

## Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct

Dear Chairman Tarnas and Members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on bills recommended to the House of Representatives (House) by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission). The origin and justification of these bills is extensively discussed in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report (Report) submitted to the House pursuant to HR 9.

The bills recommended by the Commission are a package that would increase transparency and accountability in state and county government and help restore public trust in government which has been severely eroded in the past few years by highly publicized instances of corruption and misconduct in state and county government.

With that in mind, I would like to comment on all the Commission bills in this testimony and submit it for each bill for your consideration.

First, I would like to commend the House for creating the Commission. It has been an honor to carry out the mandate of the House and serve with the distinguished and learned members the House appointed to the Commission. The members of the Commission worked very hard over a period of nine months, reaching out to public officials, community leaders, experts in various fields within the Commission's mandate and held extensive public hearings in drafting the bills recommended to the House. These public hearings are summarized in the Report at 13-18 and Appendix B of the Report which contains the Commission's minutes of these public meetings. The notice of the Commission's meetings with a link to a video recording of each meeting and testimony submitted and documents considered at each meeting can be found at the House webpage's a link to the Commission under House Special Committees.

The following is the list of bills recommended by the Commission with brief summaries and citations to the relevant parts of the Commission's Report where they are discussed.

HB 705 – Requires each house of the Legislature to post a report of the legislative allowance expenditures for each member of the respective house on the Legislature's website. The purpose of this bill is to "increase transparency and ease of access to information related to expenditure of taxpayer monies." Report at 28.

HB 706 – Requires all members of the Legislature to disclose certain relationships with lobbyists or lobbying organizations in their financial disclosures. The purpose of this bill is to "increase transparency and potentially uncover conflicts or self-dealing." Report at 28.

HB 707 – Makes it a class C felony to make false, fictitious or fraudulent claims against the state or a county, or any of their department or agencies, disqualifying a person from holding elective public office for a period of 10 years upon conviction of making a false, fictitious or fraudulent claim. This bill is modeled after the federal false claims statute. Report at 21. This bill comes

with two others – HB 710 (false statement) and HB 711 (fraud) which are also modeled after federal statutes. Federal, state and county law enforcement officials testified before the Commission that state and county law enforcement need statutes as their federal counterpart have to root out corruption in state and county government rather than always relying on federal enforcement to do this job.

HB 708 – Amends the information in the statement of expenditures reports that lobbyists and other individuals are required to file with the State Ethics Commission to include the identity, by bill number, resolution number or other similar identifier, of the legislative or administrative action that was commented on, supported by or opposed by the person filing the statement. Report at 28. As with other bills in the Commission’s package, this bill would increase transparency and expose any potential conflict of interest.

HB 709 – Requires a lobbyist training course to be designed and administered by the State Ethics Commission, makes the training course mandatory for all lobbyists who are required to register and renew their registration with the State Ethics Commission. The Commission found “that more education and training can be done to ensure that lobbyists have notice of the law, understand the application of the law, and comply with legal requirements.” Report at 29.

HB 710 – Is modeled after the federal false statement statute by establishing a class C felony offense for a person who dealing with state or county government to knowingly or willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up a material fact; makes materially false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or representation; or makes or uses any false writing or document known to have materially false information; and disqualifies a person from holding public office for a period of 10 years upon conviction of making a false statement. Report at 20. As with HB 707 on false claims, federal, state and county law enforcement testified before the Commission this bill is necessary for state and county law enforcement to root out corruption and misconduct in state and county government rather than always relying on federal law enforcement to do this job.

HB 711 – Is the last of three bills recommended by the state and county law enforcement coalition and is modeled after the federal fraud criminal statute in making it a class B felony for a person to obtain financial benefit or other gain by means of false statements, misrepresentations, concealment of important information or deception, and prohibiting a person convicted of fraud from being a candidate for public office for a period of 10 years. Report at 20.

HB 712 – Would encourage public boards to maintain any electronic audio or visual recording of a board meeting as a public record on the board’s website regardless of whether written minutes of the meeting have been posted and to submit a copy of the recording to the State Archives. Report at 27. A similar bill in the last regular session of the Legislature was supported by the Commission, passed by the Legislature but vetoed by the Governor (SB 3172, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1). Report at 10. The Commission has attempted to address the concerns raised by the Governor in this bill.

HB 715 – Prohibits lobbyists from making prohibited gifts to legislators and state employees with administrative fines imposed for violations. Report at 33.

HB 716 – Requires the Office of Elections to prepare a voter information guide to educate voters on each candidate’s positions and their candidate statements and provide ballot question analyses and appropriates funds for the preparation and distribution of guides and analyses. The Commission found “Hawaii’s voter turnout is well below the national average for each election” and “registered voters may not have access to or be aware of information on the candidates or issues on the ballots.” Report at 34.

HB 717 – Prohibits under certain circumstances legislators and state employees from hiring or promoting relatives or household members and from making or participating in certain other employment-related decisions and from awarding a contract to or otherwise taking official action on a contract with a business if the legislator’s or employee’s relative or household member is an executive officer of or holds a substantial ownership interest in the business, and imposing administrative fines for violations. Report at 29.

HB 718 – Authorizes the Campaign Spending Commission to serve preliminary determinations of probable cause via first class mail instead of certified mail, establishes a presumption of receipt when mailed to the address contained in a candidate or committee organizational report. Report at 21.

HB 719 – Imposes a cap on charges for the reproduction of certain government records; waives the cost of duplication of government records provided to requestors in electronic format; imposes a cap on charges for searching for, reviewing and segregating records; provides a waiver of fees when the public interest is served by record disclosure; and appropriates funds to carry out the provisions of this act. Report at 27. A similar bill was supported by the Commission and passed by the Legislature last regular session (SB 3252, SD2, HD2, CD1) and vetoed by the Governor. Report at 10. The Commission has attempted in this bill to address concerns raised by the Governor.

HB 720 – Increases the amount of partial public financing available for all offices up for election in varied amounts with a downward adjustment of the minimum amounts of qualifying contributions for county prosecuting offices. The Commission noted “that increased amounts of partial public funding of elections proposed in this bill are intended as a floor, or a minimum level. If fiscal resources are or become available, the Commission encourages the Legislature to be bold and devote additional fiscal resources to further the purpose of this bill and to seek additional permanent funding sources for future elections. Implementation of this proposal would assist in diminishing the impact and influence resulting from Citizens United.” Report at 32.

HB 721 – Eliminates the use of campaign funds to purchase up to two tickets for an event or fundraiser held by another candidate or committee. The Commission found “that this practice is commonplace amongst legislators and gives the appearances of impropriety since the

campaign funds of the purchaser/candidate are likely contributions made to the purchaser/candidate and not to the candidate holding the event or fundraiser.” Report at 33-34.

HB 722 – Expands the reach of the requirement to file a notice of intent to hold a fundraiser or fundraiser event by removing the current \$25 threshold. The Commission stated this bill would further public transparency and improve public confidence in campaigns. Report at 33.

HB 723 – Expands application of the Sunshine Law to legislatively appointed bodies, including task forces, working groups, special committees, and select committees. This bill would also require each chamber of the legislature to hold public hearings on its rules on a biennial basis. The Commission concluded given “the strict legislative timetable and deadlines mandated under Article III of the Hawaii State Constitution” it was not practical to apply the Sunshine Law to the Legislature. This bill would “better effectuate the spirit and intent of the Sunshine Law.” Report at 26.

HB 724 – Amends the prohibition against contributions to a candidate committee or noncandidate committee by state and county contractors by including state and county grantees and owners, officers and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or state or county grantee. Report at 33.

HB 725 – Establishes the Office of Public Advocate and codifies rights of the public with respect to the conduct and operation of the Legislature and its members. This bill would also specify procedures for the investigation and reporting of alleged violations of the public’s rights. “The Commission offers this proposal as an aspirational starting point for how the public and legislators can best engage with each other in a respectful and transparent manner during the legislative process. Collectively, the 13 rights of the public embody ideals of respect, fairness, openness, and dignity in the legislative process. The rights also require that official legislative business be conducted in a transparent and honest manner and that decisions be based on the merits of the legislation.” Report at 26-27.

HB 726 – Prohibits state and county elected officials from soliciting and accepting campaign contributions during any regular or special session of the Legislature, including any legislative recess days, holidays and weekends. This bill if enacted “would reduce the negative perception of legislators soliciting or accepting contributions from individual or organizations that have an interest in matters pending before the legislature during session.” Report at 32.

