

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.)

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:35:05 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:

Support HB796 with amendments:

Committee Chair and Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB796 with the following amendment:

“No person shall serve as a member of the house of representatives for more than eight years, nor shall any person serve as a member of the senate for more than eight years.”

The amendment is intended to say legislators may serve up to 8 years in the House and up to 8 years in the Senate, and no more than 16 years combined.

Few in the public sector are pleased with the status quo. Though our current legislative leadership possesses decades of experience, clearly that’s not enough.

“We already have term limits, they’re called elections” is the stock response, and until relatively recently, the position I subscribed to.

However, after 26 years of working within the system, I’ve come to believe differently.

Term limits will put a stop to the do-nothing, take no risk, keep your head down, go along to get along, “long game” strategy that too often infects those who aspire to serve in elected office.

Term limits will also put a stop to the excessive accumulation of power and the nonstop campaign fundraising that too often defines long-term incumbency.

The problems and challenges facing us today are far too urgent to play the long game or any games at all. An 8-year term is plenty enough time for new elected leaders to make their mark, and to set and accomplish their goals.

The barriers to entry for new candidates are formidable. Money, name recognition and a conscious manipulation of the system by those already in power give incumbents an overwhelming advantage while keeping newcomers out.

The basic cost to run a campaign for the state Legislature can run between \$40,000 to \$100,000, sometimes more. Because there's no cap on the amount incumbents can raise, some sit on "war chests" approaching \$1 million, much of it raised during the legislative session from the very interests they are charged to regulate.

Legislators, by virtue of their position, are frequently in the public spotlight. They are constantly cutting ribbons or "breaking ground" at some new school, highway, or community center. They hold press conferences and issue press releases. In recent years, state legislators have taken to sending out glossy mailers under the guise of constituent surveys or a "report to the district." These taxpayer-funded mailings conveniently become more frequent in the months preceding an election.

Yes, the cards are stacked high against new candidates, new voices, new ideas, and new leadership.

The governor, lieutenant governor, mayor and all Council members in all counties already serve with term limitations. These term limits have not caused the weakening of government operations, nor have they empowered the deep state, or created a dearth of expertise.

What term limits do is create an opportunity for change. Our elected leaders are given eight years to pursue their goals and then they move on, creating space for others to step up.

There is no shortage of other opportunities to serve. Those "termed out" can work elsewhere in the public, private or nonprofit sectors, if indeed service is their primary focus and motivation.

Fifteen states including California and Colorado currently limit the terms of state legislators. It's time for Hawaii to join them.

Please pass HB796 as amended, place this question on the ballot, and allow the people to vote it up or down.

Gary Hooser



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Greg Takayama

Wednesday, February 7, 2023, Room 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
HB 796 - Proposing Amendments to Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to Establish Legislative Term Limits

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii opposes HB 796 which proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit a person from serving as a member of the legislature for more than sixteen years during the person's lifetime.

This measure was advanced by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (CISC), a body established by the House in 2022 following bribery incidents at the legislature. Though it is a popular suggestion, there is no evidence that term limits prevent corruption.

Term limits would result in people with new perspectives joining more experienced legislators to shape the future of our State. We acknowledge the wisdom of having a mix of voices, but establishing term limits is not the way to achieve a representative mix. Free and fair elections is the way to achieve this outcome.

The suggestion to adopt term limits also presumes the makeup of the legislature changes slowly. In fact, our analysis reveals that between 2012 -2017, nearly half of state representatives (47%) and a third of state senators (36%) were replaced through elections. This turnover is even higher if we look at the ten-year period between 2012 and 2022. During this period, 56% of senators and 65% of state representatives were replaced thru elections.¹ At least for the past ten years, voters have already succeeded in limiting the terms of most legislators.

Some argue that term limits would rebalance the dominance of the Democratic party in Hawaii. Churning the members of the legislature won't do this by itself.

