



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Cassandra Harris 586-7148

Date: July 3, 2013

Governor Enacts Open Data Measure

Honolulu- Governor Neil Abercrombie today signed into law a measure to enhance government transparency and accountability in Hawaii through increasing public awareness and access to open data.

[House Bill \(HB\) 632](#), relating to open data, requires the State's Executive Branch departments to make electronic data sets available to the public.

"Here is an example of how ONE excellent idea, turned into ONE bill, which resulted in ONE significant policy change," says Senator Glenn Wakai, Chairman of the Technology and Arts Committee, "If we are going to reinvent government, step ONE is Open Data. Having data available to the public will lead to a more responsive and more accountable government."

Open data has been a top initiative of the State's Chief Information Officer (CIO). In August of 2012 the State launched its open data site, data.hawaii.gov, with data sets being voluntarily provided by departments and agencies. The site incorporates data that is readily available in digital format and commonly requested by the public. The intent of this measure is to continue and ensure the open data efforts of the CIO in the multi-year, multi-phased program open data initiative.

The CIO, in consultation with the Office of Information Practices, will develop policies and procedures to implement the open data program initiative.

(Photo Caption: Senator Glenn Wakai, along with fellow Senators, Representatives and Burt Lum, joined Governor Neil Abercrombie for the signing of House Bill 632, relating to open data. Lum played an active role in raising awareness of the importance of open data and drawing community support during the 2013 Legislative Session.) (L-R: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Glenn Wakai, Burt Lum, Gov. Neil Abercrombie, CIO Sonny Bhagowalia, Rep. Angus McKelvey, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Karl Rhoads, Sen. Michelle Kidani.)

(Photo Courtesy: Senate Communications.)

###