

**From:** [lynnehi@aol.com](mailto:lynnehi@aol.com)  
**To:** [Standards of Conduct](#)  
**Subject:** testimony for july 27, 2022 meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:04:56 AM

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## **TESTIMONY CONCERNING HAWAII'S OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN RECORDS LAWS, JULY 27, 2022, COMMISSION TO IMPROVE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT MEETING**

I find it inconceivable that the legislature has exempted itself from the Sunshine Law. There has been some improvement because of COVID, as persons can now testify remotely. But much needs to be done. We are still in the dark ages.

Among the improvements I envision and urge the commission to consider are:

There must be significant public input, at all stages of a bill being considered and voted on. This includes, but is not limited to:

Extending the legislative session, perhaps by making it full time and commensurately increasing salaries.

Prohibiting members from outside employment, as they have done for the governor, lieutenant governor, and county mayors.

Subjecting the legislature to all provisions of the Sunshine Law.

Requiring 6 days notice, for hearings.

Only two members may discuss a bill in private. No sequential meetings.

Decide bills in public. Conference committees must include public input. No decision making behind closed doors. No changing names of conference committee members at the last minute. No substitutions one members are announced.

All discussions over bills is to be done in public. No more recessing a meeting to discuss proposals in private.

No more introduction of bills by request. The bills must show who requested it. The bills should also show, in typed form, who introduced the bill. No more illegible signatures.

No more unilateral decisions by committee chairs as to whether to hold a hearing on bills. The committee members should make that decision in public. As it is known which bills have been referred to which committee, that should be simple. Just hold a meeting to decide which bills to hear.

No advance commitment from members on how they will vote.

Members should maintain a public calendar listing all their phone, electronic, and face to face

interactions with the public, including lobbyists, including subjects discussed.

Minutes of committee meetings, including how each member voted, to be available at least three days after the meeting but no later than 24 hours before the bill is heard on the floor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lynne Matusow  
60 N. Beretania St., #1804  
Honolulu, HI 6817  
808 531-4260