

THE CIVIL BEAT
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House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Honorable Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony Opposing S.B. 576 S.D. 3, Relating to Government
Hearing: March 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Black. I am the Executive Director of the Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, a nonprofit organization whose primary mission concerns solutions that promote governmental transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **opposing the confidentiality in S.B. 576 H.D. 3.**

This bill concerns public access to official travel reports of government employees. The stated intent is to “enhance open government, transparency, and accountability by improving public access to this information.” S. Stand. Comm. Rep. No. 941 (2023).

The bill, however, provides that “personally identifiable information of each individual shall be kept private and excluded from the reports.” If a member of the public is interested in knowing whether any government employee has engaged in questionable taxpayer-funded travel, the public should be able to learn that information. Under current law, when the public asks for travel records for a specific person, that information is public. *E.g., Nathan Eagle, Hawaii Governor’s Travel Records Reveal Details of Personal, Political Trips*, Honolulu Civil Beat (Feb. 8, 2014). After this law, agencies may claim that the exact same “personally identifiable information” is “private.”

If the intent of this bill is to facilitate review on the Internet without compromising existing public access rights under the UIPA, that intent must be stated clearly. **In such circumstances, we would respectfully request that – at a minimum – the committee report explain that the bill is not intended to diminish the public’s right to request personally identifiable travel records through the UIPA.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify **opposing** S.B. 576 S.D. 3.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Thursday, March 16, 2023, 9:30 am, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
SB 576, SD3

Relating to Government

TESTIMONY

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

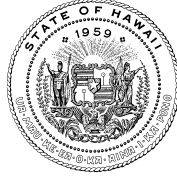
Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters opposes SB 576, SD3.

Public employee travel should not be confidential. Although it might be useful to post all state travel reports on the Comptroller's website, SB 576, SD3 could be interpreted as a sneaky UIPA exemption for public employees who misuse public funds for junkets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

MARCH 16, 2023, 9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S. B. 576, S.D. 3

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 576, S.D. 3.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** this bill requiring reports of out-of-state and intra-state travel by state employees, officers, or other representatives to be made available for public review. DAGS is supportive of a government that is open and transparent and, as such, we support the intent of the measure to make travel reports accessible for public review.

The State of Hawaii's Open Data portal (opendata.hawaii.gov), which provides a convenient tool to enhance open government, transparency, and accountability by improving

access to data, is an appropriate site for the reporting of travel data. The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) provides the platform as an enterprise shared service and can assist with department user access and training. We look forward to working with ETS to develop the appropriate dataset and means for departments to upload travel data to the portal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this matter.



‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI‘I

Legislative Testimony

Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
March 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

By
Kalbert K. Young
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai‘i

SB 576 SD3 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 576 SD3, which requires reports of official out-of-state and intra-state travel by state employees, officers, or other representatives of state departments or agencies, including the Judiciary and University of Hawai‘i, (UH) to be made available for public review on the Comptroller's website.

As currently written, SB 576 SD3 could benefit from additional clarity.

The bill would require reports of intra-state travel for public viewing; however “intra-state” is not defined in the bill nor could a definition of “intra-state” be found in Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. As an island state, it is unclear if intra-state travel would only refer to air travel between islands, or would it also refer to an automobile mileage reimbursement or other ferry services between islands.

Additionally, the bill specifically states that “any state department or agency, including the Judiciary and the University of Hawaii...” but does not explicitly mention the legislature. Since the bill promotes transparency, all state employees should be included.

The UH is supportive of transparency and accountability, however there is concern in making travel reports available for public viewing and the potential for an employee’s personal information being exposed without proper redaction. Currently, travel reports may include such information as an employee’s home address, personal phone number or mileage program account number.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 576 SD3.