

JAN 30 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that public testimony
2 submitted to the legislature and to state and county boards,
3 including commissions and councils, is a vital component of
4 governance and informed decision-making, allowing individuals to
5 share their perspectives and inform public policy.

6 The legislature further finds that advances in artificial
7 intelligence and automated technologies have significantly
8 increased the ability to generate large volumes of written and
9 oral content quickly and at low cost. Reports that
10 seventy-eight per cent of businesses and as many as three
11 hundred seventy-eight million people used artificial
12 intelligence tools in 2025 demonstrate the widespread usage of
13 these technologies.

14 The legislature determines that existing testimony
15 procedures implemented by the legislature and state and county
16 boards do not always require sufficient information to confirm
17 that written testimony is from actual individuals. Reasonable



1 verification measures, along with strong privacy protections,
2 are needed to maintain public trust.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to maintain
4 meaningful public participation in public meetings and hearings
5 by requiring the legislature and state and county boards to
6 collect certain identifying information from individuals
7 submitting written public testimony to ensure that the testimony
8 is from actual individuals, while protecting the privacy of
9 those who submit testimony.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
11 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 **"§92- Written testimony; requirements; protection of**
14 **personal information.** (a) No board shall consider written
15 testimony submitted by an individual member of the public unless
16 the written testimony includes or is accompanied by:

17 (1) The testifier's full legal name;

18 (2) The testifier's residential address; and

19 (3) Any other information deemed necessary by the board
20 for the purposes described in subsection (b).



1 (b) The board shall use personal information of a
2 testifier obtained pursuant to subsection (a) solely to verify
3 the authenticity of the testimony and communicate with the
4 testifier, as needed.

5 (c) Unless authorized by the testifier, no board shall
6 disclose any personal information obtained pursuant to
7 subsection (a), except the name of the testifier.

8 (d) For the purposes of this section, "personal
9 information" has the same meaning as defined in section 487D-1;
10 provided that "personal information" does not include publicly
11 available information that is lawfully made available to the
12 general public from federal, state, or local government
13 records."

14 SECTION 3. Each house of the legislature shall adopt or
15 amend its rules to apply the provisions of section 92- to
16 written public testimony submitted on measures subject to a
17 public hearing by its standing committees, including governor's
18 messages and judicial communications pertaining to appointment
19 of nominees subject to the advice and consent of the senate.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 3329

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. H.', written over a horizontal line.

S.B. NO. 3329

Report Title:

State and Counties; Boards and Commissions; Legislature; Written Testimony; Authentication; Personal Information; Protection

Description:

Prohibits state and county boards from considering written testimony submitted by an individual member of the public unless the written testimony includes certain information necessary for the board to verify the authenticity of the testimony and communicate with the testifier. Prohibits boards from disclosing any personal information obtained through written public testimony, except the name of the testifier, unless authorized by the testifier. Requires each house of the Legislature to adopt or amend rules to apply the written public testimony verification process to certain hearings conducted by its standing committees. Effective 1/1/2028.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

