



SB1303
RELATING TO OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS ELECTIONS
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 14, 2017

1:30 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **COMMENT** on SB1303, which changes the method by which candidates for three OHA Board of Trustees at-large seats without a residency requirement are elected.

OHA appreciates the intent behind the measure to generate head-to-head races that result in “a more democratic election process” for OHA at-large seats.

At its last Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee meeting, which is a committee of the whole, trustees expressed a variety of views about SB1303. While some trustees expressed that SB1303 was headed in the right direction with its head-to-head races, at least one trustee raised concerns about the measure. OHA looks forward to continuing to discuss SB1303 as it moves throughout the legislative session.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

SB 1303

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017

1:30 PM Conference Room 016

Chair: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro

Vice-Chair: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria

Members:

Sen. Kalani English

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim

Sen. Josh Green

RE: Strong Support for SB 1303 Relating to Office of Hawaiian Affairs Election

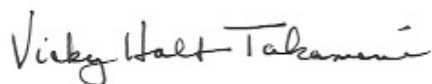
Aloha mai kakou,

I am Vicky Holt Takamine, a Native Hawaiian and a voter. I am in strong support of SB 1303 to reform the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) trustee at-large elections so that each at-large seat will run in a head-to-head race, ensuring a more democratic election process for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Currently, six of the OHA trustee seats are elected in head-to-head races but three at-large seats are elected in a three-way run-off. A review of past elections demonstrates how candidates won the election with as little as 4% of the total votes cast.

I believe a reform is necessary to be able to elect better qualified candidates to manage the affairs of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Vicky Holt Takamine

98-614 Kaimu Loop

Aiea, HI 96701

vtakamine@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:15 AM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, while I support in concept SB1303 that would change the method by which candidates for three Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees at large seats without residency requirements are elected, I believe time should be allowed for the Native Hawaiian community to discuss this change. For example, the short notification of this hearing did not allow for me to arrange a meeting to discuss this important bill with two organizations that I typically represent at the legislature in giving testimony. Accordingly, recommend that the committee delay decision on this bill to allow for informed discussion in the Hawaiian community. Mahalo, Leimomi

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 4:16 PM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: pratt.kauai@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauionalani Pratt-Aquino	Pratt Law Hawaii, LLLC	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Shimabukuro! Thank you very much for introducing this measure! I am a a beneficiary of the OHA. This is a great bill that truly honors the spirit of fairness. As you aware, there have been many concerns related to OHA's leadership. This bill gives a fair opportunity to individuals who have a desire to run for trustee by breaking up the at-large races into individual races. This is extremely fair and it gives others who are equally passionate an opportunity for the at large seat. The only change I would make is that there should only be one finance person on the board. One At-large seat should be dedicated to someone with organizational management. Please pass this bill! It will be extremely beneficial to our community. Please also note that I will be making the recommendation to support this bill to the Pono Leadership group, which is comprised of 820 individuals. My apologies for not making the recommendation earlier. We were engaged in supporting HB 118 and was just made aware of this measure. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Mahalo, Kau'i Pratt-Aquino 393-1948

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 10:15 AM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM*

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:20 AM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: jflowers7733@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM*

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Wayne Flowers Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:48 AM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM*

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:15 AM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: kealii8@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kealii Makekau	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: "True" The intent upon establishment of OHA was to create a body to achieve self-determination for Native Hawaiians while simultaneously managing resources for Native Hawaiians. Therefore elections empowered Native Hawaiians to carry out this duty by having them vote for and elect Native Hawaiians to lead this organization. "False" Therefore, there is adequate precedent to apply skill and knowledge qualifications to remaining, unqualified at-large seats. Especially considering the growing responsibilities of the organization as a land manager, commercial property manager, financial assets manager, community advocate, natural and cultural resource advocate, research and data collection repository, and facilitator of numerous initiatives that impact the daily lives of Native Hawaiians. This bill and its timing is targeting certain trustees who are not in compliance with democratic parties wishes esp given the recent go ahead with a financial audit of all its resources, one of which is Nation building an endeavor the legislature has signed off basically with blank checks with no oversight whatsoever. The way to help solve the problem at OHA and enhance democracy is term limits. Asserting that a more qualified candidate has never shown that his or hers intentions to be honorable let alone responsible. Just look at you and your own colleagues history in this state for that answer. People want oversight and discipline with things like financials and removal of office instead of being told what and who would better serve there needs.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:54 AM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM*

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:49 PM
To: HWNTestimony
Cc: shaelene@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM*

SB1303

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shaelene Kamakaala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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