

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

156

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2019

RE: S.B. No. 729

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.B. No. 729 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the
display of candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Office of
Hawaiian Affairs, on the ballot by residency and non-residency
requirements and to randomize the order of candidate names within
those groupings and among precincts.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Pono Leadership
Now, eight individuals, and a petition signed by twenty
individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure
from the Office of Elections.

Your Committee finds that ballot order has been shown to
affect election outcomes and the first name on the ballot
generally has an advantage over names listed further down the
ballot. Your Committee finds that under existing law, candidate
names are placed on the ballot in alphabetical order, which
results in candidates' ballot positions remaining relatively
unchanged from election to election. Randomizing the names of
candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
Affairs, so that the order of names changes each election and,



furthermore, so that in each election the order of names varies in each precinct, will distribute more randomly any advantage that may arise from the order of candidates' names on the ballot.

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. 729 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

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



MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