As recently as 2021 two bills proposing terms limits for lawmakers were introduced in this legislature; neither even received a hearing. However, now there is evidence of a

¹ Calculated using the House and Senate Directories available at <https://www.cappitol.hawaii.gov> for years 2012, 2017 and 2022.

widespread change in public opinion; one 2022 poll found 77% of voters surveyed supported term limits for members of the state House and Senate.²

We could learn from others. As of November 2022, only 15 states have term limits for legislators. An additional 6 states tried term limits and abandoned them.³

Please hold this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

² The Hawaii Poll was conducted July 12-17 by telephone by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy of Washington, D.C. It includes 800 registered Hawaii voters, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points
<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2022/07/27/hawaii-news/hawaii-legislature-gets-low-marks-for-hand...>

³ <https://www.ncsl.org/about-state-legislatures/the-term-limited-states>

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:09:52 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Crossland | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this Bill.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:20:36 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT for the reasons stated in the bill.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:42:41 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victor K. Ramos | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT: 16 years itself is much too long. But, it is a start.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:00:59 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This proposal was very controversial at the Commisison to Imporve Standard of Conduct. It passed by one vote. The only thing term limits will solve is giving the bureaucracy more power. It takes years for legislators to fully navigate the system, and then, whosh, they will be gone. I hope this does not make it to the voters, where I will be voting a resounding no. This is a very bad mistake.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:55:39 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ronald Tam | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I adamantly support the establishment of term limits.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:02:19 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Nandoskar | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support!

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:04:53 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John NAYLOR | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support term limits for elected officials ! Representing We the People was never meant to be a full time job or a retirement plan on the backs of the tax payer !

Make Hawaii better for the people and environment, Share your knowledge w/ the newly elected, then get out of the way or run for higher office in a publicly funded election with complete transparency !

Sincerely,

JN Makawao

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:05:06 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Larry Alfrey | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Few are pleased with the status quo. Though our current legislative leadership possesses decades of experience, clearly that's not enough.

Term limits will put a stop to the do-nothing, take no risk, keep your head down, go along to get along, "long game" strategy that too often infects those who aspire to serve in elected office. It costs tons of money to have campaigns... to sit on one's butt and not focus on issues is t a good use of our tax dollars.

The problems and challenges facing us today are far too urgent to play the long game or any games at all. An 8-year term is plenty enough time for new elected leaders to make their mark, and to set and accomplish their goals.

The governor, lieutenant governor, mayor and all Council members in all counties already serve with term limitations. These term limits have not caused the weakening of government operations, nor have they empowered the deep state, or created a dearth of expertise.

ALL Hawaii legislators need term limits. Some of elected officials ipenjoy being in the limelight and sit in a cushy chair... but they are not producing the work. It's not about a photo op of digging up more dirt with a new shovel... there is actual work at hand and things noe NOT happening and we the tax payers see that...

How about just getting the Capitol building itself repaired? That's a disgrace to the STATE to show a building in need of repair to all the visitors that come here and find a fortress of wooden barriers! Shameful.

fix that building! One of the legislators stated on TV there is an excess of over 2 billion dollars in the STATE! fix the building! Get it done! Enough of this procrastination.

Yes, term limits will help move our elected official to move the STATE forward and not stagnant as is presently being demonstrated to us.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:07:20 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Colehour Bondera | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members:

Please accept this in suport of HB796.

Yours,

Colehour Bondera

Honaunau, HI

colemel2@gmail.com

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:44:12 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Penn | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This makes sense to limit the temptations for bribery.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:50:50 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Brandt | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:04:28 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anjani Thomas | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support term limits! The current state of malaise and lack of meaningful change created by power striving politicians has to stop.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:17:54 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sean H Ishii | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support term limits in general. So I support this bill. Incumbency sometimes becomes too big of a barrier for bringing innovation to government. Even representatives who enter public service with fresh ideas and great momentum stagnate as they start protecting their position and jading themselves against real change. Please move this bill forward.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:29:38 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John & Rita Shockley | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha!

Term limits will make for a more democratic government. Career politicians have a tendency to forget who elected them and why they are in office.

Mahalo for your time!

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:44:11 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| irene kloepfer | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha. We need to return to being civil servants. Career politicians are ripe for corruption. It takes a very strongly centered person to not become corrupted. Term limits time has come. The governor is term limited for that very reason. Everyone else needs to be also. Pass this bill.
Mahalo

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:10:03 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jonathan Fern | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Rep. Perruso and fellow legislators:

I am uncertain whether the testimony I just tried to submit to you was successfully sent to you, so I am writing this a second time.

I strongly support term limits for Hawaii legislators, and I request that you pass this bill which will put term limits up for consideration as a constitutional requirement.

Thank you so much.

Jonathan "Jef" Fern, retired Wahiawa teacher

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:55:24 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katrina Ahia | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB796.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:59:31 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruta Jordans | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB796! It is not correct to exempt the legislature from term limits when every other group has had term limits applied. The senators and representatives should not be above the law.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:15:49 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| John Fitzpatrick | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is John Fitzpatrick and I am in support of HB 796 which would put it to the vote of the people to see if there should be public term limits on legislators. I believe this is in the interest of the State of Hawaii because there are a plethora of amazing people that can lead us into the 21st century. It would stimulate problem solving because legislators would only have 16 years to get their priorities done.

Furthermore it would allow the next generation to start making important decisions that many of our legislators refuse to tackle such as tackling global warming, legalizing marijuana, fully funding public education, protecting the environment, fully funding quality public housing, and taxing the rich of Hawaii to pay for a healthy quality of life just to name a few.

Please pass HB 796 because I want to be able to vote on this.

Mahalo,
Fitz

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:38:19 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bethan Pualani Baptista | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

Please support this Bill. We appreciate your efforts to include the people in the legislative process. Mahalo Ia okou!!!

Bethan Pualani Baptista

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:20:29 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Haydn Huntley | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Thank you for proposing this!

It makes wonderful sense, and keeps politicians from spending a lifetime in one position, which is a good thing, and helps allow new people to come in and make more improvements.

I hope this bill becomes law.

Thank you again!

--Haydn

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:45:25 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Dinner | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This too. Fundamental to fix our broken system.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:55:51 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Will Caron | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a strong proponent of government transparency and of strengthening our democracy. Which is why I must oppose HB796. Term limits are actually anti-democratic in nature. Constituencies should have the opportunity to re-elect incumbents who serve the community well, but term limits are arbitrary cutoffs that inhibit that democratic right.

Yes, it is true that entrenchment within the political establishment can be a problem, thwarting important progress in an era in which bold action is needed to address serious challenges. But it is a problem that is driven largely by the corrupting influence of money in politics. The better solution to address this corrupting influence is to focus on campaign finance reform.

Removing the ability of wealthy and powerful entities and individuals to purchase influence within our “democratic” process will level the playing field and make it possible for people-powered candidates to compete with corporate-backed candidates and win elections. People-first candidates are the type of elected officials we need in office. Having an arbitrary cutoff force these leaders out of office when we need them is bad policy.

Furthermore, term limits limit the institutional knowledge of policy-making and political compromise that are needed in order for elected officials to effectively do their jobs. We need lawmakers with experience and skill, built up over years, to navigate the complexities of the political process.

While term limits are touted as a way to prevent elected officials from “being around long enough” to become corrupt, this thinking is flawed. A new, inexperienced lawmaker is just as likely, if not more, to succumb to the influence of special interest lobbyists, and an arbitrary cutoff may even encourage corruption “on the way out the door,” so to speak.

Whether we’re talking about the democratic rights of constituencies, or the practical concerns about institutional knowledge and corruption, term limits are an attractive-seeming, but misguided policy. The problem it seeks to solve is better addressed through comprehensive campaign finance reform, and the many other efforts to open up our government and its processes to the scrutiny of the public.

Steering the public policy direction of the state is too important of a task to be left up to arbitrary restrictions. With competitive elections and corruption-free democratic institutions, the people will have the chance to elect leaders with vision and ethics, and who have all our best interests at

heart. Some of these candidates may be incumbents with the wisdom and institutional knowledge to skillfully manage budgets and execute bold, complex policy for the benefit of us all. Why would we want to implement rigid limits that would force us to remove these leaders when we need them most? There is simply too much at stake.

Please defer HB796.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:58:19 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| pamela burrell | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha honored House members. I thoroughly support term limits in all phases of government.
Pure and simple.

Regards,

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai, kaua'i

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:20:01 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| R A Culbertson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

While I support this measure, I feel it's still an incredibly 'low bar' that enables minor fiefdoms within the body to become tyrannical at worst or fossilized in thinking at best.

We need leaders of integrity who are able to meet the challenges of catastrophic change that are unlike any we have known before.

Who is up for this and yet won't burn out before eight sessions?

Malama Pono!

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:14:33 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Celle Galarza | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support setting limits to the length an individual may be in the legislature.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:53:48 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kate Paine | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Long overdue. Not working as unamended

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 4:56:12 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tony Radmilovich | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

By all means, no professional politicians...

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:26:55 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cheryl B. | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill to establish 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.

ADDING that those procedures should include protection of privacy for anyone in the public expressing those rights.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:37:59 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:

HB796- Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit a person from serving as a member of the legislature for more than sixteen years during the person's lifetime.

