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TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2414
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 30, 2020

Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2414. This bill amends ballot requirements to display candidates for the office of Hawaiian affairs, board of trustees, 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 example, if the letter "L" was randomly selected by lot, candidates whose last name started with an "L" would be listed first, and subsequent names will follow alphabetically (e.g., "L", "M", "N"). We would also note that the randomly selected letter would only be applied to the first letter of the last name and not modify additional alphabetizing.

We use the alphabetical organization to proof the ballots ensuring all candidates are properly listed. This also corresponds to the voting position to be counted by the voting and vote counting system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2414.

SB-2414

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 8:02:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2020 1:17:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2414

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:56:44 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2020 1:17:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaipo Hanakahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2414 because it gives the chance for voters to really know their candidates in depth and on a first name basis. It also deflects those who vote because it is alphabetically convenient. I would also like to advocate implementing the randomized order of names for all elected state official candidates.

TESTIMONY OF ESTHER KIA'AINA IN SUPPORT OF SB 2414
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 30, 2020, 1:17 p.m., Conference Room 016

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is Esther Kia'aina and I am testifying in support of SB 2414, which amends ballot requirements 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 on individual ballots.

Given the sheer number of candidates that run for OHA elections and the costs for candidates to mount a state-wide campaign, random balloting would provide for a fairer opportunity for all candidates to be considered by the electorate.

I respectfully urge the committee members to support the passage of SB 2414 out of your committee.

Respectfully,

Esther Kia'aina