

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3417**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1879
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1879, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DIGITAL VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide that certain information to be included in any digital voter information guide shall not be released to any requestor in whole or in part before the public release of the entire guide.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Elections and one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Information Practices.

Your Committee finds that existing law is unclear as to whether an open records request can be made for a candidate's statement before the actual guide is released or if it should be rejected on the grounds that if granted it would frustrate a legitimate government function by undermining one of the purposes of the voter information guide. Your Committee believes that the law should be changed to clarify that a candidate's statement should not be available ahead of the release of the digital voter



information guide, as it may provide an unfair advantage to the requestor which could impact the election. This measure will ensure the uniform, equitable, and coordinated release of information of the contents of the voter information guide.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making it effective upon its approval.

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 H.B. No. 1879, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1879, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



