
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the order of the
2 placement of candidates' names on a ballot can influence a
3 voter's decision. It has been documented that candidates who
4 are listed at the top of the ballot are at an advantage and
5 receive, on average, two per cent more votes than if they had
6 been listed later on the ballot.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the
8 elections process by arranging candidates' names on a ballot in
9 alphabetical order commencing with a randomly-drawn letter.

10 SECTION 2. Section 11-115, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "**§11-115 Arrangement of names on the ballot.** (a) The
13 names of the candidates shall be placed upon the ballot for
14 their respective offices in alphabetical order [~~except~~];
15 provided that:

16 (1) Prior to each election cycle, the chief election
17 officer shall select a letter of the alphabet by lot;
18 and



1 (2) For primary, general, and special elections during
2 each election cycle, candidates whose last names begin
3 with the letter selected pursuant to paragraph (1)
4 shall appear first on the ballot in alphabetical order
5 by last name. The names of the other candidates shall
6 follow in alphabetical order by last name, beginning
7 with the letter that follows the letter selected
8 pursuant to subsection (1), and continuing to the
9 letter Z, then returning to the letter A.

10 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a),
11 arrangement of candidate names on a ballot shall be:

- 12 (1) As provided in section 11-118;
- 13 (2) ~~[For]~~ Subject to the limitations of the voting system
14 in use; and
- 15 (3) ~~[For]~~ In the case of the candidates for vice president
16 and lieutenant governor in the general election
17 ~~[whose]~~, the names of those candidates shall be placed
18 immediately below the name of the candidate for
19 president or governor of the same political party.

20 ~~(b)~~ (c) In elections using the paper ballot or electronic
21 voting systems where the names of the candidates are printed and
22 the voter records the voter's vote on the face of the ballot,



1 the following format shall be used: A horizontal line shall be
2 ruled between each candidate's name and the next name, except
3 between the names of presidential and vice presidential
4 candidates and candidates for governor and lieutenant governor
5 of the same political party in the general election. In such
6 case the horizontal line shall follow the name of the candidates
7 for vice president and lieutenant governor of the same political
8 party, thereby grouping the candidates for president and vice
9 president and governor and lieutenant governor of the same
10 political party within the same pair of horizontal lines.

11 [~~(e)~~] (d) Immediately to the left of (before) or to the
12 right of (after) the candidate name or names, according to the
13 requirements of the voting system, two vertical lines shall be
14 ruled, so that in conjunction with the horizontal lines, a box
15 shall be formed to the left of or to the right of the name and
16 its equivalent, if any.

17 [~~(d)~~] (e) In case of the candidates for president and vice
18 president and governor and lieutenant governor of the same
19 political party, only one box shall be formed opposite their set
20 of names. The boxes shall be of sufficient size to give ample
21 room in which to designate the choice of the voter in the manner
22 prescribed for the voting system in use. All of the names upon



1 a ballot shall be placed at a uniform distance from the left
2 edge and close thereto, and shall be of uniform size and print
3 subject to section 11-119."

4 SECTION 3. The chief election officer shall establish
5 procedures to implement the purpose of this Act, and provide
6 appropriate explanation to voters regarding the arrangement of
7 candidates' names on the ballot.

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
11 provided that if it is not enacted by June 3, 2014, it shall
12 take effect on November 5, 2014.



Report Title:

Elections; Ballot; Arrangement of Names

Description:

Requires the arrangement of candidate names on ballots in alphabetical order by last name, beginning with a letter randomly selected by the Chief Election Officer. (HB2408 HD1)

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