STAND. COM. REP. NO. 105

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 3 2022

RE: S.B. No. 741 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 S.B. No. 741 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- Require an elector to vote for the candidates whose names appeared on the presidential general election ballot and who are of the political party or group they represent and invalidate an elector's vote for failure to vote accordingly; and
- (2) Require an alternate to vote in place of the original elector if the original elector fails to vote for the proper candidate.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Common Cause Hawaii, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the formalities of presidential and vice-presidential selection under the United States Constitution have revolved around the electoral college. Despite this formal constancy, the realities of the selection process have changed dramatically over the years, to the point that the electoral



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college actually functions in a way that could hardly have been imagined by those who promulgated the constitutional provisions. The dissonance between formality and reality has opened room for what are called "faithless electors," members of the electoral college who vote for candidates for president or vice president other than those for whom the popular electoral majority assumed it was casting its votes for. Faithless electors hold the potential for serious damage to the democratic processes. This measure renders a vote by a faithless elector invalid thereby establishing a safeguard from electors who seek to subvert the will of the people.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that if an alternate elector fails to vote for the candidates whose names appeared on the presidential general election ballot and who are of the political party or group which the alternate elector represents the alternate elector's vote shall be invalidated; and
- (2) Providing for a definition for "mentally disabled."

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 S.B. No. 741, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 741, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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

KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate Thirty-First Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:		
SB 741	JDC		01-25-22			
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.						
If so, then the previous decision was to:						
The Recommendation is:						
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313						
Members		Aye	Aye (W	R) Nay	Excused	
RHOADS, Karl (C)		V				
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)		>>>				
ACASIO, Laura		>				
GABBARD, Mike						
KIM, Donna Mercado		~				
LEE, Chris					<	
FEVELLA, Kurt			 			
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TOTAL		6			1	
Recommendation: Adopted			Not Adopted			
Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
Distribution: Original File with Committee Re		ellow s Office E	Pink Drafting Age	Pink Goldenrod afting Agency Committee File Copy		

*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes