

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3304

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2022

RE: H.B. No. 124
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 124, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Chief Election Officer to develop and distribute a voter information guide for all candidates running for state office, including candidates running for any trustee position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and
- (2) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Common Cause Hawaii, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and Community Alliance on Prisons. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance and Office of Elections.

Your Committee finds that all states make an effort to inform the electorate about upcoming elections, where and when the elections will be held, and how to cast a vote. Your Committee further finds that some states publish official voter guides.



Your Committee believes that an informed electorate is an important component of a healthy democracy, and that the distribution of informational guides prepared by the Office of Elections, an apolitical entity, will help the electorate in making informed voting decisions.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that the Chief Election Officer shall develop and distribute a voter information guide for all candidates running for federal or state office;
- (2) Specifying that the voter information guide shall include a short statement of less than one hundred fifty words for each candidate running for office, to be prepared by the candidate and based on a template or criteria created by the Office of Elections;
- (3) Specifying that the Office of Elections shall provide a translation of the voter information guide in Olelo Hawaii;
- (4) Removing the appropriation;
- (5) Making it effective upon its approval, making it applicable to the 2024 election, and sunseting it on November 6, 2024; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 124, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 124, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 124, HD1	Committee Referral: JDC, WAM	Date: 03-17-22		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	/			
ACASIO, Laura	/			
GABBARD, Mike	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
LEE, Chris	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	7	-	-	-
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes