



## HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Bill Number: SB 149  
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission **Offering Comments** on SB 149 – Establishing a Continuous Legislative Session

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) offers **comments** regarding SB 149, which proposes to amend Article III of the Hawai'i State Constitution to establish a full-time legislative session.

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission has not yet had a chance to discuss this bill and, thus, has no position on the measure at this time. The bill will be on the agenda for discussion at the next Commission meeting, which is scheduled for February 15, 2023.

Staff note this measure could address ethics concerns, such as conflict of interest issues regarding secondary employment. If the Commission takes a position on this measure, we hope to offer testimony in this regard at a later hearing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 149.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris  
Executive Director and General Counsel

**SB-149**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:27:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

COMMENT I am not sure what is the best answer for this bill. I do believe that it's a definite path to reflect upon and think about what works best for our islands.

**SB-149**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:49:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jun Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is an idea worth considering. I support it. 60 days is not enough to do the business of the people and consider the 1,000's of different ideas presented every sessions. There are also issues affecting Hawai'i year round, so having a legislature that is full-time would be important to addressing those issues instead of having to sporadically put in resources to do special sessions as needed. Also, legislators should have enough pay in a full time legislature so working class people can actually consider the possibility of becoming elected officials while supporting their families and paying the bills.

Mahalo,

Jun Shin

808-255-6663

**SB-149**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:56:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is one major component missing in this bill. If the legislature is going to meet year round, there is no reason for it to be exempt from the Sunshine Law. Among the major provisions of the Sunshine Law is agendas posted six days in advance, no private discussions among legislators on how to vote on bills (in committee and on the floor). This is what is needed to restore faith in our elected officials after the recent scandals and convictions of English and Cullen.

**SB-149**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 4:14:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

All you people ever do is Make more possions for your pay Flukies and steal Money form the People of Hawaii the Tax payers!!! You all need to be Fire!!!