

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO REMOTE ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARINGS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the successful
2 implementation of interactive conference technology at the state
3 legislature enabled the live broadcasting, recording, and
4 presentation of remote oral testimony at legislative committee
5 hearings during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. The
6 ability to remotely observe and participate in the legislative
7 process greatly benefited everyone, especially the residents of
8 rural areas and various islands who could not participate in the
9 hearings in person. The legislature finds that the use of
10 interactive conference technology should be made a permanent
11 part of the state's legislative process to substantially expand
12 public access and participation in the legislative process.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require each house of the
14 state legislature to establish procedures that enable the
15 legislature to live broadcast all legislative committee hearings
16 via the Internet that enables the public to present oral
17 testimony remotely at legislative committee hearings by use of



1 interactive conference technology and enables the legislature to
2 electronically record legislative committee hearings and make
3 the recordings accessible to the public.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
6 read as follows:

7 "§21- Use of interactive conference technology, remote
8 testimony, live broadcast, recording. (a) Each house of the
9 legislature shall establish:

10 (1) Procedures that enable the legislature to live
11 broadcast all legislative committee hearings on the
12 Internet;

13 (2) Procedures that enable the public to present oral
14 testimony remotely at legislative committee hearings
15 by use of interactive conference technology; and

16 (3) Procedures that enable the legislature to
17 electronically record legislative committee hearings
18 and make the recordings accessible to the public.

19 (b) For purposes of this section, "interactive conference
20 technology" means technology that allows audiovisual interaction
21 among all members of the legislature participating in the



1 legislative committee hearing and all members of the public
2 attending the hearing in person or remotely."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Jana Ocasio



S.B. NO. 2404

Report Title:

State Legislature; Legislative Access; Legislative Committee Hearings; Remote Testimony; Interactive Conference Technology; Live Broadcast; Recording

Description:

Requires each house of the State Legislature to establish procedures that enable the Legislature to live broadcast all legislative committee hearings via the Internet; enable the public to present oral testimony remotely at legislative committee hearings by use of interactive conference technology; and enable the Legislature to electronically record legislative committee hearings and make the recordings accessible to the public. Defines interactive conference technology.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

