

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: House Committee on Labor

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: March 17, 2026, 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 2929, S.D. 1  
Relating to Public Notice

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would create a pilot program for county government public notices to be done by electronic posting on government websites as an alternative to newspaper publication in a county with a population between 100,000 and 175,000. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on this bill, but offers comments.

OIP itself does not oversee notice requirements other than as set out in the Sunshine Law, part 1 of chapter 92, HRS, and does not oversee the notice requirement being amended here, so OIP is commenting only to provide information. This bill would not affect meeting notices under the Sunshine Law.

The electronic notice provided for in this bill is similar to the electronic notice used for Sunshine Law meetings, and would thus make other types of county government notice more similar to Sunshine Law notice. The bill would set a notice deadline of six calendar days before the relevant action, meeting, or effective date, which matches the Sunshine Law's notice deadline. Notice under this bill would be posted either on a county calendar (like Sunshine Law notices) or, as an additional option, on a county website. The Sunshine Law does not require posting notice on a

board's website, but many boards do so in addition to the required posting on the State or county electronic calendar. Thus, the electronic notice authorized by this bill would be in places members of the public are already accustomed to checking for Sunshine Law notices. OIP notes also that option to post on a county website would be more appropriate than a calendar for posting notice of a proposed action or effective date, as opposed to a public hearing or meeting scheduled for a specific date and time.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ADMINISTRATOR  
  
DAYNA OMIYA  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

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TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR  
MARCH 17, 2026, 9:30 AM

SENATE BILL 2929, SD1  
RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2929, SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates that Senate Draft 1 of this bill clarifies the electronic posting pilot program is limited to participating counties. The SPO respectfully offers recommendations.

The SPO recommends establishment of a pilot program with a clear sunset date to assess feasibility, effectiveness, and fiscal impact prior to full implementation. A sunset provision will ensure legislative oversight, allowing the Legislature to review and evaluate the program before making it permanent. Furthermore, the SPO recommends retaining the existing framework for traditional publication, including language specifying that the Comptroller shall determine the publication that will serve as the single source for public notices on each island.

Thus, the SPO recommends the following language be inserted into SECTION 2, Page 2, after lines 8, under (2):

"(A) For purposes of this section, when an agency chooses to post public notices in a newspaper or other publication described in SECTION 2 (b), the comptroller pursuant to chapter 103D shall determine a publication for all government agencies to go to one source of publication for published public notice on each island.

(B) Whenever a public notice is published in a newspaper or other publication, proof of publication shall be the affidavit of the printer, publisher, principal clerk, or business manager of the newspaper or other publication of the designated agent of the group that published the notice."

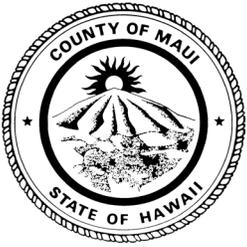
The SPO also recommends the following language be inserted in SECTION 2, after (e), currently on Page 2:

(f) This section shall not apply to notices required by chapters 103D, 103F, 127A, and 523A; provided that government agencies subject to those chapters may, in addition to any notice required under those chapters, provide supplemental notice by electronic posting pursuant to subsection (a).

The SPO further recommends adding clarifying language to Section 4, page 3, after line 5.

"The pilot program shall have a sunset date two years after the Act takes effect."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



**LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION**  
**COUNTY OF MAUI**

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COMMISSIONERS:  
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Tambara M. Garrick  
Sylvia Ho  
Edwin T. Misaki  
Richard B. Woodford

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Glenn Wakai  
Hawaii State Senator  
Senate District 15

The Honorable Stanley Chang  
Hawaii State Senator  
Senate District 9

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

RE: Written Testimony in support of Hawaii Senate Bill 2929, relating to Public Notice

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on S.B. No. 2929.

My name is Sne Patel, and I am currently the Chair of the Liquor Control Commission for Maui County. I have served on the Commission for the past five years, including this past year as Chair. During that time, I have seen firsthand how lengthy and cumbersome the process can be when updating administrative rules and implementing regulatory improvements.

Over the past year, the Commission and the Department of Liquor Control collaborated to approve four rule changes. Many of these updates were delayed for months because of the requirement to publish rulemaking notices in the newspaper. If we missed a publication deadline, we often had to wait for the next publication cycle before proceeding, which could delay the process by weeks or even months. These types of delays make it much harder for boards and commissions to modernize outdated rules and respond promptly to stakeholder concerns.

Allowing public notices to be posted on official state or county websites is a practical and overdue modernization that reflects how most people access information today. The bill allows statewide notices to be posted on an electronic calendar or website maintained by the State, and county notices to be posted on an electronic calendar or website maintained by the county, while still preserving newspaper publication as an option.

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I would respectfully offer a few practical suggestions for consideration. First, it may be helpful to clarify that posting on an official government website satisfies the legal notice requirement. Second, agencies should be

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee

March 12, 2026

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able to provide additional notice through other electronic communication methods such as email lists or similar digital outreach, making it easier for the public to stay informed. Finally, I strongly encourage the Legislature to consider ensuring that this modernization also applies to rulemaking notices under Chapter 91, so boards and commissions can fully benefit from the efficiencies this bill is intended to create.

Based on my experience serving on the Commission, these improvements could help reduce administrative delays, cut costs, and enable boards and commissions to function more effectively, all while ensuring transparency and public access.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

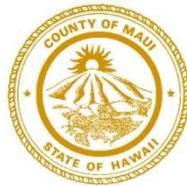
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Snehal Patel', written in a cursive style.

Snehal Patel  
Chair, Liquor Control Commission

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
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TO: Representative Jackson Sayama, Chair  
Representative Mike Lee, Vice Chair  
Committee on Labor

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
Layne Silva, Department of Liquor Control

DATE: March 16, 2026

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB2929 SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure.

Establishes the Electronic Posting Pilot Project for any county with a population between one hundred thousand and 175,000, to be administered by the county clerk of each participating county. Allows county agencies to satisfy county-wide public notice requirements by posting notices on official county websites, while retaining publication as an option. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 1/1/2525. (SD1)

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Mandatory newspaper publication can delay government action. Publication schedules, limited print days, and submission deadlines constrain agencies' ability to act quickly when timely notice is critical.
2. Website posting allows for immediate publication, ensuring the public is informed without delay while still preserving transparency.
3. Public notice is intended to ensure transparency, accessibility, and meaningful public awareness of government actions. SB2929 would modernize this process by aligning notice requirements with how many residents access information today.
4. Importantly, this measure does not eliminate newspaper publication. By retaining publication as an option, SB2929 preserves flexibility while giving agencies a practical, efficient, and transparent alternative for meeting public notice requirements.

Mahalo for your consideration.