



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2914, RELATING TO LAWMAKER SAFETY.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 **TIME:** 9:05 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Jung Min (Charles) Lee, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

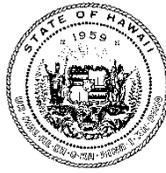
The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to protect the safety and privacy of members of the Legislature by making their residence addresses confidential in certain election-related records, including voter registration records maintained by county clerks, searchable databases maintained by the Campaign Spending Commission, and nomination papers made available for public inspection.

As drafted, the bill's coverage and implementation trigger do not appear to align. On the one hand, the bill provides that confidentiality applies to "any member of the legislature, whether elected or appointed" at page 3, line 10. On the other hand, the bill directs county clerks to implement confidentiality measures "no later than three days after a person is declared duly and legally elected pursuant to chapter 12," at page 3, line 18. Because an appointed legislator is not "declared . . . elected," this timing and trigger wording may not clearly require prompt protection for appointees, and may lead to inconsistent implementation across jurisdictions. The same "declared . . . elected" trigger also appears in the provision addressing the Campaign Spending Commission's searchable database at page 4, line 19, which may similarly create ambiguity regarding appointed legislators. To ensure the bill functions as intended, the Committee may wish to amend the trigger wording to cover both pathways to office (e.g., upon certification of election or appointment and qualification, or upon taking office).

In addition, the bill appears to contain an internal cross-reference issue that could create uncertainty in operation. Section 7 at page 11, lines 2-3, references amendments to section 12-3 "by section 4 of this Act", but section 4 amends section 11-331, and section 5 amends section 12-3. Clarifying this cross-reference would reduce ambiguity and help ensure the intended savings wording operates correctly.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 13, 2026

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director
Campaign Spending Commission **KI**

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2914, Relating to Lawmaker Safety.**
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9:05 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) has strong concerns with the administration of this bill.

Hawaii campaign finance laws exist to provide transparency to the public relating to candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees. To ensure transparency, Hawaii campaign finance laws require full disclosure of names and addresses of candidates, candidate committees, and contributors. This bill, however, would require the Commission to redact information that is otherwise required by campaign finance law.

The Commission notes the bill is silent on whether it must continue to redact the residential addresses of former elected officials who have not terminated their registration with the Commission. In addition, the Commission notes that this bill does not appear to apply to officials appointed by the Governor to fill a vacant seat. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission needs additional time to discuss the impacts of this bill with the vendor responsible for modernizing the Commission’s electronic filing system and therefore requests a delayed effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



February 17, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **SB2914**, Relating to Lawmaker Safety

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Llasmin Chaîne, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB2914**, Relating to Lawmaker Safety

Hearing: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 9:05 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is committed to advancing gender equity, safety, and the wellbeing of women and girls across the state. The Commission **supports SB2914**, which prohibits the public disclosure of legislators' personal contact information in voter registration affidavits, nomination papers, and campaign committee databases, given the implications for privacy, health, and safety.

Protecting the personal information of public officials is **an important measure to prevent harassment, threats, and other safety risks**, concerns that disproportionately affect women and marginalized groups in public life. Best practices in privacy protection recognize the need to balance individual security with the public's right to information about their elected representatives. **Ensuring the safety of legislators can also encourage more women and underrepresented individuals to seek and remain in office, aligning with the Commission's goal of fostering diverse leadership.**

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass SB2914**.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE



Feb. 18, 2026

Sen. Karl Rhoads
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI

Re: Senate Bill 2914

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Over the years, particularly after reapportionment, the news media have reported about complaints about candidates for the state Legislature not living in the district they want to or actually do represent.

This measure would make that task more difficult by automatically removing legislators' addresses from documents without them having to show life-threatening circumstances.

Even with the bill's provision:

“(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the disclosure of a residence address when required for purposes of nomination papers, nomination paper challenges, election contests, or the determination of the qualifications of members of the legislature pursuant to article III, section 12, of the Hawaii State Constitution.”

It would appear to create another obstacle to the reporting of candidates or legislators not living in their districts. Will these nomination papers be readily available to the voting public and news media?

Legislators' home addresses for election purposes should be readily available for the public or voters to help determine whether the lawmakers live in the district they represent.

For that reason, we have grave reservations about this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Stirling Morita
President
Hawaii Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists

SB-2914

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:54:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/18/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree a lawmakers safety is very important. The public need not know where a lawmaker lives. Thgis extends to other law enforcement agencies, such as I.C.E, Border Control, F.B.I agencet ets. Nobody should DOX people who are serving the public. If you are going to protect legislators, you must also protect other law enforcement agents as well as the general public. Nobody gets to know where, say, a gun owner lives or a opponent to bullshit-legislation lives. See how this works? LEGISLATORS, YOU ARE NOT A PROCTECTED CLASS.

LATE

SB-2914

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:30:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/18/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Franzone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regardless of political party, this bill is about respect, safety, and ensuring that a lawmaker's service doesn't put them or their family at undue personal risk.

LATE

SB-2914

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:47:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/18/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please hold this bill as it creates a two-tiered system for those running for public office.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Former Candidate