HB 727 – Limits the permitted uses of campaign funds to only those purposes that are directly related to the campaign of candidates. Report at 33.

HB 728 – Provides funds to county ethic boards “in an effort to ensure that these boards have adequate resources to continue their operations and pursue their respective missions.” Report at 30.

HB 729 – Requires the Campaign Spending Commission to publish on its website the names of candidate committees and noncandidate committees who fail to properly file an organizational report. The Commission found that this bill “would improve compliance and also bring awareness of noncompliance to the public.” Report at 28.

HB 730 – Limits the amount of cash contributions a candidate, candidate committee or noncandidate committee can accept in the aggregate in each election period to \$100 with a receipt required for each contribution. Report at 33.

HB 731 – Provides that a person waives the right to a contested case hearing if that person fails to request a contested case hearing within 20 days of the Commission’s preliminary determination. It would also allow the Campaign Spending Commission to file its final order with the Circuit Court of the First District for confirmation as a civil judgment, enforceable and collectible as any other judgment issued in circuit court. Report at 21.

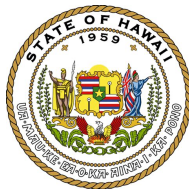
HB 732 – Authorizes the Campaign Spending Commission to presume that a violation of a campaign spending law has occurred if a respondent fails to explain or otherwise respond to a complaint alleging a campaign spending violation. Report at 21.

HB 733 – Increases the amount of fine for campaign spending law violations that may be assessed against a noncandidate committee making only independent expenditures and that has received at least one contribution of more than \$10,000 or spent more than \$10,000 in an election period. It authorizes the Campaign spending Commission to order that the payment of a fine assessed against a noncandidate committee, or any portion thereof, be paid from the personal funds of an officer of the noncandidate committee. Report at 34.

HB 796 – Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit a person from serving as a member of the Legislature for more than 16 years during that person’s lifetime. “The Commission discussed this proposal at great length and considered the testimony received and personal viewpoints of each commissioner. The Commission looked at similar provisions for guidance and debated the well-balanced pros and cons of this proposal, which was reflected in the slim 4-3 margin by which the Commission adopted the motion to adopt this proposal.” Report at 35. Despite a turnover in the House of Representative of over 50% and the Senate of more than 33% in the last decade, “people feel a proposal like this is necessary and that a limit on the duration of holding state elected office may reduce the potential for corruption and allow for the periodic infusion of fresh ideas and services to constituents.” Id.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Foley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'F' at the end.

Respectfully submitted, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



## HAWAI‘I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai‘i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Bill Number: HB 725  
Hearing Date/Time: February 8, 2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Re: Testimony of the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of  
HB 725 – Establishing the Public Bill of Rights

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) **supports** HB 725, which establishes rights for members of the public with respect to the “conduct and operation of the Legislature and its members.”<sup>1</sup> In addition, this measure establishes a new entity to help investigate, resolve, and, if necessary, report on any alleged violation of the established rights.

This measure arose out of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (“Foley Commission”). As the Foley Commission noted, the proposed Public Bill of Rights is an aspirational starting point on how the public and legislators can best engage each other in a respectful manner. Moreover, there is a strong focus on ensuring legislative business is done transparently (and minimizing the potential for public corruption). While some of the individual rights might be debated, the overall intent of the Public Bill of Rights is meritorious and deserves support. The “ultimate goals for this proposal are to create a standard for public access and transparency in an objective decision making process” and “to allow engagement in the legislative process to be as respectful and ethical as possible.”<sup>2</sup>

The Foley Commission expressly noted an intent that an entity be tasked with investigating public concerns – if necessary, in a confidential manner – and help instigate solutions. For example, if a lobbyist has an adverse interaction with the legislator, there should be an opportunity to correct the situation without needing to file a public complaint with the entire Legislature. Or if testimony is consistently posted in an untimely fashion, someone should have the ability to investigate why and make recommendations on how to fix the problem.

---

<sup>1</sup> Final Report of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (December 1, 2022) at 26 (available at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/CommitteeFiles/Special/CISC/Document/FinalReport.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

Further, the Foley Commission expressed a preference for having an existing agency act in the role of a public advocate/facilitator. Two concerns with this idea were discussed. First, existing agencies may require additional funding before taking on a new responsibility. Second, some level of autonomy from the legislature should be established, if, for no other reason, to avoid the appearance of impropriety. This may require the head of the agency to be appointed by another body, the agency to be housed in another body, etc.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 725.

