



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1116, HD 1
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 14, 2019

Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 1116, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to display candidates for the Board of Trustees, Office of Hawaiian Affairs by residency and non-residency requirements, and to randomize the order of candidate names within those groupings.

We would accomplish the purpose of this measure by randomly selecting a letter of the alphabet for each district/precinct (ballot type) to be the first letter to organize the candidate names for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs contests. For example, if the letter "H" was randomly selected by lot, candidates whose last name start with an "H" would be listed first and subsequent names will follow alphabetically (e.g., "H", "I", "J").

We would also note that the randomly selected letter should only be applied to the first letter of the last name and not modify additional alphabetizing. We use the alphabetical organization for proofing the ballots to ensure all candidates are properly listed, which corresponds to the voting position for the vote counting system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1116, HD 1.

HB-1116-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 5:52:14 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/14/2019 1:19:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 12, 2019

Hearing Before the Honorable Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: HB1116 HD 1 Relating to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date: March 14, 2019

Time: 1:19 p.m.

Location: Room 016 at the State Capitol

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement testifies in Strong Support of HB 1116 HD 1 which scrambles, in random order, the names of the candidates as they will appear on the OHA election ballot. The reason for this change is that there is a perception that a person whose name begins with a letter at the beginning rather than at the end of the alphabet is at a decided advantage when the names on the ballot are listed in alphabetical order and people simply select the first name they encounter on the ballot.

Scrambling the names and having them appear in random order on the OHA ballot arguably will force voters to actually consider the names of the OHA candidates and make a knowing and intentional choice rather than simply picking the first name they come to. This small change will help to assure that voters will make a meaningful and intentional selection for whom they will cast their vote in the OHA election, and will assist in ensuring that the vote reflects the will of the people, rather than a simple guess. It will also assure that any advantage a candidate has because his or her name begins with a letter at the beginning of the alphabet will be negated since the candidate names will be displayed in random order.

Respectfully,



J. Kuhio Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

HB-1116-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:47:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/14/2019 1:19:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha:

My name is Kamuela Werner of MÄ•'ili, O'ahu. I am testifying in strong support of HB 1116 HD1.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner, MPH