

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 704

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2021

RE: S.B. No. 550  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 550 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow an individual who is seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or before the next state or local general election to register and vote at the state or local primary election immediately preceding that state or local general election.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Young Progressives Demanding Action, Pono Hawai'i Initiative, and twelve individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General, Vote16HI, and Common Cause Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that the earlier a person begins civic participation, such as voting, the more likely that person is to remain a lifelong active citizen and participant in democracy. Your Committee further finds that primary elections are a crucial phase of the election cycle, and that full participation as a voter in a general election involves the opportunity to vote in the corresponding primary election.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Allowing individuals who are seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or before the next general election to vote in all co-occurring or intervening special elections; 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 that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 550, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 550, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-First Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 550</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC</b>	Date: <b>2/10/21</b>
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312      Pass, with amendments 2311      Hold 2310      Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Recommendation:      Adopted      Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *Karl Rhoads*

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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes