

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 25, 2026, 10:57 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

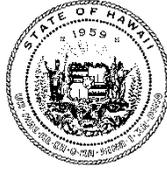
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would create a pilot program for county government public notices to be done by electronic posting on government websites as an alternative to newspaper publication in a county with a population between 100,000 and 175,000. The Office 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 SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
FEBRUARY 25, 2026, 10:57 AM

SENATE BILL 2929, SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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, to provide continued framework for traditional publication options, the SPO recommends re-inserting the language from the original version of Senate Bill 2929 in SECTION 2, Page 3, Lines 3-21; and Page 4, Lines 1-4:

"(b) For purposes of this section, the comptroller pursuant to chapter 103D shall determine a publication for all government agencies to enable the public to go to one source of publication for published public notice on each island.

(c) Whenever a public notice is published in a newspaper or other publication described in subsection (a), proof of the publication shall be the affidavit of the

printer, publisher, principal clerk, or business manager of the newspaper or other publication or of the designated agent of the group that published the notice.

(d) This section shall not apply to notices required by chapters 103D, 103F, 127A, and 523A.

(e) For purposes of publishing a proposed, revised, or final reapportionment plan pursuant to section 25-2, public notice shall be permitted in a short form; provided that each short form public notice shall include the following information:

- (1) Whether the reapportionment plan has been either proposed, revised, or adopted;
- (2) The online location to view the reapportionment plan;
- (3) A list of the location of each public office where the hard copies of the reapportionment plan and maps are available; and
- (4) The public hearing dates.

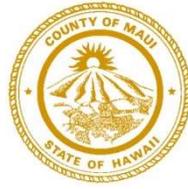
The SPO further recommends adding language to Section 4, page 3, after line 5.

"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.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



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TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

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

DATE: February 23, 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.

SB-2929-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:12:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:57:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2929 SB RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE.

PROVIDED ALL RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER