A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ARRANGEMENT OF CANDIDATE NAMES ON BALLOTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1   SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are numerous

2 publicly available studies that show that the election candidate

3 who is listed first on a ballot has an advantage over the other

4 candidates listed. The legislature also finds that several

5 states, such as California and Ohio, arrange the candidates'

6 names randomly across ballots so that each possible permutation

7 appears an equal number of times. This allows each candidate to

8 be represented fairly and equally on the ballots.

9   Currently, on the Hawaii ballot, candidates for a specific

10 office are listed in alphabetical order starting with the letter

11 "A", and the ballots are identical across precincts for that

12 office.

13   The purpose of this Act is to require the randomization of

14 names of candidates listed on individual ballots and on ballots

15 across precincts, thereby making the advantage of being the

16 first candidate listed on a ballot a random event.

1   SECTION 2. Section 11-115, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

2   amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3   "(a) The names of the candidates shall be placed upon the

4   ballot for their respective offices in [alphabetical] random

5   order so that the names are randomized on individual ballots and

6   also randomly rotated from one precinct to another except:

7   (1) As provided in section 11-118;

8   (2) [For] Subject to the limitations of the voting system

9   in use; and

10   (3) [For] In the case of the candidates for vice president

11   and lieutenant governor in the general election

12   [whose], the names of those candidates shall be placed

13   immediately below the name of the candidate for

14   president or governor of the same political party."

15   SECTION 3. The chief election officer is directed to

16   establish procedures to implement the purpose of this Act, which

17   shall apply to the election cycle beginning on January 1, 2020.

18   SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed

19   and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20

S.B. NO. 194

1   SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

Report Title:
Elections; Ballot; Arrangement of Names

Description:
Requires candidate names to be randomized on individual ballots and randomly rotated across precincts.

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