



March 28, 2008

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
The Twenty-Fourth Legislative Regular Session  
Representative Tommy Waters and Committee Members

Aloha Representative Waters,

Testimony in support of SB2295 SD1.

I have attended many testimony sessions on various bills regarding changes to the "Sunshine Law" to allow Neighborhood Boards to better support their communities. The Neighborhood Board System and I hope the great majority of the elected members totally support and live by the provisions of the Sunshine Law and the Neighborhood Plan which duplicates many of the transparency, agenda and quorum portions in the current Sunshine Law. Most of the opposition to these bills offering changes seem to embrace the position that Neighborhood Boards might become secretive and make closed door smoke filled rooms decisions. That is not why we have asked for these changes.

The Waikiki Neighborhood Board meets in open session for about 36-48 hours a year, by not allowing the WNB to have more than 2 members present at any meeting that addresses an issue that will be on our agenda severely limits our members ability to ask questions vital to the community, as those related to infrastructure, and bring the results of those questions before the entire board to make logical and correct decisions. Further allowing two members to discuss an issue to assure they have the correct information in order to insure the entire Board is properly informed at meeting will allow the Board to better utilize decision time.

Should a contractor propose a 350foot mega million dollar project and correctly hold several public presentations of this project we the people who have 10 minutes to support or oppose it are not allowed to attend and ask questions. This is certainly not the intent of the law or of the Neighborhood Plan.

Your and the support of any committee members considering this change to the law will go far to support the ability of the Neighborhood Board System to support the communities it is designed to represent.

Sincerely,

Robert J Finley  
Chair

