

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 2021

RE: S.B. No. 981  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred  
S.B. No. 981 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:

- (1) Change the maximum amount of public funds available to each candidate running for election to the office of State Senator, State Representative, County Council, and the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to an unspecified percent of the expenditure limit established for each election; and
- (2) Increase the amount each candidate for the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs candidate must raise to qualify for public funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Common Cause Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that candidates running for the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs who voluntarily agree to participate in the partial public funding program run statewide campaigns yet they are provided substantially less partial public



funding than other statewide candidates. This measure will increase the partial public funding expenditure limit and maximum amount of public funds available for candidates for the Board of Trustees.

Your Committee notes that S.B. No. 238 (Regular Session of 2021), which was previously passed by the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee, also relates to election requirements for the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Under existing law, names of candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs are placed on the ballot in alphabetical order to ensure that all candidates are properly listed, which corresponds to the voting position for the vote counting system. To mitigate any advantage that may arise from the order of candidate names on the ballot, S.B. No. 238 requires that the names of candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs be randomized on individualized ballots. Your Committee believes that elections should be transparent, inclusive, and accountable, and there must be equitable opportunities to compete in the elections for the Board of Trustees.

Therefore, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding the contents of S.B. No. 238, S.D. 1; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 981, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 981, S.D. 1, 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,




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MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**  
**HWN**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 981	HWN, JDC/WAM	2/4/21		
<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
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (C)	X			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	X			
ACASIO, Laura	X			
IHARA, Jr., Les	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5			
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes