

SB2335

Late



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Senate JGO Committee
Friday 2/5/10 at 9:35AM in Room 016
SB 2335

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Committee Members:

I am testifying in **support of SB 2335** relating to military and overseas absentee voters.

We strongly support efforts to ensure that our military and overseas citizens can participate fully in our elections.

After reviewing the Office of Election's testimony on the companion House bill heard last week, we also have the following comments:

- There appear to be concerns regarding accounting and security if elections officials may download ballots from a website. We support the Office of Election's suggestion that an alternative method (such as email) be utilized to address those concerns.
- The Office of Elections expressed concern regarding allowing overseas service members to register and vote in Hawaii if they move into the state after voter registration deadlines have already passed. Understandably, this would complicate the finalizing of voter rolls for the Office of Elections. We would respond that *same day voter registration* would address this issue not only for overseas service members but for all citizens who wish to vote but have missed the deadline. Same day registration has been successfully implemented in nine states, and we urge the legislature to enact it in the near future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.