

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2161  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B.  
No. 2161, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the exterior of the envelope containing the ballot package for elections by mail to include instructions on how to obtain language translation services in Hawaiian and certain other non-English languages; and
- (2) Apply to all elections beginning with the 2024 primary election.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Elections, Office of Language Access, Hawai'i State Association of Parliamentarians, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights, Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Common Cause Hawaii, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, and six individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the City and County of Honolulu Elections Division.



Your Committee finds that Hawai'i is the most diverse state in the country with a diversity index of seventy-six percent. The April 2016 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism Research and Economic Analysis Division report on the non-English speaking population in Hawai'i indicated that the number of non-English speakers at home increased by forty-four percent from 1980 to 2014, and that Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home, comprising approximately half of the non-English speakers. Your Committee further finds that language translation services are already required and used by the State and counties for in-person voting. This measure will ensure that limited English proficient voters are informed about how to obtain language translation services when voting by mail.

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. 2161, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes  
Committee on Judiciary  
JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB2161, SD1	HMS, JDC	02-28-22


The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312     Pass, with amendments 2311     Hold 2310     Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

Recommendation:  Adopted     Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes