



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: House Committee on Legislative Management
Bill Number: HB 2110
Hearing Date/Time: February 18, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Regarding: Testimony in Support of HB 2110

Aloha Chair Holt, Vice-Chair Quinlan, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2110, which strengthens public trust in government by establishing a uniform nepotism standard across all branches of state government while preserving limited, transparent flexibility for rare and justifiable circumstances.

This measure promotes fairness and consistency by applying nepotism restrictions to the Legislature and Judiciary—entities already subject to the State Ethics Code. A consistent statewide standard helps ensure that employment decisions are based on merit rather than personal relationships and reinforces public confidence in government processes.

The bill also appropriately includes a narrowly tailored good-cause exception for situations involving a demonstrated lack of qualified applicants. This provision allows agencies to meet legitimate operational needs without undermining the underlying ethical safeguards, while ensuring that any exception is publicly accountable.

The Commission believes HB 2110 strikes an appropriate balance between ethical protections and practical governance and respectfully supports its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of this measure.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris
Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel

HB-2110

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:33:30 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passage of HB 2110 this legislative session. This bill aligns the legislative and judicial employees to the same ethical standards prohibiting nepotism that are applicable to other state employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2110.

HB-2110

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 11:04:12 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support of this measure. All state employees, including legislative and judicial employees, should be subject to the same ethical standards prohibiting nepotism that are applicable to other state employees. This also helps restore the public's trust in government..

lynne matusow

HB-2110

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:19:11 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What is right for one group should be right nfor all.

LATE

HB-2110

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:54:23 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2110.

Gregory Misakian