



Feb. 7, 2023

Lynn DeCoite  
Jarrett Keohokalole  
Senate Energy, Economic Development and Tourism  
Senate Consumer Protection committees  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill 1602

Chairs DeCoite and Keohokalole and Committee Members:

We believe SB 1602 not only is inappropriate, but unconstitutional as well.

The measure would require media to report financial disclosure statements to the attorney general. There are no limits in the definition so would this apply to the Los Angeles Times, CBS and/or radio chains as well as union newsletters?

Not only is the term media ill-defined, the measure improperly uses the law that paved the way for just two newspapers (The Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu Star-Bulletin) to merge non-editorial functions in 1962. The public purpose of saving a failing paper was the intention behind the law. (In fact, 480B was declared to be preempted by the 1965 federal Newspaper Preservation Act)

There is no public purpose (and the joint agreement between the two papers no longer is in effect) behind requiring financial data from private media companies. Since there is no valid purpose, the bill cannot be used to override the First Amendment rights of media companies.

This measure is defective from start to finish.

Thank you for your attention,

Stirling Morita  
President  
Hawaii Chapter SPJ

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:21:23 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:50:17 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:18:46 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill SB 1602.

Mahalo nui, Rosie

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:49:41 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorna Dudoit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support SB 1602

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:01:50 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Manahel Al-hozail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support full financial disclosure by all media outlets and transparency.

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:20:13 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kaholoaa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support SB1602

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:14:18 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Smith Mundt act allows propaganda to be spread already, we need some type of transparency. Hawaii News Now does not cover any news that relates to certain bills being passed. The Mayor used to run HNN and now hes in that position. Theres a lot of influence and the people need transparency. Keep the peoples trust.



**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:03:22 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shandalyn Sproat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support SB1602

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:11:33 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tashady Kaholoaa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:53:39 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Kaholoaa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1602

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:29:30 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jaerick medeiros-garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1602, the media is horrible to much lies and propaganda.

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:47:56 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Luis Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:51:54 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jr Tupai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo Madam Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1602.

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:39:03 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james pirtle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Media needs to disclose who is financing their production.

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:40:52 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keikilani Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Media has a huge influence on our communities, and every dollar amount that goes in and out should be transparent for the people to see. They play a huge part in our elections, and they also are biased in what they choose to report. Because they play such a huge role in our day to day lives, they should be held accountable to the same standard of the government. Especially when the government uses their services to feed the public important information.



**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 2:27:36 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiffany Edwards Hunt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill on its surface seems super sketchy. I'm not sure where Lynn Decoite is coming from with this legislation. It seems like she might have some kind of beef with a news outlet or something. But I think this is wrong to think of the media and journalists as if they are public officials. They are stewards of public information, but that does not mean that they are public officials like Lynn Decoite and friends. Until we have a paradigm shift in the way that news is delivered, news outlets are private companies and private companies are just that: private. If we completely shifted the model and journalism was ruled by non-profit agencies, well, that might make sense what Lynn Decoite is trying to do. But as it stands, a dangerous precedent could be set with the passage of this bill.

Shame on anyone who thinks this bill is a good idea. And it looks like Glenn Wakai is one of those people who has jumped on Decoite's bandwagon. Or, perhaps he has orchestrated it. He has a conflict of interest on this, as a former journalist who has a new career in politics. It does not look good for Glenn Wakai, majority floor leader, and the energy, economic development and tourism committee chair, to be associated with this bill. It looks to me like Wakai is using Decoite to pursue a vendetta against his former employers. Not cool.

So, folks, let's get down to the real problems of the state of Hawaii and stop trying to make former employers and foes miserable by wielding your legislative swords, okay?!

Are you a friend of government transparency, or do you just want to cripple any and all efforts to keep journalism alive? It looks to me like Decoite and Wakai are teamed up to hurt journalists. Stop it, already. It looks bad.

TO: Members of the Committees on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism  
& Commerce and Consumer Affairs

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2023

SUBJECT: SB 1602 - Media Disclosures - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Keohokalole and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1602, which would require all types of media, including professional journals and in-house publications to submit annual disclosure statements to the Hawaii attorney general. Disclosures are to include donor names but not subscriber names.

What is the purpose behind this? Is this really to benefit the public? It seems this bill is targeted toward a certain nonprofit organization.

**Please vote "no" on SB1602.**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:16:25 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Fulton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Community media is a growing necessity that should not be burdended by this beauracritic scrutiny. And does the AG even have the time for this? Why bury people under paperwork for pettiness that won't even get read to begin with. AG has more important issues.

**LATE**

**SB-1602**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:46:30 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/7/2023 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to support SB1602. The public should have the right to know who is funding the media outlets so people can make informed decisions based on what they hear from them.