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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

HB1425 **RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE**

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Legislative Management

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Room 430 & Via Videoconference

Chair Holt and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, Chair Holt and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (Bureau). Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written **comments** on H.B. No. 1425, Relating to the Legislature.

The purpose of this measure is to establish a temporary working group to study the feasibility of transitioning the Hawaii State Legislature's Regular Session from one that meets for three and a half months, from mid-January to early May, to one that meets on a year-round basis.

Specifically, the measure:

- (1) Establishes a temporary working group of at least nine members:
- (2) Authorizes the working group to invite any other persons whom the working group believes have expertise that would be helpful in fulfilling the working group's duties;

- (3) Directing the working group to:
 - (A) Study the feasibility of transitioning the Hawaii State Legislature's Regular Session from one that meets for approximately three and a half months from mid-January to early May, to one that meets on a year-round basis;
 - (B) Analyze the financial impact and necessary costs to operate a year-round legislative session, including staffing requirements, changes to legislative services, operational costs, office space needs, and impacts on legislation;
 - (C) Analyze and recommend any constitutional and statutory changes necessary to implement a year-round legislative session;
 - (D) Examine other states that have transitioned to a year-round legislature and the impact those transitions have had on the states and their communities. For the purposes of this paragraph, the working group shall examine California, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and any other state deemed appropriate by the working group;
 - (E) Consider any findings and recommendations made by the Bureau in its report to the Legislature to be submitted pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 138, Senate Draft 1, adopted during the Regular Session of 2024;
 - (F) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
 - (G) Cease to exist on June 30, 2026.
- (4) Requires the Bureau to:
 - (A) Provide administrative assistance to the working group; and
 - (B) Assist the working group in preparing and submitting its report.

The measure also:

- (1) Authorizes the Bureau to retain a contractor or consultant to assist the working group in performing its duties under the measure;
- (2) Appropriates an unspecified sum to the Bureau for the purpose of the measure; and

- (3) Exempts the Bureau from the requirements of Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (Procurement Code) for any contract executed pursuant to the measure.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

As to the requirement that the Bureau provide administrative assistance to the working group, it is unclear what the term "administrative assistance" entails. The Bureau is more than willing and able to provide research and drafting assistance. However, the Bureau has neither the experience nor the clerical staff to provide assistance with meeting planning activities and logistics. In particular, the Bureau notes that it does not maintain any meeting space under its jurisdiction and would need to request any such space from one of the houses of the Legislature. Given these limitations, the Bureau respectfully requests that the measure be amended to change the phrase to read "provide research and drafting assistance to the working group."

Regarding the authorization to allow the Bureau to retain a contractor or consultant to assist the working group in performing its duties under the measure, while the Bureau greatly appreciates this provision and the appropriation of moneys for this purpose, given the short timeframe in which the working group must complete its assignment, it may be very unlikely that, even with the Procurement Code exemption, the Bureau will be able to obtain a qualified contractor or consultant within the limited time provided to the working group.

In such likelihood, the Bureau's existing staff will have to be responsible for supporting the working group. Consequently, to ensure that the Bureau has sufficient time to fulfill its regular legislative drafting duties and as well as to finalize the required report and proposed legislation by the specified deadline, the Bureau respectfully requests that measure be amended to direct the working group to conclude its deliberations and finalize of its findings and recommendations no later than October 15, 2026.

If the term "administrative assistance" is amended and the amendment is made to require the working group to provide the Bureau with a draft of its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation no later than October 15, 2026, the Bureau believes that the services requested of the Bureau are manageable; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other additional responsibilities, such as other conducting studies, writing or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or any combination of these for the Legislature or for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Finally, the Bureau would be happy to assist the Committee in preparing any draft and Committee Report on this measure.

Thank you again for your consideration.

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:46:15 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, I am the Co-Chair Iof the Green Party of Hawai'i. We are writing in STRONG support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

The Green Party of Hawai'i humbly asks for your support for HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan RobertsEmery
Co-Chair GPH
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo



**Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB1425
Wednesday, February 5, 202,5 at 2:00pm; Conference Room 430**

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

HAPA is submitting testimony in STRONG Support of HB1425, which, among many relevant to a continuous legislature, establishes a working group to study the feasibility of expanding to a continuous Legislature.

Complex challenges like the housing shortage, growing environmental concerns, and the need for quality public education, amongst many issues, call for more time than our current session allows. By meeting throughout the year, lawmakers can address issues as they arise rather than waiting for the next session or a special session.

In just the past five years, our state has experienced many emergency crises that require faster or more flexible responses. Recent environmental emergencies like the Red Hill fuel leak revealed the need for steady and ongoing legislative oversight. During the COVID-19 pandemic, policies had to be revisited and adjusted often. Even with the Lahaina fire, we needed our state legislature to address the urgent need for improved disaster response protocols and long-term recovery plans for affected communities. However, this part-time calendar just cannot keep pace with the constant changes.

Thousands of bills are introduced each year, yet many do not receive full consideration under the current framework. Measures are even frequently postponed because committee chairs believe they lack sufficient time to make informed decisions. Consequently, more than half of the proposals introduced at the beginning of the legislative session are either deferred or not scheduled for a hearing.

Additionally, a year-round legislature will improve transparency and public engagement. When hearings are more frequent and predictable, residents can schedule testimony without feeling rushed and not deter them from participating. This also helps residents living in the neighbor islands and rural areas who may face travel or technology obstacles, giving them more time to prepare and, should they choose, be present in person.

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Thank you for your support and consideration,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1425

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 10:30:26 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a year round legislature. Work for the legislators continues all year, 24/7, yet the legislature is in session for less than four months. Many important issues arise in the interim, and basically have to wait until the next January to be addressed. But a working group just wastes time. You need to pass something this year. You can look at the county councils and how they proceed. And pass a bill that moves this forward.

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:01:57 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators and Committee Members,

Instronly support HB1425 and agree with Rep/House Speaker Nakamura:

“All of the county councils in the state are year-round,” Nakamura said. “They have a fraction of the state’s budget and they meet year-round because the work of the counties — and here at the state — is year-round. Emergencies happen year-round.”

“We currently have a 60-day session from the middle of January to the first week of May and we have these self-imposed deadlines that require us to not hear a lot of bills,” she said. “It requires us to write very complex bills in a very short period of time. We do not get the time to really work it as we would on the council side.”

Mahalo nui,

Diane Ware

99-7815 Kapoha Pl. Volcano 96785

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:50:29 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This important bill would stop the frenetic short period of time the legislature is considering (or bypassing without due consideration) the many important bills submitted each year. Even issues with immediate consequences are deferred. Citizens who are effected do not have the time to learn about, much less testify, on important issues that are consequential to them. There is no time for reflection -

PLEASE PASS THIS IMPORTANT BILL!

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:09:31 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Holt and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB-1425.

This task force is a waste of taxpayer dollars and a back door attempt to justify going from a part-time to full-time legislature.

A year-round legislature will increase costs significantly for taxpayers. The operational costs, including salaries for legislators and staff, maintenance of the Capitol building, and the expenses associated with a year round session, would rise. Honolulu Civil Beat discussed the potential cost implications of extending the legislative session, highlighting that such changes would require additional funding for staff and operational expenses. (Read <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/02/should-hawaiis-legislature-meet-year-round/>)

The current session length allows for focused public participation where citizens can engage more intensely over a shorter period. Extending the session will dilute public involvement, as it becomes harder for the public to keep up with legislative activities over an extended period. This will also impact the ability of advocacy groups and individuals to effectively lobby or provide testimony on bills. A full-time legislature will shift the balance of power, giving more control to the legislative body at the expense of oversight by the public. Remember, all political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people.

Hawaii's legislative structure has been part-time for decades, reflecting the constitutional intent of the framers of our constitution to maintain legislators as part-time public servants. This is beneficial for keeping legislators connected to the everyday realities of their constituents.

Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote NO on HB-1425 and stop wasting our tax dollars.

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:22:11 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

We need a full-time legislative calendar that lasts year round. So many important bills are rushed through debate and voting, with limited time for robust legislative debate or public input.

While a working group is a step forward, we should just move forward to a full-time legislature.

I urge this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

Chair Daniel Holt
Vice Chair Sean Quinlan

House Committee on Legislative Management

Wednesday, February 5, 2025
2:00 PM

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1425 RELATING TO THE
LEGISLATURE**

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, Members of the House Committee on Legislative Management,

My name is Jun Shin and I am testifying as an individual in **SUPPORT** of **HB1425**, Relating to the Legislature. I support efforts to move our legislature from a part-time to a full-time body that meets year-round. With the increase in pay, benefits, etc to match a full-time job, and with temporary staff positions potentially becoming full time positions under this new system, legislators and staffers will not need to take on other means of employment. This will make it easier for everyone to make ends meet, avoiding turnover and growing institutional knowledge, while avoiding any potential conflict of interests. With these new reforms, we could see more legislators and staffers from different economic and social backgrounds who reflect much needed voices in our policy making process.

In terms of the legislative process, a full-time legislature would be able to have ample time to work on bills and to improve it as needed. Alongside having more time to address the long-term needs of the state, a full-time legislature will also be able to quickly address any emergencies that might come up throughout the year. While I would like to see this happen as soon as possible, I support the implementation of a working group because I understand that this would be a monumental shift in how the state government runs. This will require some time to gather information and to establish concrete steps, so I ask that you please **PASS** House Bill 1425 out of your committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:37:36 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Janik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Richard JANik, MD, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Richard Janik, Lihue, Kauai

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:52:22 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is kimdonghyeon, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:55:53 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits. Mahalo.

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:28:14 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Eliel, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration! Eliel,Kapaa

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:34:55 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:20:53 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Jennifer Lum, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:55:38 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Fred Hofer and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:38:19 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

I am writing in STRONG support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425.

Mahalo for your consideration!

JarraeTehani Manasas, Kailua Kona Hawai'i

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:08:57 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

Please support HB1425 which will help broaden the reach of our democracy by establishing a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. We need greater accountability that allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. having a private-sector job is a distraction that can undermine the work of legislators including creating fertile ground for conflicts of interest.

please support HB1425 to create a working group that can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:19:26 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

David Leake, Kaneohe

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:00:40 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB1425**, which seeks to establish a working group to study the feasibility of transitioning Hawaii’s State Legislature to a year-round session.

As a Kanaka Maoli and a lineal descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom, I am deeply invested in policies that foster greater transparency, accountability, and community engagement. A continuous legislative session ensures that lawmakers can **regularly address the evolving needs of their constituents** rather than being constrained to an intensive but limited 3.5-month window.

Additionally, prohibiting private-sector employment for legislators is an essential step in **reducing conflicts of interest** and ensuring that our elected officials are fully dedicated to serving the public good. A year-round session allows for **more hearings, greater public testimony, and increased collaboration** among lawmakers, ultimately leading to more well-informed and equitable policymaking.

This working group will provide crucial insights into the **financial, legal, and logistical aspects** of this transition while drawing comparisons from other states. Establishing this group is a necessary step toward strengthening our democracy and ensuring that the voices of our communities are consistently heard.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Committee Member

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:57:54 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Keala Fung, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:48:59 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Holt, Vice Chair Representative Quinlan and Members of the Committee on Legislative Management.

Please support HB 1425 to study the feasibility of transitioning the Hawaii State Legislature to a year-round session.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:53:13 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Isis Usborne, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Isis Usborne, 96815

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:47:12 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

Year-round sessions allow the legislature to deal with issues as they arise. Further, they give more opportunities for legislators to work together collaboratively. Finally, it gives the legislature more time to deliberate and – one hopes – pass better laws.

Let's find out whether this is an option for Hawaii to consider.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:27:18 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Ann V Saffery, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Ann V Saffery

Pearl City, HI

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:34:41 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Noelle Lindenmann, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:14:36 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Mahalo for supporting HB1425 and allowing this input.

Barbara Best, Wailuku

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

To: Legislative Management Chair Holt and Committee Members

From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 2:00 pm

In strong support of HB1425

Dear Chair Holt and Committee Members—

HB1425 establishes a temporary working group to study the feasibility of a continuous legislative session to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and sanity in Hawaii’s lawmaking process.

The current session calendar tries to force thousands of bills through up to six committees and six floor readings in under nine weeks of official working days. Senators and Representatives end up having to work through weekends, holidays and “recesses.” Hundreds of worthy bills are passed over, deferred, ignored altogether or just run out of time. It’s inefficient in the extreme. Lawmakers can’t keep up with it. The public can’t keep up with it.

Outrageously tight deadlines and a blizzard of hearings keep lawmakers from understanding scores of bills, let alone giving them careful consideration. Advocates rush from hearing to hearing. Constituents struggle to stay even slightly informed on bills and innumerable amendments. Transparency is nearly impossible and countless good ideas die in the chaos.

A year-round Legislature would allow lawmakers to identify worthy bills, discuss their merits at a reasonable pace, and vote from an informed, considered point of view.

In a continuous session, regular citizens would have time to schedule their participation in the democratic process, amidst all their other obligations. They could consult with their representatives and contribute opinions and feedback.

HB1425 would be the first step in making Hawaii a more functional democracy.

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB1425**, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Kiana Otsuka, Moanalua

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:32:09 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Emelia, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:08:48 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the committee,

My name is Michele Nihipali, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB1425, to establish a working group to study a transition to a continuous legislative session. A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. This working group can answer many of the logistical questions and get a cost analysis of the benefits.

Please support HB1425. Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-1425

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:36:10 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/5/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Ford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am firmly in support of expanding legative session working group.

Lawrence Ford