



P.O. Box 22703 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96823 • (808) 286-2285 • info@commoncausehawaii.org

**House JUD Committee
Tuesday 2/24/09 at 2:05PM in Room 325
House Bill 999**

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, spokesperson, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in **support of HB999** relating to meetings of public agencies.

This bill requires state boards to post meeting notices on the state's central website, and provides for citizens to receive meeting notices via their requested method of notification.

This bill represents a good step toward more accessible public meetings and a more technologically-savvy government. Citizens have become so accustomed to online convenience in all areas of life, so it is critical for government to keep up with the twenty-first century and improve its online accessibility.

We have two suggested amendments for consideration:

- First, for the sake of record retention, the bill should specify that the notice should remain archived on a website for a certain period of time.
- Second, if the central website should go down due to technical problems, an online posting should notify citizens of alternative ways to find meeting notices (ideally, an alternative website) until the central website is back up.

Mahalo for your consideration.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HB 999 RELATING TO MEETINGS OF PUBLIC AGENCIES

Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 325

Testifier: Jean Aoki

Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 999 Relating to meetings of public agencies with one amendment.

Chapter 92 – 8 , (b) (4) provides for persons requesting notification on a regular basis to be contacted by telephone or their requested method of notification as soon as practicable. We would suggest that the same be provided under Section 92-7 as (d). It should also require a copy of the agenda if sent by fax or e-mail.

I hope this bill will not limit the department to which the boards are attached from posting notices and minutes, etc. on their own web sites the way some of them do now.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 999.