



LATE

TIME/DATE: 3:00 pm, March 27, 2024
PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
COMMITTEE: Senate Labor & Technology Committee
BILL: SCR 83, Urging the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to Improve the State of Hawaii's Open Data Portal by Increasing and Expanding the Data Sets Available on the Open Data Portal, Centralizing All Open Data Sets of All State Departments onto the Open Data Portal, and Continually Updating the Data Sets for Accuracy and Recency of Publicly Accessible Data
POSITION: Support

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee!

My name is Christine Maii Sakuda and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawaii'i Government (THG), a nonprofit organization that advocates for a more accessible and responsive state government that leverages technology to help citizens, communities, and businesses throughout Hawaii'i thrive. In collaboration with state government partners, we strive to keep modernization a top priority. We are writing in **support** of SCR 83, urging the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to expand the availability of, centralize the location of, and continually update the accessibility of data sets available on the Hawaii'i Open Data Portal.

The object of state government services is to provide targeted and tailored solutions to residents' needs. To this end, having access to an array of data sets allows the government to make data-informed, evidence-based decisions that efficiently provide effective solutions. Moreover, having more access to updated data improves the operability between the government and the private sector, while increasing the opportunities for public citizens to be engaged in and take advantage of public services.

As the Vice-Chair of the IT Steering Committee, I had the opportunity to welcome our new Chief Data Officer, Ms. Rebecca Cai, last December. Ms. Cai shared her vision for improving the quality, accessibility, and usability of enterprise data for evidence-based decision making. I wholeheartedly anticipate the transformative improvements Ms. Cai envisions, and I am supportive of the IT Steering Committee's ongoing role in important data initiatives.

Please continue to call upon Transform Hawaii'i Government as a resource on government modernization. Through research, data, and in-depth policy recommendations, and resources we wish to support your efforts to make Hawaii'i a better place and look forward to working closely with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Sakuda', is written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Christine Sakuda
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SR-69

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 6:10:10 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/27/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryden Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology:

My name is Ryden Iwamoto, and I am currently a second year at the University of Chicago studying mathematics and statistics. I was born and raised in Hawaii and foster a deep love for the place I call home, especially after being in the brisk Chicago weather for most of the year.

Part of this love is a desire to see the place I grew up in stay the same—the people, the restaurants, the nature; but part of this love is to grow with Hawaii as it approaches an uncertain future, filled with the challenges of artificial intelligence and rapid technological advancement, an arguably under-supported public education system, economic difficulties, among others.

Even while in Chicago, much of my work, whenever possible, relates back to my interest in solving and investigating problems back home. As part of my mathematics and statistics coursework, I apply statistical and spatial analytical techniques to questions many of my friends, family, and generally, the people of Hawaii are asking. Why does it seem like Hawaii is getting less safe? What does our economy depend on and how can we diversify it? How can we support those who have been historically neglected by an inequitable system? These are just a few of the questions I have heard and attempted to explore over the past two years.

There's just one problem: one that, despite my love for Hawaii, has begun to deter me from further exploring these important questions. The quantity and quality of data available to independent researchers, students, and curious citizens like me is exceptionally limited. Simply due to resource constraints, data is not collected and not able to be provided on certain topics. This is beyond the scope of this resolution. However, in areas where data is collected, data is significantly outdated (at one point, I had to email the manager of the dataset listed on the Hawaii State Open Data Portal to update the data since I was interested in using it) and infrequently updated. When available and up-to-date, data is either of poor quality, providing little insight into the topic at hand, or on unimportant issues (i.e., what analytical insight does a data set with four entries on the underlying credit ratings for the state provide?)

I implore the Committee on Labor and Technology to consider the importance and value of independent inquiry into these questions about the future of the state—my home, our home. In a time characterized by data-driven insight, failure to provide up-to-date, useful and relevant, and

detailed data on open data portals is one of the best ways to position the state and those who care about it to tackle the future blindly.