Large

⁷ <https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/automatic-voter-registration>

⁸ <https://www.demos.org/publication/oregon-automatic-voter-registration>