

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

9:30 AM

Via Video Conference and Conference Room 016

in consideration of
SCR 60 / SR 55**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 RHOADS, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SCR 60 / SR 55, 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 hearings 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 SCR 60 at page 3, lines 3-7; SR 55 at page 2, lines 41-42 and page 3, lines 1-3. Common Cause Hawaii also suggests that SCR 60 / SR 55 be clarified that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings are archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 60 / SR 55. If you have any questions, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 11:52:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robin knox	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please keep the ability to testify remotely, to have hearing recordings and internet broadcasts of hearings beyond periods of catastrophic events. The technology exists, and we have proven it can be implemented and it works. This is a no brainer at this point in our history, especially for an island state. Why should anyone have to spend hundreds of dollars, a day of their time, and burn expensive and climate-changing fossil fuels to exercise their right to participate in the public processes of lawmaking? This is an especially crucial matter for those marginalized populations who don't have the financial means or physical ability to go to Honolulu to testify. I myself and both disabled and economically disadvantaged as a result of disability. I have the desire to and do participate and ask that you keep the virtual options open.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 3:01:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly support SCR60. As you can see, I am testifying for this resolution using the online capitol portal. I plan to also testify remotely via Zoom on Tuesday. The fact that I am able to do this should be proof enough that this resolution should pass. Because I live on Hawai'i Island, and sometimes travel for work, it's rarely possible for me to fly to Honolulu just to provide a 2-minute testimony on the issues that matter to me. Knowing there are many others unable to travel to testify, it would seem to be a great loss to our demoracy if the ability to testify remotely were to suddenly disappear -- especially as a matter of policy. If we are to have a true democracy, there must be an accessible way for everyone in the state to engage in civic proceedings. Since we have the technology, let's protect what we've built and make remote testimony possible always. Please pass SCR60.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 9:23:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Waiolena	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

It is **IMPERATIVE** for those of us living on the neighbor islands to be able to participate by giving trestimony **WITHOUT** the cost of flying to O'ahu to appear personally at the Capitol building; I am a senior citizen living on a very low fixed income of \$874 per month in social security retirement funds. My income doesn't even cover my needs so I receive food stamps.

I cannot afford to fly to O'ahu to give testimony so I am writing in **SUPPORT** of SCR60 so that I can continue to do what I am doing right now....using my computer and the internet to give written tesimony for resoltions and bills being considered for vote by our representatives in both the house and senate.

If this bill is not supportef fully then it will show me that this government body **DOES NOT** represent the people in general, but only those with money and those who live on O'ahu. **SURELY** you must recognize the importance of the input of **ALL VOTERS** registered in this state,no matter on which island they reside.

Please see that this resolution becomes a bill and is passed into law so that we on the neighbor islands preserve the right to be heard by written testimony and by Zoom meetings. **DO NOT MAKE US FEEL DISRESPECTED** and **UNHEARD** by not seeing this resolution through.

Mahalo nui loa for listening and for passing this resolution or even making it into a bill to be passed into law!! **DO NOT DISRESPECT OUR INPUT** simply because we do not live on O'ahu.

Mahalo nui loa for your support!!

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:03:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shantee brown	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

mahalo for this resolution. as a hawai'i county resident it has been such a relief to be able to testify at the state level on issues that those of us from hawai'i, maui, and kaua'i county have insight on.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 8:10:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I'm Shannon Matson, and currently serving on the boards of the Sierra Club, Recycle Hawai'i, and as the Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. While I believe that my testimony is strongly supported by all of these roles that I hold, I am submitting this testimony today officially on behalf of myself and my family only.