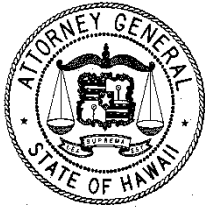
Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris

Executive Director and General Counsel





**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

---

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 725, RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Thomas J. Michener, Deputy Attorney General

---

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

The purposes of this bill include: (1) establishing the Office of the Public Advocate; (2) establishing rights for members of the public with respect to the conduct and operation of the Legislature and its members, and (3) specifying procedures for the investigation and reporting of alleged violations of the rights.

The first and chief concern of the Department relates to the provisions providing for secrecy in the Public Advocate's investigations. This concern is particularly acute in relation to investigating and prosecuting public corruption. While the Public Advocate may refer breaches of duty or misconduct to "appropriate authorities" (page 9, lines 14-18), the secrecy provisions would prevent any useful information from being shared with any entity outside the Public Advocate's office. In situations where another entity is already investigating, the ability of the Public Advocate to subpoena testimony or documents from the investigating entity could seriously compromise ongoing investigation. For example, if witnesses are questioned by the Public Advocate, they could tip off the subject of the investigation, who could then destroy evidence or take other steps to conceal his or her actions. Because of the secrecy provisions, the other investigating entity would not be aware of the parallel investigation the Public Advocate

was undertaking, potentially only finding out after key witnesses have been interviewed by the Public Advocate.

Second, the Public Advocate has discretion in the public release of any reports, which would be unreviewable "in any court." (Page 9, lines 10-13; page 3, lines 19-21.) In the interests of openness and transparency reports should be made public.

Third, the bill provides the right to publicly inspect all official executive communications and requires the Legislature to post all official executive communications. (Page 6, lines 13-19). It is not clear whether the attorney-client privileged communications the Department provides to legislators as their attorney are excluded from this provision. We recommend specifically excluding such communications by adding the provision such as the following on page 6, line 15, after "submitted to the legislature":

[-]; provided this paragraph shall not apply to attorney-client privileged communications between the department of the attorney general and the legislature.

Fourth, the bill seemingly provides that the Public Advocate could subpoena members of the Legislature to appear before it to give information in an investigation. This is in contravention to the Hawai'i Constitution: "No member of the legislature shall be held to answer before any other tribunal for any statement made or action taken in the exercise of the member's legislative functions."<sup>1</sup> The subpoena power granted to the Public Advocate also violates the spirit, if not the letter, of another constitutional provision:

Each house . . . shall have, for misconduct, disorderly behavior or neglect of duty of any member, power to punish such member by censure or, upon a two-thirds vote of all the members to which such house is entitled, by suspension or expulsion of such member. Each house shall . . . determine the rules of its proceedings . . .<sup>2</sup>

The power to discipline its members and determine its rules lies with the Legislature, not with any other entity. Given these constitutional provisions, we believe that the Public

---

<sup>1</sup> Haw. Const. art. III, sec. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Haw. Const. art. III, sec. 12.

Advocate could not subpoena members of the Legislature to answer for conduct undertaken in their role as a legislator.

The Department notes its concerns and thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide comments.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 2 pm, State Capitol Room 325 & Videoconference  
HB 725

Relating to the Legislature

**TESTIMONY**

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The State Constitution does not require courtesy, public hearings, or solicitation of public testimony prior to enactment of legislation. The League supports statutory adoption of reasonable standards for legislative conduct and reasonable procedures for enactment of legislation. We believe this will encourage future legislators to voluntarily “do the right thing”.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Testimony of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
HB 725 – Relating to the Legislature  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, February 8, 2023, at 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Dear Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 725, which would establish the office of the public advocate and establishes the rights of the public with respect to the conduct and operation of the legislature and its members.

The Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the work of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, which was established by House Resolution No 9 (2022). The Democratic Party of Hawaii's Legislative Committee supports the proposals submitted by the Commission in general, which were submitted to the Legislature on December 1, 2022. We should therefore enact laws and rules that restore and strengthen public trust in our government institutions and its public officers or officials. This measure is a step toward improving accountability, good government and transparency.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i, in particular, therefore supports this measure and urges the committee to adopt HB 725.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:31:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	Pono Hawaii Initiative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in strong support of HB725 with a proposed amendment.

Chair and Committee Members,

This is a hugely important measure to support and by doing so you will be sending a strong and positive message to the public.

Anyone who takes an honest look at the manner in which the people's business is now conducted at the legislature will acknowledge (at least privately) - that both the process and the culture are greatly in need of improvement. Some would say the system is broken, others might use the word corrupt. In the interest of maintaining an open and civil discussion, I use here the phrase "greatly in need of improvement".

**Please also consider amending HB725 to add a 14th “Right” to say:**

“The right to expect that the person's elected state representative or state senator will abide by the Hawaii State Constitution Article III, Section 12 that says – “Every meeting of a committee in either house or of a committee comprised of a member or members of both houses held for the purpose of making decision on matters referred to the committee shall be open to the public.”

Note1:

Article III, Section 12 doesn’t say that legislators may choose to meet for decision-making in private if it happens to be more convenient. And it doesn’t allow private meetings to discuss committee decisions because meeting in public would be awkward, cumbersome, or too time-consuming. It says clearly they shall only have these meetings in public.

Virtually everyone who is familiar with the current legislative process will agree that this provision of the Constitution is violated frequently and with impunity.

**The various Committee Chairpersons regularly meet behind closed doors, with other Committee Members, and with lobbyists representing stakeholders “for the purpose of making a decision.”**

**The Chair will then schedule a public committee meeting to announce the decision previously made in private. This process clearly violates the State Constitution.**

Note2:

Article III, Section 12 is NOT the Sunshine Law and is totally separate from the Sunshine Law. Agreeing to comply with Article III, Section 12 is not the same as agreeing to comply with the Sunshine Law.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:14:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT this bill to restrict legislators time in office.



**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:57:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is perhaps the most important measure to come from the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct. It should be the first one to become law. It is a bill of rights for the public, how the legislature is supposed to treat the public, demeanor, sunshine, ability to see and review legislation in a timely manner. Imua HB725. There was much discussion from the public and commission members at their meetings. The important of the measure could not be overstated. I attended and participated in these meetings. Please do not let us down.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:56:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support a CitiZen bill of rights for Hawaii !

Mahalo, JN Makawao

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:55:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Citizens have the right to transparency in government, with full access to legislative discussions and proposed actions.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:01:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:32:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Cender	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support efforts to "improve standards of conduct relating to the conduct and operations of the legislature and its members." It is too bad a bill like this is needed.

Mahalo,

Jonathan Cender, Koloa, Kauai

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:35:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB725. I believe this bill will bring better transparency for all of your constituents. They deserve it. Especially if we want to increase voter turnout.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:41:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Reps. Tarnas, Takayama and Committee members:

I very strongly support HB 725. We need a legislature balance of young and veteran legislators to properly address all of the challenges our state, nation and world need. The energy and enthusiasm for ideas and ideals of the young married to the experience and instincts of elders has been a human cultural verity for eons. A sixteen year service limit for legislators stikes an appropriate and reasonable intergenerational balance for service in the legislature.

Mahalo nui for passing this Bill.

Aloha!

Tom, Grandfather

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:46:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for Citizens' Bill of Rights



**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:47:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is the beginning of transparency. Very much needed so citizens know what is happening. Please pass. Mahalo

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:57:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Fern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Perruso and fellow legislators:

I strongly support the voters "Bill of Rights," HB725. Please vote in favor of us voting citizens!

Thank you so much.

Jonathan Fern, Wahiawa retired teacher

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:53:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB725

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:54:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katrina Ahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB725.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:54:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is hoped that having this in writing "Establishes rights for members of the public with respect to the conduct and operation of the legislature and its members." will be sufficient to convince members of the legislature that they are supposed to be our wise leaders. Please support HB725 to bring decency, civility and honor to the Hawaii legislature.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:34:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bethan Pualani Baptista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the House please vote for term limits. Support of this Bill is a clear indication that you are aware of the long standing inertia of incumbency and the need for change. Please support the people's efforts for a more active participation in the work of this legislature and it's legislative process. Please deal with all the issues at hand and quit kicking the can. We all want an active working body of legislatures who care about the peoples interest. Please support this term limits bill. Mahalo ia oukou!!!

Bethan Pualani Baptista

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:47:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

And this one! Urgent.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:11:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
R A Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

I support HB725 and am glad speaker Saiki had the foresight to introduce it.

Good on you!



**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:18:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Celle Galarza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill especially for having a public advocate. The public needs to be addressed and advocated for. Mahalo

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:51:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Citizens pay to run this system. Respect has been forgotten.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 4:55:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again, it is small step in right direction...

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:55:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bradford Baang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Provides public to testify orally, allows us 24 hours after Bill's submission to review and question legislatures to justify, quantify reasons for their vote. In short, governing by, for, and of the people.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:25:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I humbly and firmly urge your leadership & commitment

to SUPPORT HB725 that aims to Improve Standards of Conduct; Legislature; Bill of Rights; Public Advocate (\$).

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong support of HB725.

Sincerely & respectfully,

Marsha Hee

(808) 985-8725

[hulahee@gmail.com](mailto:hulahee@gmail.com)

Hawaii-born resident

Current resident of Volcano, Hawaii Island

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:44:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale A. Head	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HB725** - Establishes the office of the public advocate. Establishes rights for members of the public with respect to the conduct and operation of the legislature and its members. Specifies procedures for the investigation and reporting of alleged violations of the rights.

*Aloha - I stongly SUPPORT this Bill. Too often some (many?) Legislators display a truculent attitude towards members of the public by not returning phone calls and/or emails, and doing the bidding of lobbyists to the detriment and harm of taxpayers. Once some get elected to office, they become arrogant. Not good for democracy.*

*Respectfully, Dale Arthur Head. (dale.head@aol.com)*

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:47:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Inga Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 8, 2023

RE: STRONG SUPPORT HB725: Establishes the office of the Public Advocate, Establishes RIghts of the public, procedures, for investigations and reporting of violations.

Dear Chair Tarnas and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee Members,

As a consultant representing non-profit organizations and their members and supporters on a variety of legislative and policy issues, I am constantly asked to explain certain processes and procedures taken by law-making bodies. Often, there is no legitimate explanation, nor any written rules or processes, that determine outcomes, as much is solely political, rather than based on policy or substance. Further, there have been occasions where particular policymakers fail in providing the most basic transparency in their decision-making, or lack thereof. I believe the public deserves to know how decisions are made about issues that impact them, and that this is a basic principle of good government and open democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for HB725 and the commendable efforts of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct.

Inga Gibson

Pono Advocacy

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:00:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB 725



**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:00:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sam Small	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The citizens deserve to have our rights codified and protected. It serves those serving in the legislature too to have the rules clearly delineated for them. Thank You

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:34:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bill Watts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In order for citizens to have equal representation it is essential that our elected representatives have equal power and control.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:01:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lila Mower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:32:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is Bull Shit!!!!

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:21:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mele Stokesberry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support the establishment of an office of the Public Advocate. This and other current bills aimed to reform Hawaii's Legislature are long overdue. Support all reform measures.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:44:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judie Hoepfner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:28:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James T Lovell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would love to see this pass.

Please vote yes on this bill

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:52:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert H Stiver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a US and Hawaii citizen, so the mere title makes this make eminent common sense to this 79 yo. VOTE FOR THE CITIZEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS! JUST DO IT! Mahalo!



**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:56:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am very much in favor for Bill HB725. I really appreciate that the rights of the public will be codified into law, and that any inquiry to the public advocate will be confidential. I also like how the bill codifies equal treatment of all testifiers before the legislature. This government is for all the people and all are equal under the law and should be afforded that respect of egalitarianism. Mahalo for your time to this matter.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:42:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the creation of a Citizen's Bill of Rights. I urge you to pass it this session. Mahalo.

**HB-725**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:25:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Logue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WHile I support the idea of the Public Advocate position I do see how it could turn into a meerly political tool as they are appointed by the Governor. Also, " § -4 **Judicial review; immunity.** No proceeding or decision of the public advocate may be reviewed in any court" seems that if this person is working on behalf of a Governor and the Governor does not like something a lawmaker is doing that this position could interfere with that lawmakers position. Absolutely no one in public office or a publicly funded position should be above any laws or immune from the justice system.