

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2470

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2018

RE: S.B. No. 1303
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2018
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.B. No. 1303 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the
election method of the three at-large seats for the Office of
Hawaiian Affairs' Board of Trustees.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of
Hawaii; We Are One, Inc.; Honua Consulting; Patients Without Time;
Aha Moku O, Inc.; and twenty-eight individuals. Your Committee
received testimony in opposition to this measure from Ho'omanapono
Political Action Committee and one individual. Your Committee
received comments on this measure from the Office of Hawaiian
Affairs.

Your Committee finds that there has been a call to amend the
current election process of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Board
of Trustees election. Currently, there are nine positions on the
Board and, of the nine, four are at-large positions, which seek to
represent the State as a whole. Your Committee believes that it
is important to create a fair and just election process that
requires candidates to run in head-to-head races for the Board of




Trustees to uphold democracy, and doing so requires a change in the current election process. Your Committee believes that the congressional delegates election process may serve as a model for the Board of Trustees election, as the congressional delegates are chosen to represent Hawaii as a whole, similar to the at-large seats of the Board of Trustees.

Your Committee has amended this measure by modeling the elections after the Congressional races by:

- (1) Requiring that of the four at-large seats, two seats will be up for election during each election cycle;
- (2) Of the two seats up for election during each election cycle, requiring one member to be a resident of an urban district and one member to be a resident of a rural district;
- (3) Making the change in the election process and residency requirement for the at-large seats effective beginning with the general election of 2020 but requiring a shortened term for one member elected for an at-large seat without a residency requirement in the general election of 2018; and
- (4) 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 Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1303, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1303, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,



MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