Aloha - I support this Term Limits measure. Our Honolulu City Council has one. And, it is well known that some politicians move from the Legislature to City Council then back to the Legislature. Brings to mind the phrase 'retread'. People with fresh ideas have a super hard time getting into Office when an incumbent has the advantage of 'Donors' showering them with money to get what they want. This disadvantages new people.

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

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:40:11 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Russell Ruderman | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I urge you to support term limits for state legislators.

The 16 years mentioned in this bill is not good enough. Please limit it to 8 years in any one job.

This may help relieve the ossification of our state democratic system, allow more new faces, and restore the public trust to some degree.

8 years is enough, and with the time delay of passing this, every one of you will be eligible for retirement benefits.

I wonder why this rule works so well for our mayors, governor, and councilmembers, and yet has not been appoied to legislators? No one has called for eliminating term limits on those offices, because they work so well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Russell E. Ruderman

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:27:28 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Marsha Hee | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I humbly and firmly urge your leadership & commitment

to **SUPPORT HB 796** that proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit a person from serving as a member of the legislature for more than sixteen years during the person's lifetime.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong **support of HB 796**.

Sincerely & respectfully,

Marsha Hee

(808) 985-8725

hulahee@gmail.com

Hawaii-born resident

Born and raised in Pauoa, O'ahu

Current resident of Volcano, Hawaii Island

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:01:46 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:32:30 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scott Shedko | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support term limits.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:01:53 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christopher Boscole | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support HB 796

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:03:04 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sam Small | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

A good bill here, clean, simple, and very necessary. THANK YOU

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:18:03 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lorn | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha House Members,

please support this bill. I support being a representative is a citizen;s duty and not a career....

Lorn DOuglas

Lower Puna

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:31:09 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Anne ('Antu') Harvey | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha JHA Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

Support HB796 - Term Limits

An 8-year term is plenty enough time for new elected leaders to make their mark, and to set and accomplish their goals. Term limits create space for others to step up and participate in the democratic representative process. Term limits create opportunity for change, for improvement.

Term limits reduce the uneven playing field between incumbents and new candidates. Incumbents' significant advantages:

- Name recognition - Legislators, by virtue of their position, are frequently in the public and media spotlight.
- Free Advertising - In recent years, state legislators have taken to sending out glossy mailers under the guise of constituent surveys or a "report to the district." These taxpayer-funded mailings conveniently become more frequent in the months preceding an election.
- Money - Because there's no cap on the amount incumbents can raise, some sit on "war chests" approaching \$1 million, much of it raised during the legislative session from the very interests they are charged to regulate.
- Insider power and self protection - The rules and actions of the legislative body are designed to "protect the members" from negative political exposure that comes with "hard votes." Controversial issues rarely get voted on until they're severely diluted, endlessly delayed, or pushed off to a task force.

We need a system that provides a healthy Legislator pipeline that develops new voices, new ideas and new leadership that keeps up with and energetically protects the real present and future needs of our 'Āina and residents.

The governor, lieutenant governor, mayor and all Council members in all counties already serve with term limitations. These term limits have not caused the weakening of government operations, nor have they empowered the deep state, or created a dearth of expertise.

Fifteen states including California and Colorado currently limit the terms of state legislators. It's time for Hawaii to join them.

Please pass this bill to take the step toward passing the required Hawai'i constitutional amendment.

Mahalo for your commitment and service.

Anne Harvey - 96725

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 2:13:23 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lunsford Phillips | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Term limits ensure a constant influx of new legislators with new ideas.

Moreover elected legislators will have an incentive to be productive while in office.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:18:02 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mele Stokesberry | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support term limits of 16 years for all elected officials of the State of Hawaii. We need to allow for new blood! This, and public funding increases (HB 720) are the way to go. Please all support and pass this bill.

Mele Stokesberry Kula, Maui

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:45:56 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Judie Hoepner | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Serving in the Legislature was never intended to be a life long job!

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:00:35 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| robin knox | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Committee Chair and Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB796 with the following amendment:

“No person shall serve as a member of the house of representatives for more than eight years, nor shall any person serve as a member of the senate for more than eight years.”

The amendment is intended to say legislators may serve up to 8 years in the House and up to 8 years in the Senate, and no more than 16 years combined.

Few in the public sector are pleased with the status quo. Though our current legislative leadership possesses decades of experience, clearly that’s not enough.

Term limits will put a stop to the do-nothing, take no risk, keep your head down, go along to get along, “long game” strategy that too often infects those who aspire to serve in elected office.

Term limits will also put a stop to the excessive accumulation of power and the nonstop campaign fundraising that too often defines long-term incumbency.