There has been a lot that our family and community has had to contend with and endure these past two years due to the COVID pandemic. One of the COVID silver-linings has been that in some small ways the public has had more accessibility to their government, by being able to testify remotely via phone and zoom. As someone who has made the journey to testify in person, pre-pandemic, I know the time and financial cost involved in traveling from a neighbor island to testify. To take a plane flight, rent a car or pay for transport, take time off of work, find childcare, potentially pay for food and sometimes staying overnight, is a huge barrier and expense. It is absolutely crucial that as our leaders, especially due to recent public trust concerns, you continue to provide transparency and accessibility. For many folks with financial limitations and mobility issues this is the only way they have been able to participate in providing testimony on topics that are important to them. Please ensure that this accessibility continues and work to enhance additional options for communication between the Legislature and the constituents you serve.

Mahalo for your time and attention,

Shannon Matson



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 29, 2022

**S.C.R. 60/S.R. 55 - PROVIDING GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS BY ADOPTING RULES TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL
TESTIMONY, HEARING RECORDINGS, AND INTERNET BROADCASTS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.C.R. 60 and S.R. 55 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



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 29, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 / Senate Resolution 55 –
Committing to Provide Greater Public Access to the Legislative Process
by Adopting Rules to Allow for Virtual Testimony, Hearings Recordings, and
Internet Broadcasts of Hearings Beyond Periods of Catastrophic Events**

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 and Senate Resolution 55. Remote testimony is a valuable option for all neighbor islands residents, especially those with disabilities who face additional barriers to interisland travel. It also benefits anyone with a medical condition that puts them at an elevated risk of contracting an airborne disease such as COVID-19.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirby L. Shaw".

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 12:41:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A Kathleen Lee	Testifying for Temple of Spiritual Healing & Education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senate Committee on Judiciary,

No greater benefit can be given a citizen that they have fair and true representation by their elected officials who set the terms of governance for them and their families, businesses, places of education, worship and recreation. I sincerely urge you to allow greater access to the process of our State government, and thereby representation, by allowing virtual testimony.

I was the treasurer for the ACLU in a State wherein on several occasions the harm that would have occurred to the 'unrepresented' was stopped because we at the ACLU were able to put forth a valid and clarified defence of them and their rights. These were the most vulnerable in many cases. It is our beautiful culture of Hawai'i nei that moves us to rise to the nobility of caring and treating all as we want to be treated.

Mahalo for your Wisdom and leadership on this vitally important bill,

Reverend April Lee

54-396 Union Mill Road #939

Kapa'au, HI 96755

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 5:19:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Yamamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Family Advocacy Team	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Rhoads,

The only positive result of the pandemic was the youtube option for legislative hearings. Outer islanders have always been at a disadvantage due to the expense of participation in the legislative process simply because the counties are separated by water. I urge that the youtube and zoom option for hearings is continued to encourage more participation by the public.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 7:45:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Green Party of Hawai'i asks for a Yes vote on SCR60.

Remote testimony is a way to encourage public comment and engage in the legislative process. Please continue to record hearings and allow internet access beyond the periods of catastrophic events. This is the way of the future.

Mahalo nui,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 9:30 am, State Capitol Room 016 & Videoconference
SCR 60 & SR 55

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

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SCR 60 and SR 55. Internet broadcast, virtual testimony, and on-demand video-recordings should be routine requirements for future legislative hearings. What began as an experiment during a pandemic has evolved and made Hawaii's legislative process accessible to everyone with internet access. You did good and we really appreciate it!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 1:57:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SCR 60. Especially on the outer islands, we need to be heard and we need visibility to the legislative process.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 6:04:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeri Di Pietro	Testifying for Hawai'i SEED	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please continue with the ease of neighbor island

participation by virtual means. This has been a great system and protocol developed out of necessity but has always been a needed option. I am happy to see the reduction in carbon pollution from flying to Honolulu to deliver comments and testimony in person when it is not the only way to participate in real time.

Mahalo mui,

Jeri Di Pietro

Hawai'i SEED



Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SCR60 / SR55

Tuesday, March 29th, 2022 9:30a.m. Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of SCR60 / SR655 which commits to providing 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.

HAPA supports SCR67 / SR61 and efforts to make the government more available to the public for engagement.

We support 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 SCR 60 at page 3, lines 3-7; SR 55 at page 2, lines 41-42 and page 3, lines 1-3.

