



HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 • HONOLULU, HI 96813-5095 • PHONE: (808) 586-8636 • FAX: (808) 586-8655 • TDD: (808) 586-8692

February 15, 2008
Rm. 302, 2:00 p.m.

To: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Sara Banks, Acting Chair, and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 2216

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that "no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights because of race, religion, sex or ancestry". Art. I, Sec. 5.

H.B. No. 2216 amends H.R.S. §92-2.5(a) to allow two or more board members, but not a quorum, to discuss board matters, as long as no commitment to vote is made or sought. This amendment conforms subsection (a) with the language used in subsections (b), (c), and (e) of §92-2.5. The proposed change will not directly affect the HCRC, which has five commissioners, with three constituting a quorum.

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 2216, while recognizing the important policy value behind the open meeting and public decision-making requirements of the Sunshine Law.

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COUNTY COUNCIL
BILL "KAIPO" ASING, CHAIR
MEL RAPOZO, VICE CHAIR
TIM BYNUM
JAY FURFARO
SHAYLENE ISERI-CARVALHO
RONALD D. KOUCHI
JOANN A. YUKIMURA



4396 RICE STREET, ROOM 206
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1371
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
Council Services Division
Elections Division
Records Division
PETER A. NAKAMURA, County Clerk
ERNESTO G. PASION, Deputy County Clerk
Telephone: (808) 241-6371
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349

February 14, 2008

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State House of Representatives, 24th State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Chair Waters & Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL NO. 2216; RELATING TO PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS

I submit this testimony as an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to offer Councilmembers and other public officials additional flexibility to conduct public business in a more timely and efficient manner without violating the Sunshine Law.

I am aware that Maui Council Chair G. Riki Hokama has submitted testimony in support of House Bill No. 2216, which is also part of the 2008 Maui County Legislative Package. As an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council, I concur with the testimony submitted by Maui Council Chair Hokama, and urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Mel Rapozo
Kaua'i County Council Vice Chair

JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

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I submit this testimony as an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support of this critical measure. The purpose of this bill is to offer Councilmembers and other public officials with more flexibility to conduct public business in a more efficient manner without violating the Sunshine Law.

I am aware that Maui Council Chair G. Riki Hokama has also submitted testimony in support of House Bill No. 2216, which is part of the 2008 Maui County Legislative Package. As an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council, I concur with the testimony submitted by Maui Council Chair Hokama, and urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho
Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho
Kaua'i County Councilmember

JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

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Council Chair
G. Riki Hokama

Vice-Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Council Members
Michelle Anderson
Gladys C. Baisa
Jo Anne Johnson
Bill Kauakea Medeiros
Michael J. Molina
Joseph Pontanilla
Michael P. Victorino

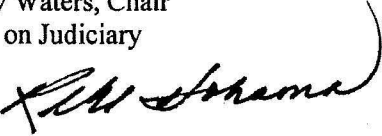


Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.maui-county.gov/council

February 13, 2008

TO: Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: G. Riki Hokama 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2216,
RELATING TO PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to give council members and other public officials more flexibility to conduct public business in an efficient manner without violating the Sunshine Law.

This measure is in the Maui County's Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Maui County Council.

The County Council supports this measure for the following reasons:

1. Allowing more than two members, but still less than a quorum, to discuss official board business will give council members more flexibility when trying to efficiently carry out council business through such activities as investigation, coordination, information gathering, and dissemination of council-related information.
2. The proposed amendment does nothing to change the intent and spirit of the Sunshine Law.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council supports this measure.

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Vice-Chair
Danny A. Mateo

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February 14, 2008

TO: Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Joseph Pontanilla, Treasurer
Hawaii State Association of Counties

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Pontanilla", written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2216,
RELATING TO PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to give council members and other public officials more flexibility to conduct public business in an efficient manner without violating the Sunshine Law.

I am aware that Council Chair, G. Riki Hokama, Maui County Council, has submitted testimony in support of this measure, which is in the 2008 Maui County Legislative Package. As the Treasurer of the Hawaii State Association of Counties, and a member of the Maui County Council, I concur with the testimony submitted by Chair Hokama, and urge you to support this measure.

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