The problems and challenges facing us today are far too urgent to play the long game or any games at all. An 8-year term is plenty enough time for new elected leaders to make their mark, and to set and accomplish their goals.

The barriers to entry for new candidates are formidable. Money, name recognition and a conscious manipulation of the system by those already in power give incumbents an overwhelming advantage while keeping newcomers out.

The basic cost to run a campaign for the state Legislature can run between \$40,000 to \$100,000, sometimes more. Because there’s no cap on the amount incumbents can raise, some sit on “war chests” approaching \$1 million, much of it raised during the legislative session from the very interests they are charged to regulate.

Legislators, by virtue of their position, are frequently in the public spotlight. They are constantly cutting ribbons or “breaking ground” at some new school, highway, or community center. They hold press conferences and issue press releases. In recent years, state legislators have taken to

sending out glossy mailers under the guise of constituent surveys or a “report to the district.” These taxpayer-funded mailings conveniently become more frequent in the months preceding an election.

Yes, the cards are stacked high against new candidates, new voices, new ideas, and new leadership.

The governor, lieutenant governor, mayor, and all Council members in all counties already serve with term limitations. These term limits have not caused the weakening of government operations, nor have they empowered the deep state, or created a dearth of expertise.

What term limits do is create an opportunity for change. Our elected leaders are given eight years to pursue their goals and then they move on, creating space for others to step up.

There is no shortage of other opportunities to serve. Those “termed out” can work elsewhere in the public, private or nonprofit sectors, if indeed service is their primary focus and motivation.

Fifteen states including California and Colorado currently limit the terms of state legislators. It’s time for Hawaii to join them.

Please pass HB796 as amended, place this question on the ballot, and allow the people to vote it up or down.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:01:52 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carl J. Berg | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a strong suyof this bill to control corruption in our government

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:26:55 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| James T Lovell | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I would love to see this passed.

Please vote yes on this bill

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:02:45 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Alan Urasaki | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I stand in opposition to this measure. The constitution has already set a 'term-limit" for legislators,its called an ELECTION. Every 2 or 4 years, the people get to vote on who they elect to be their representative. Please do not usurp the will of the people. Mahalo.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:43:25 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| ANDREW ISODA | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Committee Chair and Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB796 with the following amendment:

“No person shall serve as a member of the house of representatives for more than eight years, nor shall any person serve as a member of the senate for more than eight years.”

The amendment is intended to say legislators may serve up to 8 years in the House and up to 8 years in the Senate, and no more than 16 years combined.

Few in the public sector are pleased with the status quo. Though our current legislative leadership possesses decades of experience, clearly that’s not enough.

“We already have term limits, they’re called elections” is the stock response, and until relatively recently, the position I subscribed to.

However, after 26 years of working within the system, I’ve come to believe differently.

Term limits will put a stop to the do-nothing, take no risk, keep your head down, go along to get along, “long game” strategy that too often infects those who aspire to serve in elected office.

Term limits will also put a stop to the excessive accumulation of power and the nonstop campaign fundraising that too often defines long-term incumbency.

The problems and challenges facing us today are far too urgent to play the long game or any games at all. An 8-year term is plenty enough time for new elected leaders to make their mark, and to set and accomplish their goals.

The barriers to entry for new candidates are formidable. Money, name recognition and a conscious manipulation of the system by those already in power give incumbents an overwhelming advantage while keeping newcomers out.

The basic cost to run a campaign for the state Legislature can run between \$40,000 to \$100,000, sometimes more. Because there’s no cap on the amount incumbents can raise, some sit on “war

chests” approaching \$1 million, much of it raised during the legislative session from the very interests they are charged to regulate.

Legislators, by virtue of their position, are frequently in the public spotlight. They are constantly cutting ribbons or “breaking ground” at some new school, highway, or community center. They hold press conferences and issue press releases. In recent years, state legislators have taken to sending out glossy mailers under the guise of constituent surveys or a “report to the district.” These taxpayer-funded mailings conveniently become more frequent in the months preceding an election.

Yes, the cards are stacked high against new candidates, new voices, new ideas, and new leadership.

The governor, lieutenant governor, mayor, and all Council members in all counties already serve with term limitations. These term limits have not caused the weakening of government operations, nor have they empowered the deep state, or created a dearth of expertise.

What term limits do is create an opportunity for change. Our elected leaders are given eight years to pursue their goals and then they move on, creating space for others to step up.

There is no shortage of other opportunities to serve. Those “termed out” can work elsewhere in the public, private or nonprofit sectors, if indeed service is their primary focus and motivation.

Fifteen states including California and Colorado currently limit the terms of state legislators. It’s time for Hawaii to join them.

Please pass HB796 as amended, place this question on the ballot, and allow the people to vote it up or down.

Mahalo,

Andrew Isoda, Maui

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:49:46 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert H Stiver | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This -- HB796 -- is THE ULTIMATE NO-BRAINER! At the federal level, Senator Diane Feinstein is the ultimate indicator that TERM LIMITS is a concept that has long passed its essentiality. JUST DO IT! - VOTE FOR TERM LIMITS!

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:12:24 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Soo Sun Choe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Committee Chair and Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB796 with the following amendment:

“No person shall serve as a member of the house of representatives for more than eight years, nor shall any person serve as a member of the senate for more than eight years.”

The amendment is intended to say legislators may serve up to 8 years in the House and up to 8 years in the Senate, and no more than 16 years combined.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:29:26 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Thayne Taylor | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of HB796 with the following amendment:

“No person shall serve as a member of the house of representatives for more than eight years, nor shall any person serve as a member of the senate for more than eight years.”

The amendment is intended to say legislators may serve up to 8 years in the House and up to 8 years in the Senate, and no more than 16 years combined.

Few in the public sector are pleased with the status quo. Though our current legislative leadership possesses decades of experience, clearly that’s not enough.

Term limits will put a stop to the do-nothing, take no risk, keep your head down, go along to get along, “long game” strategy that too often infects those who aspire to serve in elected office.

Term limits will also put a stop to the excessive accumulation of power and the nonstop campaign fundraising that too often defines long-term incumbency.

The problems and challenges facing us today are far too urgent to play the long game or any games at all. An 8-year term is plenty enough time for new elected leaders to make their mark, and to set and accomplish their goals.

The governor, lieutenant governor, mayor, and all Council members in all counties already serve with term limitations. These term limits have not caused the weakening of government operations, nor have they empowered the deep state, or created a dearth of expertise.

What term limits do is create an opportunity for change. Our elected leaders are given eight years to pursue their goals and then they move on, creating space for others to step up.

There is no shortage of other opportunities to serve. Those “termed out” can work elsewhere in the public, private or nonprofit sectors, if indeed service is their primary focus and motivation.

Fifteen states including California and Colorado currently limit the terms of state legislators. It’s time for Hawaii to join them.

Taken from Gary Hooser's blog - I strongly agree!

Thank you for your time,

Thayne Taylor

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:38:13 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| tlaloc tokuda | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha JHA Chair, Vice Chair and Committee,

I support limited terms.

Term limits will put a stop to the do-nothing, take no risk, keep your head down, go along to get along, “long game” strategy that too often infects those who aspire to serve in elected office.

Term limits will also put a stop to the excessive accumulation of power and the nonstop campaign fundraising that too often defines long-term incumbency.

The problems and challenges facing us today are far too urgent to play the long game or any games at all. An 8-year term is plenty enough time for new elected leaders to make their mark, and to set and accomplish their goals.

Last year powerful Senator Dela Cruz abused his power by presenting SB2510. Bill SB2510 would require the Big Island electricity consumers to use Hu Honua biomass electricity. The PUC said such a contract would increase typical monthly residential power bills by almost \$11. Greenhouse gas

emissions were another concern. Civil Beat covers Cruz’s disdain or disregard for we the people and the coffee growers of Kona!! The only winners was Hu Honua. Please read

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/05/how-a-powerful-lawmaker-forced-through-a-contentious-energy-bill/>

Powerful politicians abuse their power because they can - a limited term would stop this.

Fifteen states including California and Colorado currently limit the terms of state legislators. It’s time for Hawaii to join them.

Mahalo for your consideration

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:18:20 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:

It's difficult to understand why the State Legislature lacks term limits yet every other local office has such. In order to bring about the necessary changes and progress moving forward we need to ensure we are getting fresh faces and ideas. Especially with such low voter turn out. The people have lost faith in government and we need to refresh the idea of representation.

HB-796

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:18:32 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine Trecker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB796 with the amendment to have a term limit of 8 years in the House and 8 years in the Senate. Sadly, long-term legislators can accumulate considerable power and special interest funding which too often compromises their independence and will to do what is best for the citizens they serve. Term limits are safeguards for good government. I urge you to pass this measure. Thank you.