HAPA also supports the resolution being amended so that it clarifies that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings must be archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

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.

It is critical that neighbor island voices continue to be able to be heard and represented in our democratic process. Public remote access to the legislative processes neighboring island voices to be represented without needing to spend a significant amount of money, and time off, and flying inter-island.

Given the nature of our island state, and the costs involved in transport, it seems more than reasonable to continue to provide a way for citizens to testify on important issues that don't require such exhaustive effort, that many people are unable to commit to.

Everyone deserves to have their voice heard but many cannot get out of work, afford the cost of plane ticket, get childcare, or spend an entire day traveling to 'Oahu to submit testimony.

Given the state's commitment to addressing climate change and reducing our carbon footprint, lessening the need for excessive inter island travel by providing remote legislative access is one simple and responsible step in the right direction.

Furthermore, the public also has 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.

Please support SCR60 / SR55.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:01:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

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.

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY

MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR 60

**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**

MARCH 24, 2022

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 60. I am Larry Veray, Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21, and I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

This resolution is so important for the public to have immediate access to the Legislature and the legislative process by computer network technology from their home or mobile on the road. Having remote access to connect virtual via Zoom to hearings allowing for more public input and access to engage the legislators directly which impacted their decisions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, remote zoom connection to the hearings from the public allowed increase participation from all the islands. Importantly, people with disabilities or ill with the flu, COVID or other medical reasons were able to participate and provide testimony to hearings. The public is so busy with their employment, transiting for long periods on our highways and taking care of their families but having remote virtual capability allows them access anywhere, anyplace and anytime. We are on a role with this technology for the public.

I most strongly urge you to approve SCR 60. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 9:47:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christine trecker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Transparency and access to the legislative process are crucial to ensure citizens have the opportunity to participate in their government. SCR60 will help pave the way for greater access and participation. I urge you to pass SCR60.

Thank you.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 5:43:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely support this bill. Allowing remote testimony greatly empowers civic engagement with the legislature. As a senior citizen limited in mobility, I greatly appreciated the ability to listen and to participate in legislative hearings. Remote on line testimony also greatly enhances neighbor island participation.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 12:25:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong support of Resolution [SCR 60 / SR 55](#) ensuring that remote testimony will be available to use in the future, not only in emergencies.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 1:01:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ahsing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support SCR60 and HCR 171, and URGE you to pass it.

Respectfully, Kathleen Ahsing

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 2:59:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the passage of SCR60/SR55. Living on a neighbor island can feel quite isolating. The ability to be seen and heard via remote testimony is crucial to keeping your electorate involved in the political process. This is a win-win for all.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee

Kihei

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 3:23:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I strongly support this resolution. One of the ways we in Hawaii have become more equal during COVID times is the digital access to the Capitol and our lawmakers. Without having to fly in to Honolulu, any resident of a neighbor island has been able to testify in person virtually, to be available to respond to questions from committee members regarding the testimony. Those among us who do call Oahu home have been allowed the same convenient access. There will be occasions I will choose to come before you in the coming months. I can do so with only the cost of bus fare or parking fee. To require this of any who must come a good distance, even make a plane trip would take us back to very unequal conditions.

Mahalo for your attention to my point of view.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 4:19:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SCR60. Being able to testify remotely and listen into important meetings from the comfort and safety of our homes has been a silver lining during the past 2 years of the pandemic. It's very expensive and takes hours out of a busy day to travel to Honolulu from outlying islands for 3 minutes of testimony.

Please make sure this valuable open access to our Hawaii State governing stays permanent. It's the right thing to do and it reduces the carbon footprint for testimony from outlying islands.

