

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2122

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 2010

RE: S.B. No. 2378
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2378 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide for the election of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs board members through a system of nonpartisan primary and general elections.

Testimony in support was submitted by one organization and sixteen individuals. One state agency submitted comments. Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee recognizes that studies have shown that incumbents for any political office have a distinct advantage over challengers. However, in Office of Hawaiian Affairs board elections, where there is no primary to narrow the list of candidates, the incumbents have an even greater advantage due to widespread name recognition and the number of challenger candidates. The 2006 general election ballot listed fourteen candidates for three at-large positions. In that election, more ballots were cast for candidates who did not win the election than for candidates who did win, but the votes were spread out among eleven candidates.

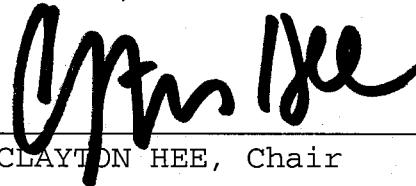


Your Committee finds that implementing a process of primary elections to narrow the field of candidates for Office of Hawaiian Affairs board positions, will provide the candidates an opportunity to conduct outreach and establish position platforms and instill in the voters a greater sense of accountability for their elected board members.

Your Committee has amended this measure by clarifying that the primary election shall narrow down the candidates for at-large seats to no more than twice the number of seats available for the general election ballot.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2378, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2378, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs,




CLAYTON HEE, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2378	Committee Referral: WTL, JGO	Date: 2/3/10		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
HEE, Clayton (C)	✓			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	✓			
BUNDA, Robert	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol				✓
KOKUBUN, Russell S.				✓
TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	3
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes