

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 16 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2454
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation and Government Operations,
to which was referred H.B. No. 2454, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE VACANCIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to clarify the laws pertaining
to vacancies for the United States Senate and the Hawaii State
Legislature.

Your Committee received oral testimony in support of this
measure from one individual.

This measure would require the Governor, for the filling of a
vacancy for the United States Senate, the state Senate, and the
state House of Representatives, to select a temporary appointment
from a list of five prospective appointees submitted by the same
political party as the prior incumbent. The appointee must be a
registered member of the same political party as the prior
incumbent for at least six months immediately prior to the
appointment. If the prior incumbent was not a member of any
political party, the Governor would appoint a person who was not a
member of any political party for at least six months prior to the
appointment.

Your Committee find that this measure would promote an
element of fairness in filling legislative vacancies without
compromising the integrity of the election process. Political



parties should have a voice in selecting a replacement to fill a vacancy.

Your Committee has amended this measure by reducing the number of submitted candidates from five to three, and inserting twenty days after the date the vacancy occurs as the deadline for political parties to submit their candidates to the Governor.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation and Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2454, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2454, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation and
Government Operations,


LORRAINE R. INOUE Chair