Mahalo,

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 9:06:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Continuing to allow virtual testimony and participation digitally seems like a no-brainer, on a state comprised of islands. Who can afford to fly to Oahu to provide testimony?. By allowing virtual testimony, people from all the islands can be involved and participate in our government.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 9:20:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Corker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As a frequent testifier living in Holualoa in Hawaii County, I STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution. Recognize the burden on neighbor island residents of giving live testimony in Honolulu. Given the geography of this state, Hawaii should long ago have adopted a system for neighbor island residents to be able to testify by Zoom. The example set by Alaska should be followed. The system put in place because of COVID should be maintained. That system has worked effectively. Do not let the Honolulu business establishment continue to be the dominate voice heard in legislative committee hearings.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Corker

Holualoa, Hawaii County

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 9:32:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Hathaway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I am a long time resident and school teacher on Hawaii Island.

The time/expense of being present to submit testimony on house and senate bills is prohibitive. It is absolutely necessary to provide all our citizens the ability to be heard without obstacles that can simply be overcome by passing SCR60.

Thank you for recognizing the need to pass SCR60 for the benefit of All people in our state who want to engage more fully in the democratic process.

Cynthia Hathaway

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 1:29:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To travel to Oahu to testify is too expensive between flights, hotel and transportation. Please continue virtual testimony for all residents of Hawaii. With today's tech, it would be ridiculous not to.

Mahalo

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 1:31:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha!

one of the good things to come out of Covid was the ability to take part in democracy when it wasn't otherwise possible.

this is a no-brainer. Please support remote meeting access for neighbor island residents.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 1:55:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phyllis Hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live on the Big Island and I want to be able to testify for or against various bills without flying to Oahu to do so. Free and fair... everyone should have a voice without needing to buy an airplane ticket.

Yes, I support SCR60

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 1:58:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you support democracy, you'll pass SCR60. It's that simple.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 2:23:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SCR 60 so that all constituents, even those without the finances to fly to the capitol, can participate in the representational process of Government along with being kept informed of the process and the intrinsic right of all, rich or poor, near or far, to be heard by their representatives.

Thank you for your kind consideration and SUPPORT of SCR 60.

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I support SCR60 inasmuch as I live in Hilo and would appreciate the opportunity to offer virtual testimony and to gain access to internet broadcasts of committee hearings. Please allow us on the neighbor islands to be on equal footing with the residents on Oahu.

Mahalo & Aloha,

William R. Higa

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 2:41:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miguel (Micco) Godinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's keep up with the times.

Being able to testify remotely via Zoom or whatever technology extant is economical and efficient.

Days off attending in corpus is over.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 3:38:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support.

The legislature drug its heels for sooo many years to provide remote, neighbor island testimony - it's as if you don't want to hear from us.

It's totally insane for constituents to have to spend the time & hundreds of dollars to come to Honolulu to testify for 3 minutes.

Leave it alone, it's not broken!

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 4:43:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because we outer island folks need to have this access. We cannot afford to fly interisland for a few moments of testimony. We have the technology. Let's use it.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 7:11:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a matter of most importance to equal opportunity to participate in our democracy.

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Pl, Volcano Hi 96785

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 8:03:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Midori Marcia Sue Trent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my strong support of SCR60. I am essentially home-bound and appreciate the ability to voice my concerns remotely. Thank you for your consideration.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 9:49:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - it is essential that this bill be passed.

The Legislature was able to adequately and appropriately handle its legislative duties during covid while using virtual testimony, hearing recording and internet broadcasts. YOU have been using the technology. There is no reason to slide back to an archaic way of doing the legislative process. People like myself who reside on an outer island cannot afford to fly to Oahu to present a 3 minute testimony.

Removing virtual testimony and hearing recordings and internet broadcasts does not allow people who live on off islands to adequately and fully participate in the legislative process. This is a key issue. The people on the remote islands will not tolerate being "ignored" once again by making people fly to Oahu just to give a three minute testimony

Please, please support this bill.

Mahalo,
Elizabeth Hansen
registered voter,
Hakalau HI 96710

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 8:30:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please continue remote video testimony! Neighbor islanders should not have to scrape up money for plane fare and spend an entire day travelling back and forth, all for 2 -3 minutes of testimony. That disenfranchises neighbor islanders.

mahalo, Cory

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 9:52:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - it is essential that this bill be passed.

