

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Director

Shawn K. Nakama  
First Assistant

Research (808) 587-0666  
Revisor (808) 587-0670  
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 446  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## Written Comments

### **HCR39**

## **REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE COST OF CONVENING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director  
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 3:00  
Conference Room 325

Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Study the Cost of Convening a Constitutional Convention.

The purpose of this measure is to request the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the costs of convening a constitutional convention and provide an estimate of the projected total cost.

Specifically, the measure requests that the Bureau consider, among other things, that the constitutional convention would:

- (1) Convene not less than five months prior to the next regularly scheduled general election;
- (2) Be held at a leased facility in Honolulu large enough to accommodate the general operations of the constitutional convention, including plenary sessions,

large committee meetings, and informational sessions and to house offices for the delegates;

- (3) Be likely to have one hundred two delegates;
- (4) Require appropriate staff to ensure public input and facilitate operation of the constitutional convention; and
- (5) Involve adequate compensation for both delegates and staff.

The measure also requests that the Bureau submit a report of its findings, including an estimate of the projected cost of convening a constitutional convention, to the Legislature no later than September 1, 2018.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure, but submits the following comments for your consideration.

The Bureau would like to note that it has already completed a study on the estimated costs of a constitutional convention in 2008, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 231, H.D. 1. In that report, the Bureau estimated that if a constitutional convention that comprised 102 delegates and attendant staff was held in 2012, the cost would be approximately \$48,829,046, excluding ballot counting costs associated with the election of convention delegates. If that figure is projected to 2022 and based on actual and estimated inflation rates (8.45% for period 2012-2018 and 5.44% for period 2018-2022), then the approximate cost would be \$55,835,857, excluding ballot counting costs associated with the election of convention delegates. If the Committee is interested in reviewing the report, it is available online at <http://lrbhawaii.org/reports/legrpts/lrb/rpts08/costcon.pdf>.

Based on the foregoing information, the study requested in this measure seems unnecessary.

Thank you again for your consideration.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018, Room 325  
HCR 39, REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE COST OF  
CONVENING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

**TESTIMONY**

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

Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HCR 39 which would provide important information for voters about the projected cost of a proposed Constitutional Convention.**

It is very important to provide the public with background information about the cost of a Convention. The Legislative Reference Bureau is an excellent resource for this purpose, and we thank this Committee for recognizing the need for additional information, to help voters make an informed decision on this November 2018 general election ballot question.

We respectfully request the resolution be amended to direct that the proposed study include a list of constitutional amendments (by topic) that the Legislature has proposed since 1978. This would be a first step to providing voters examples of the type of issues that could be taken up by a Constitutional Convention. We would all like to compare the value of the proposed expenditure to the opportunities for direct democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



House Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura

03/21/2018 3:00 PM Room 325  
HCR39 – Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Study the Cost of Convening a  
Constitutional Convention

TESTIMONY / SUPPORT with Amendments  
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

---

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the committee:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HCR39 with amendments** which requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau complete a study on the cost of convening a state constitutional convention by September 1, 2018.

We believe that the public should have as much information as possible when voting on whether or not to hold a state constitutional convention. To date, there has not been much public education as to the process of convening a convention, logistics of a convention, etc. This study will provide valuable information and allow the public to make a more informed decision.

However we suggest that the report be due by August 1, 2018. As the subject of a state constitutional convention is a complicated matter, this will allow ample time for the public to study the issue as well as allow more time for community groups, such as ours, to engage in outreach efforts to educate the public on the convention process.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting HCR39 with amendments.**

**HCR-39**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 6:18:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/21/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HCR-39**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 3:30:09 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/21/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would be a wast of time and Money. Stop wasting our money . We all ready pay to much Taxes only for politians to Biger Salaries.and other stupied things likes this.

Aloha



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

**LATE**

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 21, 2018

H.C.R. 39 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE  
COST OF CONVENING A  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.C.R. 39 which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to complete a cost analysis on the convening of a State Constitutional Convention.

Pursuant to Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, on November 6, 2018, voters will again have choice to determine whether or not to convene a Constitutional Convention. Passage of this concurrent resolution will provide voters with an important piece of information – the anticipated cost – so that they may make the most informed decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.C.R. 39.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

345 Queen Street, Suite 500 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**LATE**

Telephone: (808) 597-1441  
Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

March 21, 2018

H.C.R. 39 - REQUESTING THE  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
TO STUDY THE COST OF CONVENING  
A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO would like to offer comments regarding H.C.R. 39 which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to study the cost of convening a constitutional convention.

To be clear, the Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly opposes a constitutional convention. A constitutional convention will no doubt open “Pandora’s box” and could jeopardize civil rights, workers’ rights and many other liberties we take for granted today. There is simply too much uncertainty and risk. That being said, we also believe everyone should be properly informed and educated on the cost of convening a constitutional convention and support the passage of H.C.R. 39 to ensure we have the full financial picture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
President