

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

2:00 PM

Conference Room 312 and Videoconference

in consideration of  
**HR 171 / HCR 171****COMMITTING TO PROVIDE GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS BY ADOPTING RULES TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL TESTIMONY, HEARING RECORDINGS, AND INTERNET BROADCASTS OF HEARINGS BEYOND PERIODS OF CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.**

Chair KOBAYASHI, Vice Chair MIZUNO, and Members of the House Legislative Management Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HR 171 / HCR 171, committing to provide greater public access to the legislative process by adopting rules to allow for virtual testimony, hearing recordings, and internet broadcasts of hearings beyond periods of catastrophic events.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy through efforts that increase civic engagement and public participation in our democratic processes.

During the pandemic, virtual legislative testimony, recorded legislative hearings, and internet broadcasts of legislative hearing permitted legislators to continue safely and remotely The People's business and the public to participate. It was discovered during these trying times that it was eminently doable to have remote legislative hearings and sessions with remote public testimony. Further, the public appreciated being able to review recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings when not able to watch the proceedings live. Archiving the hearings, sessions, and informational briefings is critical to legislative transparency and accountability.

Common Cause Hawaii supports each house of the Legislature continuing to provide greater public access to the legislative process for the people of Hawaii "by adopting rules allowing virtual testimony, recorded hearings, and hearings broadcasted via the Internet, consistent with those that were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, be continued as a regular practice." See HR 171 at page 2, line 42 and page 3, lines 1-3; HCR 171 at page 3, lines 3-7. Common Cause Hawaii also suggests that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings be archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HR 171 / HCR 171. If you have any questions, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 23, 2022

H.C.R. 171/H.R. 171 – COMMITTING TO PROVIDING GREATER PUBLIC  
ACCESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.C.R. 171 and H.R. 171 which expresses the Legislature's commitment to providing greater public access to the legislative process by adopting rules to allow for virtual testimony and recorded and broadcasted hearings.

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has fundamentally changed how we can and should operate. We have long supported measures and resolutions that increase the public's access to the legislative process and are pleased that the Legislature was able to pivot quickly to allow for virtual testifying and broadcasted hearings. Due to the fast-paced legislative timetable, it is often a severe financial hardship for neighbor island residents to actively participate in our democratic process. For example, when the Legislature was considering the privatization of the Maui Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, employees had to take time off work, purchase airline tickets – often with only 48-hours' notice – and arrange ground transportation to attend and testify in committee hearings. Many of our members chose to expend their valuable time and money to share their expertise and ensure their voices were heard, but we firmly believe many more would have taken advantage of remote testimony technology. We are confident that this same situation is all too familiar for too many neighbor island residents, regardless of the issue at hand. The continuation of virtual testifying and broadcasting hearings will ensure equal access to committee hearings no matter where a Hawaii resident resides.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

**HR-171**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:48:29 PM

Testimony for LMG on 3/23/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT this bill. The ability to testify via zoom has greatly improved the ability of the people to witness and partake in the lawmaking process. I live in Makaha and it is quite a pain to go to the Capitol building, it's at least 2 hours by bus each way, and if I drive (something I don't like to do) I need to worry about finding and paying for parking for something that will take less than 15 minutes when you come down to it. Combine this with rising gas prices and it's a lose lose either way. Not to mention that for those who are employed or running a business they have to lose a day of work to do so.

The use of Zoom or other teleconferencing means have greatly improved the ability of the people to partake in the process. I've had friends who have testified while at work or while waiting for a Dr's Appointment. It has even allowed myself to demonstrate things I could not normally do at the Capitol, such as explaining about firearms with visual aids.

**HR-171**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 2:39:07 PM

Testimony for LMG on 3/23/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. If there is one thing the pandemi has taught us, it is that testimony does not have to be exclusively submitted in person. That should continue, 24/7/365.It extends transparency and allows all to participate.

**HR-171**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 2:03:33 AM

Testimony for LMG on 3/23/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

During the pandemic, virtual legislative testimony, recorded legislative hearings, and internet broadcasts of legislative hearings permitted legislators to continue safely and remotely The People’s business and the public to participate.

The public also appreciated being able to review recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings when not able to watch the proceedings live. Archiving the hearings, sessions, and informational briefings is critical to legislative transparency and accountability.

I support each house of the Legislature continuing to provide greater public access to the legislative process for the people of Hawaii “by adopting rules allowing virtual testimony, recorded hearings, and hearings broadcasted via the Internet, consistent with those that were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, be continued as a regular practice.

It is also suggested that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings be archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

**HR-171**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:20:18 AM

Testimony for LMG on 3/23/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HR171 for the simple reason that we pay for the meetings, hearings and we should be allowed access to attend the live, virtual hearings, view past hearings, testimony relating to our Government of, by and for the people--an Informed People.

Mahalo for your time.

**HR-171**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:38:26 AM

Testimony for LMG on 3/23/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha LMG Chair, Vice & Committee,

I belong to Common Cause Hawaii and i often agree with their views on bills before the State legislature. If i don't i also will air that. I strongly support HR171 because:

- During the pandemic, virtual legislative testimony, recorded legislative hearings, and internet broadcasts of legislative hearings permitted legislators to continue safely and remotely The People's business and the public to participate.
- The public also appreciated being able to review recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings when not able to watch the proceedings live. Archiving the hearings, sessions, and informational briefings is critical to legislative transparency and accountability.
- I support each house of the Legislature continuing to provide greater public access to the legislative process for the people of Hawaii "by adopting rules allowing virtual testimony, recorded hearings, and hearings broadcasted via the Internet, consistent with those that were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, be continued as a regular practice." See HR 171 at page 2, line 42 and page 3, lines 1-3; HCR 171 at page 3, lines 3-7.
- I also suggest that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings be archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

Mahalo for your consideration

Tlaloc Tokuda'

Kailua Kona, HI

**HR-171**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:50:42 AM

Testimony for LMG on 3/23/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HR171 for its commitment to provide greater public access to the legislative process not only during periods of catastrophic events. This bill will improve transparency and citizen participation.

Please approve HR171.