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

February 26, 2020

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding 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 of Senate Bill No. 2414.

TESTIMONY OF ESTHER KIA'AINA IN SUPPORT OF SB 2414
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 26, 2020, 1:10 p.m., Conference Room 210

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

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 members to support the passage of SB 2414 out of your committees.

Respectfully,

Esther Kia'aina
Kailua, Oahu