



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2627
RELATING TO ARRANGEMENT OF CANDIDATE NAMES ON BALLOTS

February 1, 2024

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2627. This bill requires that any new contract entered into by the Office of Elections for equipment or services relating to preparing ballots or counting votes include the capability to randomize the names of candidates appearing on the ballot if technologically possible; requires candidate names to be randomized on ballots to the greatest extent possible; and requires the Office of Elections to inform voters and candidates, by a method suited for the voting system, that the names of candidates may not be in alphabetical order.

We would accomplish the purpose of this measure by randomly selecting a letter of the alphabet to be the first letter to organize the candidate names. For example, if “H” was randomly selected by lot, candidates whose last name starts with an “H” would be listed first and subsequent names will follow alphabetically (e.g., “I”, “J”, “K”).

The current voting system is programmed to allow for precinct rotation of such that if “H” was the randomly selected letter for the first district/precinct (i.e., 01-01), “I” would be the start of the alphabet for the second district/precinct (i.e., 01-02), and “J” for the third district/precinct (i.e., 01-03), and so on. The system is not capable of randomizing the names within a precinct as the vote counting system is programmed to read x and y coordinates when tallying votes.

Additionally, the alphabetical organization is used by election officials to proof the ballots to ensure all candidates are properly listed and the vote counting system is recording votes for the proper candidate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2627.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:06:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Lam	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This legislation would be better suited if done in conjunction with in-person precinct voting with picture ID. Election by Mail has failed the people of Hawai‘i and any further use of mail-in ballots and serves to increase the expenses of using unreliable technology.

We just witnessed on Jan 13, 2024 Taiwan conduct in-person precinct voting with picture ID and personal insignia for over 14 million voters. They hand-counted 42 millions ballots for each of the three races in questions in under 6 hours. The ballot order did not matter as each ballot was visually counted by a human volunteer and recorded by a human volunteer.

I have included a link below of the questionable electronic recordkeeping of our 2022 General Elections that has been presented to the Office of Elections and the Elections Commission without action or investigation. Open questions still remain unanswered. Why are half ballots in Maui not accounted for? Why are there so many duplicate ballot batch numbers? Why are ballots sequence numbers missing within individual batches? Further reliance on electronic systems continue to compromise the integrity and security of our election.

[Report and Analysis of 2022 General Elections Cast Vote Record](#)

The original data for the Cast Voter Records (CVR) for the 2022 General Election are at this link.

[Office of Elections 2022 General Election Cast Vote Records](#)

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:25:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this Bill.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 1:35:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! Hawaii needs more transparency! I rebuke anything that is evil and not of GOD Almighty!

Concerned resident

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 1:47:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 1:51:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposal would make it much more difficult to perform ballot audits

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:08:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadine L Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill because it complicates the voting process.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:31:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:32:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 3:03:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to simplify and bring more transparency to the election process and this bill does not support that.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:10:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2627

What purpose does name randomization on ballots serve?

According to the [MIT Election Data and Science Lab](#), “If the order in which candidates appear on the ballot influences election outcomes, then these laws will advantage some candidates over others, whether this advantage is due to incumbency, party, or alphabetical order”.

Hawai’i ballots list candidates alphabetically. A quick look at the [2022 General election results](#) shows whether or not SB2627 is needed to level the playing field:

Races won by Candidates whose name **appeared first: 33**

Races won by Candidates whose name did **NOT appear first: 35**

More races were won by candidates whose name appeared farther down on the ballot.

Alphabetizing candidate names did not create an unfair advantage.

Of note, incumbents won 64 of 67 races. Hawai’i voters typically vote for incumbents and in a hyperpartisan state, ballot name order does not make any difference.

I respectfully request that you do not pass this bill and focus your time and resources for bills that positively impact the people of Hawai’i.

Mahalo for your service,

Corinne Solomon, HD20, Oahu

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:50:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 6:17:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 6:42:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather R Lauro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! This will complicate the auditing process and Hawaii has already proven election technology is not up to the complexity that this would require. SIMPLIFY the election process with paper ballots only and candidates in usual alphabetical order! Quit trying to cheat the system!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:14:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalene McCormick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why are we making our ability to manually audit votes more complicated. The state is already not following Hawaii Revised Statutes related to post election audits and now we want to randomize candidate names. This makes no sense.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:46:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynne Bautista	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2627. Hawai'i ballots list candidates alphabetically. A quick look at the [2022 General election results](#) shows whether or not HB1606 is needed to level the playing field:

Races won by Candidates whose name **appeared first: 33**

Races won by Candidates whose name did **NOT appear first: 35**

More races were won by candidates whose name appeared farther down on the ballot.

Alphabetizing candidate names did not create an unfair advantage.

I don't think you need to change anything. When you try to "make things fairer" you just end up causing more problems. Thank you.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:18:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith A. Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a waste of time and money. It's like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. Totally unnecessary and the voters don't need this. We have bigger problems to resolve with mail in voting and voter rolls.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:55:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AnnMarie Hamilton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

very bad idea.. will make it harder to audit.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:01:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 11:35:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:19:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. No randomizing names. This will make an audit difficult to do.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:55:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2627

Its against our constitution

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:04:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2627

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:11:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2627

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:43:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Stanton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1606 as it could make it more difficult to do the HRS 16-42 post election pre-certification audits as required by the law.

Mahalo,

Tom Stanton

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:39:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:32:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
noela von	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this Bill.

Our Elections are complicated as it is now, this Bill will further the lack of Transparency we already are experiencing. This is not right, We must have Secure, safe ,fair elections.

Thank you very much.

Noela von Wiegandt

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:13:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Cushnie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO! We need to keep the names of candidates in the same order and NOT randomize in order to perform the manual audits as required by Hawai statutes. Make legislation simple, transparent and enforce election integrity! This Bill does the opposite. NO!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:26:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Aina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

The intent of this bill may be commendable, but instead of simplifying the election process, this measure will cause the process to be more complicated, time-consuming, and expensive. Please defer this measure. Thank you.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:31:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leolani Mahuka iwaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:49:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:16:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The ballots need to be clean, concise and easy to understand! Not confusing or randomized names that may bring hardship for the voters!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:44:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L.C	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would make an audit more difficult. This type of legislation would be unnecessary if we went back to paper ballots only.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:44:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Gillard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wasting of our money. Im shocked this is what our legislatures are putting out.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:31:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to SB 2627.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:25:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elle Zhang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2627. Legal bills are confusing as they are. Randomly placing candidates names will make it more difficult to vote for voters.

It is a very bad idea. I oppose!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:34:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Sharpe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB2627 is not good for our democracy. I stronly oppose here.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:30:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Kekuewa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Need More transparency!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:11:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Feleciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I opppse. The voting process needs to be simplified and more transparent and this bill does the opposite of that.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:19:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gitte Gonzalez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposed to this bill as it complicates instead of simplifies especially in the case of an audit

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:28:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Caramonte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Voters go into an election knowing who they will vote for. To assume that randomly placing a candidate on a ballot will be fair is a grossly assumption. Tampering with the ballot can cause more harm, a mistake can be made where a candidate is removed altogether. For this reason I urge the members to deny this bill from moving forward.

Mahalo

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:34:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elethia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:46:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Decenzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:40:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nyla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:46:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:31:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Grimes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:51:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would make the far more reliable MANUAL AUDIT very difficult, which would increase the likelihood that the use of electronic systems would be "required," and we've all seen multiple examples now of how easily electronic systems can manipulate and be manipulated.

Hawai'i has had more than its share of election manipulation - we don't need any additional systems to perpetuate those violations: here I refer also to the complete documentation I submitted to every member of the legislature in 2022, revealing that our Election Officer committed a federal felony - after which he was given a pay raise - by declining to provide timely-requested Cast Vote Records and admitting in writing that he had not retained control of the data. Since the testimony of Clinton Eugene Curtis revealed that a minimum of 2 decades of ballot result manipulation has been going on, courtesy of undetectable software he was tasked to produce, since Professor Halderman demonstrated in front of a federal judge that he could use a pen to alter electronic voting tabulators, since Hart InterCivic partnered with Bill Gates (re the paradoxically named "ElectionGuard"), We The People have known that our elections have been rigged to install strategically placed officials and/or a sufficient number of general representatives, who clearly do not understand (or do not support) our Constitution and their associated duties, in public office. Whether these individuals were compromised, complicit, coerced, cowardly, controlled, or simply clueless, the outcome has been the same – a legislature that is intent on continuing to dismantle the structure that would guarantee legitimate elections. For those Senators who still believe that our Constitution and that our elections should be beyond any form of compromise, please oppose this bill.

For anyone who hasn't seen and is interested in my documentation of Election Office fraud in 2022 (regarding the 2020 Cast Vote Records), please contact me for that documentation.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:48:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in opposition to SB 2627.

This legislation claims that there are ‘numerous publicly available studies that show an advantage to the candidate that is listed first on the ballot’ and uses this claim as justification to implement new legislation to randomize candidate names for fair and equal representation.

Similarly, there have been “numerous publicly available studies” that show that the use of electronic voting machines and mail in voting is inherently insecure, which does not result in fair and equal representation for the candidates, nor result in accurate elections.

These “numerous publicly available studies” are repeatedly ignored by the legislature and the elections commission.

The legislature and elections commission must address the inherent flaws in electronic voting machines and mail in voting. Without a comprehensive look at the weaknesses in these systems, this type of legislation will do little more than placate the real issue resulting in unfairness – which is the overall accuracy of those elections that this legislation claims to correct.

I oppose this legislation.

SB-2627

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:12:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppase SB2627. This bill serves only to complicate election audits.

Mahalo!

SB-2627

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 7:48:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

I believe it is not necessary to list the candidates name in a random order and listing the candidates name in alphabetical order is more than adequate.

SB2627 should be tabled.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Chester Lum

SB-2627

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:43:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! What good comes from randomizing the names of candidates on ballots? Except to make things much more complicated and harder to audit! This bill does nothing, in fact complicates, the process of being transparent and also makes it much more difficult for the voting public. It leaves much room for error when voting. Are errors in voting supposed to be a positive result??? This bill would also make it possible to manipulate ballots therefore placing candidates in favorable positions on these ballots so as to influence the outcome of elections for unsuspecting voters.