

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: Senate Committee on Government Operations

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 4, 2025, 3:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 1617
Relating to Public Meetings

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would set a 9 p.m. end time for government board meetings other than county councils.

The Office of Information Practices (OIP) provides **comments**.

This bill would add a new section to chapter 92, but it is unclear whether the new section would be added to part I of chapter 92, the Sunshine Law (administered by OIP), or to part II of chapter 92, which is not part of the Sunshine Law (or administered by OIP) but contains general provisions for boards. OIP has not been receiving complaints or otherwise hearing about meetings running late into the night or starting late at night, so it is not clear to OIP to what extent this is a problem. That said, OIP has no objection to the bill's intent to require meetings of most Hawaii boards to be held at a time when most Hawaii residents are awake and active. The Legislature is best suited to decide whether to create this requirement, after balancing the advantages of a curfew against the possibility that boards that hold evening meetings to better accommodate members of the public who work during the day may not be able to get through their business without bumping up against the curfew.