
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that ranked choice voting
2 defies the basic principle of one-person, one-vote that is
3 central to democracy. The purpose of this Act is to prohibit
4 ranked choice voting from being instituted in the future and to
5 repeal its current implementation for special elections and
6 county council.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
8 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
9 read as follows:

10 "§11- Prohibition on Ranked Choice Voting. (a) The
11 office of elections, chief elections officer, city or county
12 council, city or county clerk, may not authorize or adopt or
13 enforce in any manner a rule, resolution, or ordinance
14 establishing a system of voting for any office where:

15 (1) Voters rank candidates in order of preference;



1 (2) Tabulation proceeds in rounds where in each round
2 either a candidate is elected or the last place
3 candidate is eliminated;

4 (3) Votes are transferred from elected or eliminated
5 candidates to the voter's next-ranked candidate in
6 order of preference; and

7 (4) Tabulation ends when a candidate receives the majority
8 of votes cast or the number of candidates elected
9 equals the number of offices to be filled."

10 SECTION 3. Section 11-100, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 repealed.

12 "~~[\$11-100] Ranked-choice voting; application; procedure.~~

13 ~~(a) Any federal election not held on the date of a regularly~~
14 ~~scheduled primary or general election and any special election~~
15 ~~for a vacant seat on a county council shall be conducted by~~
16 ~~ranked-choice voting.~~

17 ~~(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d), the~~
18 ~~following procedures shall be used to determine the winner of an~~
19 ~~election conducted by ranked-choice voting:~~

20 ~~(1) Tabulation of votes shall proceed in rounds;~~



1 ~~(2) In each round, the number of votes for each continuing~~
2 ~~candidate shall be counted, with each continuing~~
3 ~~ballot counting as one vote for its highest-ranked~~
4 ~~continuing candidate for that round;~~

5 ~~(3) Inactive ballots shall not be counted for any~~
6 ~~continuing candidate; and~~

7 ~~(4) The round shall end with one of two potential~~
8 ~~outcomes:~~

9 ~~(A) If there are two or fewer continuing candidates,~~
10 ~~the candidate with the most votes shall be~~
11 ~~declared the winner of the election; or~~

12 ~~(B) If there are more than two continuing candidates,~~
13 ~~the last-place candidate shall be defeated and a~~
14 ~~new round shall begin.~~

15 ~~(c) A tie under this section between candidates for the~~
16 ~~most votes in the final round or a tie between last-place~~
17 ~~candidates in any round shall be decided by lot, and the~~
18 ~~candidate chosen by lot shall be:~~

19 ~~(1) Declared the winner if the tie is between candidates~~
20 ~~for the most votes in the final round; or~~



1 ~~(2) Defeated if the tie is between last-place candidates~~
2 ~~in any round.~~

3 ~~(d) The office of elections may modify a ranked-choice~~
4 ~~voting ballot and tabulation; provided that:~~

5 ~~(1) The number of allowable rankings shall be limited to~~
6 ~~no fewer than six candidates; and~~

7 ~~(2) Two or more candidates may be defeated simultaneously~~
8 ~~by batch elimination in any round of tabulation.~~

9 ~~(e) For the purposes of this section:~~

10 ~~"Batch elimination" means the simultaneous defeat of~~
11 ~~multiple candidates for whom it is mathematically impossible to~~
12 ~~be elected.~~

13 ~~"Continuing ballot" means a ballot that is not an inactive~~
14 ~~ballot.~~

15 ~~"Continuing candidate" means a candidate who has not been~~
16 ~~defeated.~~

17 ~~"Highest continuing ranking" means the highest ranking on a~~
18 ~~voter's ballot for a continuing candidate.~~

19 ~~"Inactive ballot" means a ballot that does not rank any~~
20 ~~continuing candidate, contains an overvote at the highest~~



1 ~~continuing ranking, or contains two or more sequential skipped~~
2 ~~rankings before its highest continuing ranking.~~

3 ~~"Last place candidate" means the candidate with the fewest~~
4 ~~votes in a round of ranked-choice voting tabulation.~~

5 ~~"Mathematically impossible to be elected", with respect to~~
6 ~~a candidate, means that:~~

7 ~~(1) The candidate cannot be elected because the~~
8 ~~candidate's vote total in a round of the ranked-choice~~
9 ~~voting tabulation, plus all votes that could possibly~~
10 ~~be transferred to the candidate in future rounds from~~
11 ~~candidates with an equal or lower number of votes,~~
12 ~~would not be enough to surpass the candidate with the~~
13 ~~next higher vote total in the round; or~~

14 ~~(2) The candidate has a lower vote total than a candidate~~
15 ~~described in paragraph (1).~~

16 ~~"Overvote" means a circumstance in which a voter has ranked~~
17 ~~more than one candidate at the same ranking on a ballot.~~

18 ~~"Ranked-choice voting" means the method of casting and~~
19 ~~tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of~~
20 ~~preference, tabulation proceeds in sequential rounds in which~~



1 ~~last-place candidates are defeated, and the candidate with the~~
2 ~~most votes in the final round is elected.~~

3 ~~"Ranking" means the number assigned on a ballot by a voter~~
4 ~~to a candidate to express the voter's preference for that~~
5 ~~candidate, in which the lowest number is the highest ranking,~~
6 ~~and the highest number is the lowest ranking.~~

7 ~~"Round" means an instance of the sequence of voting~~
8 ~~tabulation steps established in subsection (b).~~

9 ~~"Skipped ranking" means a circumstance in which a voter has~~
10 ~~left a ranking blank and ranks a candidate at a subsequent~~
11 ~~ranking.]"~~

12 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

Ken Work
[Signature]
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Davis [Signature]



H.B. NO. 1750

Report Title:

Minority Caucus Package; Ranked Choice Voting; Elections

Description:

Prohibits the use of ranked choice voting for any election. Repeals the provision allowing for ranked choice voting for certain positions and circumstances.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

