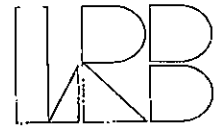


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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
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Written Testimony

SB1105

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS AND PROCEDURES

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Thursday, February 12, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

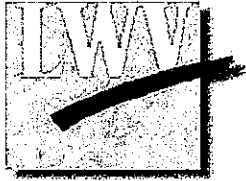
I am Ken Takayama, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on S.B. No. 1105. The Bureau takes **no position** either for or against this measure, but offers the following **comments**.

1. This bill requires that all studies produced by executive agencies, the auditor, and the Bureau to be submitted to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the clerk of each chamber, and the chairs of the appropriate subject matter committees. The bill also requires the chairs of the committees to hold public hearings or informational briefings on the studies. As such, we note that subsection (a) of the first section being added to chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, overlaps to some extent with section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
2. At present, the Bureau's standard practice is to distribute copies of its publications to all legislators, so we do not expect the distribution requirements of this measure to pose a problem. We do, however, recommend some amendments to this measure:
 - a. First, for purposes of completeness, we recommend that this measure also apply to studies and reports prepared by the Judiciary and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
 - b. Second, we recommend that agencies be required to submit their studies and reports to the LRB library in addition to the parties listed above as is presently provided in section 93-16. The Bureau has sought to have its library serve as a repository for agency studies and reports submitted to the

Legislature over the years. While the number of reports submitted to the Bureau's library has increased over the years (176 submitted to date in response to Legislative requests and requirements in 2007), we have reason to believe that this system is less than perfect.

3. Finally, we also recommend that subsection (a) of the first new section added to chapter 21 be cross-referenced and otherwise made consistent with section 93-16. For example, one difference between the two is that section 93-16 also requires agencies to post reports on their websites.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am open to any questions you may have.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON SB 1105 RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS AND PROCEDUREES

Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Thursday, February 12, 2009
9:30 am Conference Room 016

Testifier: JoAnn Maruoka, Legislative Team Member, LWV-HI

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and committee members,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 1105.

Not only does this bill help to keep reports to the legislature of studies and audits conducted by executive departments and agencies from dropping into a black hole, it also requires public hearings or information briefings, important for increasing openness in government. Waivers for such public hearings or briefings are appropriately at the level of the senate president or house speaker, and reasons for so granting are to be posted on the legislature's website and publicly noticed at the capitol.

Making information public plays a key role in government transparency. The requirements for public hearing/briefings and posting of any waiver rationale are supportive of such transparency, and may also help add to public confidence and trust in representative government.

We urge you to pass SB 1105. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:20 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: phahn86@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1105 on 2/12/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/12/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1105

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pearl Hahn
Organization: Individual
Address: 100 Glen Eagle Drive NJ
Phone: 908 6425832
E-mail: phahn86@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

The Grassroot Institute respectfully supports this bill and its intentions. Audits and their conclusions are significant, and their findings and recommendations often slide past the notice of legislators and the public. Financial audits attest to the fairness and accuracy of financial statements. We are aware that audits such as the one of the Department of Education and the Child Support Enforcement Agency found financial records to be inaccurate and in several cases, completely deficient of accounting and internal controls. We find these facts extremely worrisome and encourage hearings to address these problems. During these hearings, we recommend that legislators examine the efficacy of programs and agencies. We would like legislators to question the wisdom of providing an inefficient, lagging agency with more funding, especially when the agency or program's objectives are not being met. To maintain current levels of essential services for the public, we also feel that now is the opportunity to terminate programs that are unnecessary, ineffective, or both.