



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF HAWAII**

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Testimony on S.B. 2614 Relating to Legislative Proceedings on the Internet

Ways and Means Committee
Thursday, January 31, 2008
9 a.m. Room 211

Testifier: JoAnn Maruoka, Legislative Team member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members,

The League of Women Voters strongly supports S.B. 2614 to fund this much-needed and important means to increase public access at a low cost to the State. The streaming media or webcasting process will allow members of the public across the state to view and listen to hearings at times that are convenient to them, whether from home or wherever computers are available. Access to archived and indexed video and audio streams will help better inform our citizens, and will certainly also leverage the time and effort of those who wish to testify.

Our citizens can learn a great deal about our legislative process and the issues currently being addressed from viewing or listening to the hearings. It allows us, the public, to gather information and gain the perspectives of those who address issues. We're able to listen to the testimonies of experts as well as the viewpoints of ordinary citizens and representatives of different industries and other interest groups. It's an effective way to protect the citizen's right to know and to facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

The number of states that provide live broadcasts of their proceedings over the Internet and television continues to grow. As of January 2008, live proceedings were available on the Internet from 45 states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Many legislatures also are offering webcasts of committee hearings. About half the states also archive floor or committee proceedings (for varying periods of time). At least 28 states and D.C. broadcast some legislative proceedings on television. We believe that clearly, it's time for Hawaii to apply this technology to the very important area of representative government.

We strongly urge passage of SB 2614 to appropriate the necessary funding. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Senate Ways and Means Committee
Keali'i Lopez, President and CEO of 'Ōlelo Community Television
January 31, 2008**

Chair Baker, Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Aloha. I'm Keali'i Lopez, President and CEO of 'Ōlelo Community Television and I am here to testify in support of S.B. 2614. Last year we supported a similar measure, S.B. 1084. For over a decade, 'Ōlelo Community Television has provided, without charge, the equipment to simultaneously cablecast two meetings of the State Legislature live on the cable channels that we manage. With the addition of a sixth cable channel a year ago, we have also been able to provide additional repeat broadcasts so that those who are not able to watch the live cablecasts can see the programs at times convenient for them.

Several years ago, we began streaming the sessions on the Internet. Streaming allowed those without cable access the opportunity to follow those proceedings when they were cablecast. The added benefit of streaming is that it allows Hawaii residents, including those on the neighbor islands to be informed as legislation evolves. The limitation of both cablecasting and live streaming is that that video is only available at the time it is shown on our channels.

Archiving and indexing would take access to legislative proceedings to a new level. Archiving will allow people to view the programs over the Internet at times of their choosing and convenience, like Video-on-Demand via the internet. Indexing will segment archived programs so that viewers can watch all of the program or just portions of interest to them. This is particularly valuable for lengthy sessions with many agenda items, similar to advancing to the next song on a CD. 'Ōlelo is willing to assist with piloting this service this legislative session and we are working with different legislative staff to explore a pilot project. This concludes my testimony. I am available to answer any questions you might have.