

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**From:** Alethea Rebman

**Date:** January 26, 2016 at 2:18:39 PM HST

**To:** <senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov>

**Cc:** Dyan Mitsuyama <dyan@mitsuyamaandrebman.com>

**Subject:** fw: SB153, eliminating mandatory bar association membership

**Reply-To:**

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Dear Senator Keith-Agaran,

Thank you for introducing the bills eliminating the mandatory HSBA membership requirement currently in place. I write in support of the bill(s).

The most worthy aim of the bar association would be protected under the bill with the protection of the public being ensured by the disciplinary council.

One testifier wrote of the importance of the IOLTA accounts funding low income access to justice. To the extent that needs to remain in place, it could be enshrined in rules by a licensing authority like the DCCA.

Lawyers should be licensed without being mandated to join an association. A state board should license attorneys rather than a quasi-public association linked to the Judiciary that inevitably has greater and greater needs and goals and requires greater and greater funding.

The bar association would undoubtedly continue as a voluntary association, with attorneys free to join if they perceive value to their practices and the community. We already have voluntary bar associations in our county bars and sections, and attorneys join according to the needs of their practice and for value given, and what each attorney can contribute to the practice of law.

Only slightly more than half of states have a mandatory bar association. Hawaii's heavy regulatory burden for service and business providers means the burden falls perhaps more heavily on us here than on attorneys in other states. There are many good examples of voluntary bar associations, and it would benefit the practice and business of law here to follow suit.

Thank you for your advocacy in this matter.

Yours truly,  
Alethea

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