July 10, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Re: SB1058 SD2 HD1 CD1

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution, SB1058 SD2 HD1 CD1, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS" became law as ACT 286 on July 10, 2019.

This bill requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), to prepare a statement, in English and Hawaiian, explaining the purpose, limitations, and effects of each constitutional amendment proposed by the Legislature for the voters. The bill also requires the Office of Elections and county clerks to make the statements available to the public at all polling places in the State and on a website operated by the Office of Elections.

While I fully support the preparation of a statement in English and Hawaiian, proposed amendments are the product of the legislators. For this reason, the statements should be prepared by those who work closely with the Legislature and within the legislative branch. This would ensure that the wording of the statements in both languages reflects the intent of the Legislature. The bill requires consultation with the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), but the LRB or another legislative entity would be better suited to prepare the actual statements explaining the proposed amendments.
In addition, there was no funding appropriated to prepare the translations.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed SB1058 SD2 HD1 CD1 to become law without my signature.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawaii
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I:

SECTION 1. Section 11-118.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[§]11-118.5 [§] Constitutional amendments, proposed[.] attorney general statement. (a) Any constitutional amendment proposed by the legislature shall include in final form the exact constitutional ratification question to be printed on a ballot. The constitutional ratification question shall be phrased in a manner to enable voters to express their choice on the constitutional amendment by providing a "yes" or "no" response. The language and meaning of a constitutional amendment shall be clear and it shall be neither misleading nor deceptive.

(b) The attorney general, in consultation with the legislative reference bureau, shall prepare a statement in English and Hawaiian for each proposed constitutional amendment in language that is clear and that indicates the purpose, limitations, and effects of the proposed amendment. The attorney general shall distribute each statement to the state
office of elections and all county clerks for further
distribution. The office of elections and county clerks shall
make the statement available to the public at all polling places
in the State and on a website operated by the office of
elections."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2020.
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 30, 2019
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2019.

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate
SB No. 1058, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2019
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019.

[Signature]
Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives

[Signature]
Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives