

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

10

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 1 2019

RE: S.B. No. 427
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 427 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish ranked choice voting for special federal elections and special elections of vacant county seats.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, FairVote Action, Common Cause Hawaii, and seven individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Honolulu County Republican Party and eight individuals.

Your Committee finds that special elections for federal and county council offices often involve numerous candidates and can result in situations in which a candidate wins with a plurality of votes that falls well short of a majority. Your Committee further finds that ranked choice voting ensures that elections in which a large number of candidates appear on the ballot can be won with clear majorities without the need for costly and inefficient runoff elections.



Your Committee has amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment to clarify that the Office of Elections may modify a ranked-choice voting ballot and tabulation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 427, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 427, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 427	Committee Referral: JDC, WAM	Date: 1/29/19		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt			✓	
TOTAL	4	0	1	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes