

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

April 22, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2898

Honorable Members  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 2898, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote."

The purpose of this bill is to add a new chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes that will cause Hawaii to join an interstate compact or agreement among the member states to award their electoral votes to the national popular vote winner for the office of the President of the United States regardless of the popular vote winner in each member state.

Under this bill, Hawaii's four electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential slate that receives the most votes as determined by the national popular vote regardless of which candidate won the popular vote in Hawaii. Had this compact been in effect since statehood, in four elections Hawaii's electoral votes would have gone to a candidate whom the majority of voters in Hawaii did not want--Richard Nixon rather than Hubert Humphrey in 1968, Ronald Reagan rather than Jimmy Carter in 1980; George Bush rather than Michael Dukakis in 1988, and George W. Bush rather than John Kerry in 2004.

Given the potential under the interstate compact that Hawaii's electoral votes would be awarded in a manner that does not reflect the will of the majority of the voters in Hawaii,

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this bill would disenfranchise Hawaii's voters and is not in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Hawaii.

For the foregoing reason, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2898 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", is written over the printed name.

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor of Hawaii