

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

Testimony in **support** of HB696 HD1 Relating to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor

> Committee on Ways and Means Senator David Ige, Chair Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

> > March 25, 2013 9:10 am Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Office of the Governor **supports** House Bill 696, House Draft 1, Relating to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. This measure would allow a Lieutenant Governor whose legal residence is on an island other than Oahu to receive an allowance separate from their salary should they be required to remain overnight within the state but not on their island of residence.

High-ranking state officials need to spend much of their time at the state Capitol on the island of Oahu. For individuals who do not reside on Oahu, this creates a problem. HB696 HD1 would ensure fairness in allowing anyone in the state – regardless of their island of residence – to work in the position of the Lieutenant Governor for the benefit of the entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Monday, March 25, 2013, 9:10 AM Room 211

Comments **IN SUPPORT** of HB696 – Relating to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor

My name is Jay April, I am a resident of Maui County, President and CEO of Akaku: Maui County Community Television, I am submitting this testimony as an individual in strong support of HB696

It almost goes without saying that in an island state as geographically diverse as Hawaii, that neighbor island residents should be afforded the opportunity to run for and hold office in the Executive Branch without having to endure financial hardship in order to do so.

We are proud of our Lieutenant Governor and we feel that it is in the best interest of the people of Hawaii Nei to afford him and his successors equal and fair representation that is not subject to financial and geographical discrimination.

I would like to thank the committee for the consideration of these comments today.

<u>HB696</u>

Submitted on: 3/24/2013 Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Starr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. It will allow fair compensation for the first time for a LG who lives off of Oahu. This is the correct thing to do. Mahalo, Jonathan Starr

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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<u>HB696</u>

Submitted on: 3/22/2013 Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is only fair since we are a state of different islands.

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<u>HB696</u>

Submitted on: 3/22/2013 Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Holter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Kakou, I continue to support HB696 that provides a Per Diem for the LG and helps with his expenses of travel and housing and other related costs associated with being the Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii. Just as the Neighbor island State Senators and House Members receive a Per Diem and financial assistance associated with travel and costs of living so must the LG. This is only fair and just. I wholeheartedly support HB696 and ask that you pass this Bill. Mahalo for your Kokua, Lance Holter

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