The Legislature was able to adequately and appropriately handle its legislative duties during covid while using virtual testimony, hearing recording and internet broadcasts. YOU have been using the technology. There is no reason to slide back to an archaic way of doing the legislative process. People like myself who reside on an outer island cannot afford to fly to Oahu to present a 3 minute testimony.

Removing virtual testimony and hearing recordings and internet broadcasts does not allow people who live on off islands to adequately and fully participate in the legislative process. This is a key issue. The people on the remote islands will not tolerate being "ignored" once again by making people fly to Oahu just to give a three minute testimony.

Please, please support this bill.

Mahalo,
Rodger Hansen
registered voter,
Hakalau HI 96710

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 12:56:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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. This virtual testimony also allowed 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 has been 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 resolution be clarified to ensure that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings must be archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

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

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 7:12:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is crucial for neighbor island residents to be able to participate - please pass this! Mahalo,
JW

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 12:20:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SCR 60 IS A MUST PASS !!

Taxpaying voters need to be heard!!

This is YOUR time to EMBRACE DEMOCRACY in Hawaii.

Otherwise we'll continue to be left with "Taxation without representation."

For too long our legislature has conducted business in darkness - behind closed doors,
with little or NO access to voters on neighboring islands.

The days of good-ol-boy, backroom, gut-and-replace, lobbyists-only, AND CORRUPTION in
our government are OVER.

Embrace the sunlight or we WILL vote you OUT!!

Threat? No.

Ultimatum? Possibly.

Promise? Yup.

You KNOW right from wrong.

Your vote on SCR60 matters.

We ARE WATCHING.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 12:53:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherri Thal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SCR60!! This bill is in perfect alignment with Climate Change Mitigation Policies as it would allow all Hawaii voters to be a part of the Legislative process without expending lots of money and wasting huge amounts of fossil fuels to get to Honolulu from Neighbor Islands and even from the other side of 'Oahu.

The time has come to embrace technology that allows for inclusivity even without a Pandemic or emergency event!

Let's do this, Leg!!! You'll feel so pono, and so will we!

Aloha,

Sherri Thal, Kea'au, HI. 96749

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 1:12:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Give us taxpayer / voters a break and represent us where really needed. Not influenced by power lobby that has proven disasterous for all but select "representative" pocketbooks. A little money towards education in getting involved would be really good for the community health.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 1:51:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Lamson Leatherman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and many thanks for this opportunity to submit comments for SCR60! Please continue to allow neighbor island and O'ahu residents to testify remotely. This move is not only more carbon-friendly (by eliminating needless inter-island flights and long drives), but also allows people who may be physically or financially unable to be present at the state Capitol participate in the public rulemaking process in a non-written format.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and support of this SCR60 initiative!

Best,

Megan R. Lamson, M. Sc.

Honalo, Hawai'i Island

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:13:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am writing as a 35 year resident of Kauai in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR60/SR55. We on the neighbor islands need for the availability of virtual testimony, hearing recordings, and internet broadcasts of hearings beyond periods of catastrophic events. In this digital era, it should be standard.

This is a bid step in equalizing the access to legislators for thos of us who live on outer islands.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:50:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Millicent Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Resolution is needed to allow virtual testimony, hearing recordings, and internet broadcasts of hearings beyond periods of catastrophic events.

Your testimony before Monday, March 28th at 9:30am is vital to ensure that those on the neighbor islands will not need to fly to Honolulu to have input in the democratic process of legislation.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:57:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It is a shame that it took until 2020 and grappling with a pandemic to adopt such common sense measures in the IT age. It would be nothing less than anti-democratic to reverse course now. I live in Kaimuki and largely support this measure for our other islands' residents, but many people on Oahu would also benefit from being able to testify virtually and remain civically engaged through technology, including the physically impaired, those without cars, or even those with busy schedules such as yourselves. Paired with digital equity initiatives, this resolution supports the voice of the people. Thank you for passing it.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 3:01:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need this to be passed. Those of us on other islands need to weigh in on the topics we feel strongly about. Our voices need to be heard. Please pass this bill. Mahalo Nui Loa

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kauai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having lived on Neighbor Islands, I see what a disadvantage it is not to have access to the legislative process. Let's maintain the access that has been provided for remote testifying.

Please pass SCR60.

me ka pono,

Kauai

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 4:15:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SCR60 for the simple reason that a well-functioning Democracy requires participation, and now that the public has remote and virtual access to testimony and proceedings, those of us on Hawai'i Island and many others are able to learn more about our legislation and provide testimony, whereas we had virtually no access prior to the pandemic.

Mahalo for your time.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 7:29:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai`i Island, I appreciated the increased participation in sessions, hearings and briefings afforded through Zoom, as well as being able to view archived recordings if I was unable to attend.

Virtual participation increases access and provides a safe, convenient option should other situations arise, including another pandemic surge.

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.”

I also support clarifying the resolution's language to ensure that all recordings are archived for later/repeat viewings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of SCR60.**

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 8:24:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is very important. Many of us on the outer islands would like to testify on various bills and measures. Travel to Oahu can be very expensive and often not possible due to work and /or family commitments.

Allowing for remote testimony strengthens our democracy and our communities.

Please pass this measure.

Mahalo,

Marion McHenry

Kauai

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 9:05:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Hallett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Virtual testimony, video testimony and recordings are so key in the education of our elected officials. Thank you for keeping the language strong so that the people may participate in democracy from all across the islands. It was always a good idea to have virtual testimony and now with the Global pandemic, thank goodness that we have this technology so we can keep each other safe, legislators and community members alike.

Thank you for taking care of us!!!

Mahalo nui loa,
Lisa Hallett

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 6:54:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SCR60.

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.

I also suggest that the resolution be clarified to ensure that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings must be archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

This bill will increase transparency and encourage participation by citizens. Please pass SCR60.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:09:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone from the Big Island, who wants to participate in our democratic process as easily and as often as I can I feel that this is an important Bill that should be passed.

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:54:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Figuring out and allowing virtual testimony at public hearings has been the most positive aspect of the pandemic. Please continue this practice beyond the emergency status of Covid as it has brought equity and opportunity for engagement to those less able to travel. Virtual participation has also saved countless GHG emissions and is the most efficient way forward for local government!

Mahalo,

Maui County Councilmember Kelly T. King

LATE

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:34:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed legislators,

Please SUPPORT SCR60, greater public access to the legislative process has been sorely needed and will ensure a more open and honorable democracy for all, not just the financially able few. The Covid pandemic led sweeping technological changes that were embraced across Hawaii and the globe for remote communication, it's proven to work, please continue this path into the future of a more accessible, affordable, enviromentally friendly legislature for all.

Mahalo nui,

Phaethon Keeney

Honokaa Hawaii

LATE

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:49:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Legislators

My name is Mark Koppel, POBox 283, Hakalau, HI 96710

I am writing in very strong support of SCR60.

I have always been proud of the way that Hawaii accepts testimony from ordinary citizens. We know, of course, that about a third of us live on Neighbor Islands, making in-person testimony impossible.

Online or virtual testimony has worked perfectly. There is no reason to stop it. It should be expanded.

Please do not disenfranchise a third of our citizens.

Mahalo

Mark Koppel

LATE

SCR-60

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:39:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members:

I strongly support an increased commitment to provide greater public access to the legislative process by the adoption of rules to allow for virtual testimony as well as internet broadcasts and recordings of hearings as a matter of course. Language should be added to clarify that recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings be archived and made accessible via internet streaming.

This measure is especially important for Hawaii residents who don't live on Oahu, and for those Oahu residents who have transportation or mobility issues. The opportunity to participate virtually also accommodates the needs of residents who may not have the temporal or fiscal latitude to spend several hours of the workday to offer verbal testimony on a matter of concern.

Offering verbal testimony via Zoom has been uniformly positive experience for me over the past two sessions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide (written) testimony.