

Honolulu, Hawaii  
February 11, 2016  
RE: H.B. No. 1654

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1654 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to adopt a process for permanent absentee voters to receive a ballot at both their address of record and another address inside or outside the State for different elections occurring within the same election cycle without affecting their permanent absentee status or permanent on record mailing address. The measure also allows a voter to receive an absentee ballot by electronic transmission if the voter requires a replacement ballot within five days of an election and to return the voted replacement ballot and executed forms by electronic transmission.

The Office of Elections, Kauai Office of the County Clerk, Honolulu Office of the City Clerk, Maui Office of the County Clerk, and The League of Women Voters of Hawaii testified in support of this measure.

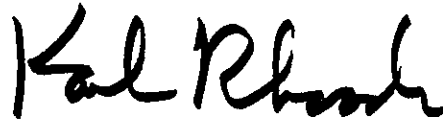
This measure clarifies the procedure for permanent absentee voting by codifying the practices that were established by county election officials regarding permanent absentee ballot voters who need to have a ballot mailed to an address other than their permanent address for different elections that occur within the same election cycle. Further, the measure authorizes the electronic transmission of voted replacement ballots, which



provides a practical and expeditious means of casting a ballot and encourages voter participation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1654 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



