



# HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'opono Kulekele o Hawai'i Moku'āina*

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Bill Number: HB 2106  
Hearing Date/Time: February 19, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
Re: Testimony in Support **with Proposed Amendments**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2106, which strengthens public trust in government by expanding public financial disclosure requirements to members of boards and commissions that exercise substantial financial authority, as well as to certain executive directors and executive officers whose roles involve significant responsibility over the expenditure, investment, or management of public funds.

Public financial disclosure is a cornerstone of transparent and accountable government. Existing law appropriately requires disclosure for officials who exercise significant regulatory authority, fiduciary responsibility, or oversight of substantial public resources. This measure builds on this framework by ensuring that similarly situated decision-makers -- particularly those serving on boards and commissions with substantial financial authority or in senior executive roles -- are subject to consistent disclosure requirements.

By expanding the scope of individuals covered by disclosure laws (including the undersigned), this measure promotes uniform ethical standards, enhances public confidence in governmental decision-making, and helps safeguard against real or perceived conflicts of interest.

As with any measure, improvements can be made. After receiving stakeholder input, the Commission recommends the following amendments to improve clarity.

## **Page 4, Lines 5 - 6**

- (c) The following persons, regardless of the titles by which the foregoing persons are designated, shall file annually with the state ethics commission a disclosure of financial interests:

**Page 4, Lines 12 - 17**

- (2) The directors and their deputies, the division chiefs, the executive directors, and the executive officers and their deputies, the purchasing agents, and the fiscal officers, ~~regardless of the titles by which the foregoing persons are designated,~~ of every state agency and department;

**Page 5, Lines 10 - 15**

- (7) The superintendent, deputy superintendent, assistant superintendents, and complex area superintendents of the department of education, and the state librarian and deputy state librarian ~~and the special assistant to the state librarian~~ of the public library system.

**Page 8, Lines 1 - 3**

- (8) The executive directors or executive officers, if applicable, and board or commission members of the following ~~state boards, commissions, and agencies:~~

With the following amendments, the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB 2246.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris

Executive Director and General Counsel



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe  
Thursday, February 19, 2026, 2:00 pm  
Room 016  
HB2106 – RELATING TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

TESTIMONY

Judith Mills Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB2106**

The League of Women Voters believes in holding government to high ethical standards. In recent times, public confidence in the integrity of Hawaii government has been shaken. Expansion of financial disclosure, as is addressed in this bill, is key to transparency and confidence in government.

HB2106 strengthens public trust by expanding the public financial disclosure requirements to members of boards and commissions that exercise substantial financial authority and to certain executive directors and officers whose roles involve significant responsibility over expenditure, investment or management to public funds. For these reasons, we support HB2106.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony with Comments on H.B. 2106, Relating to Financial Disclosures**  
Hearing: February 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes open government in Hawai`i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony with comments **supporting the intent** of H.B. 2106 and **recommending a clarifying amendment**.

As written, the inclusion of “commissions, and agencies” at page 8, line 3 may cause confusion about the subject of the disclosure requirement – the Agribusiness Development Corporation, for example, is an agency. We thus recommend removing that language.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify with comments on H.B. 2106.



**HB-2106**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 9:47:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2106 HB RELATING TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

**HB-2106**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:18:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hope you will support this good government proposal.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

**HB-2106**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:33:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

RE: HB2106, Relating to Financial Disclosures.

I support this bill because it increases accountability and transparency for State retirement systems, health benefits trust fund, the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority, the Hawaii Technical Development Corporation and the School Facilities Authority. The public trust in these agencies must be assured; office holders must be held to a high standard in regard to fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities to the public interests they serve.

**HB-2106**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:33:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I support HB2106. I want the expansion of the scope of persons who are subject to public financial disclosure requirements.

Thank you.

Mary Lu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

**HB-2106**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:01:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2106.

Public trust is not something government gets to assume. It has to be earned, and it has to be maintained. One of the most basic ways to do that is to make sure the people making big decisions with public money are required to show their hand when it comes to their own financial interests.

Right now, some of the most powerful boards in Hawaii, the ones controlling housing, land, energy, water, and public funds, have members and top executives who are not required to file public financial disclosure statements. That is like asking someone to referee a game without checking if they have a bet on the outcome.

HB 2106 closes that gap. It expands disclosure requirements to cover board members and executive directors at agencies like the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, the Public Utilities Commission, the Commission on Water Resource Management, and others that make decisions with enormous consequences for everyday people in Hawaii.

This is not about distrust of any individual. It is about building systems that make conflicts of interest visible before they become scandals. Transparency is not a burden for people who have nothing to hide. It is a protection for all of us.

I urge the committee to pass HB 2106.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 18, 2026

RE: House Bill 2106  
Measure Title: RELATING TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.  
Report Title: State Ethics Commission Package; Financial Disclosures;  
Requirements

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 2106. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

**HB-2106**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 11:40:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am **in strong support of HB2106**, which was introduced at the request of the State Ethics Commission to strengthen public trust in government.

Boards and Commissions are the largest source of unelected power in our State government, but several of those that manage large sums of public funds, exercise significant financial discretion, or make decisions with substantial economic impact are not currently included in the current statute's public disclosure requirements.

Seats on our State Boards and Commissions are already disproportionately held by wealthy residents (as it is easiest for them to accept a non-paying job), and the public deserves transparency regarding their finances.

Please **pass HB2106** to address the gap in our public disclosure statutes.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina