

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 961

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2015

RE: H.B. No. 179
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 179, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the forwarding address for receiving a permanent absentee ballot as the in-state mailing address contained in a voter's registration record; and
- (2) Require voters seeking to have permanent absentee ballots forwarded to another address to reapply for an absentee ballot.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Elections; Office of the County Clerk, County of Maui; Office of the City Clerk, City and County of Honolulu; Office of the County Clerk, County of Kauai; and League of Women Voters of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that a permanent absentee voter is required to maintain current information in two separate records: a voter registration record and a permanent absentee record. Permanent absentee ballots are mailed to the mailing address on the permanent absentee record. However, some permanent absentee voters update their voter registration record, but not their



permanent absentee record. As a result, the absentee ballots are returned to the respective county clerk's office as undeliverable by the United States Postal Service. This measure will increase efficiency by automatically updating the permanent absentee record when the voter registration record is updated.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adopting the language suggested by the Office of the City Clerk of the City and County of Honolulu that inserts a conforming amendment to the requirements for the voter registration affidavit to clarify that the mailing address required to be included in the residence information be within the county of the applicant; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 179, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 179, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Labor,


GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair



