
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING A POLICY FOR THE BROADCAST OF ALL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
AND TRANSPARENCY IN STATE AFFAIRS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that meaningful
2 participation in a democracy requires that government processes
3 be open to public scrutiny; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes it is the responsibility
6 of government through its executive, legislative, and judicial
7 branches, to ensure that the residents of all islands have fair
8 access to government information, services, and proceedings; and
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10 WHEREAS, despite recent progress in efforts to make it
11 easier for citizens to participate in the legislative process,
12 many people still find it difficult to actively involve
13 themselves; and
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15 WHEREAS, since residents of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai,
16 Kauai, Niihau, and rural Oahu are disadvantaged because of their
17 location away from the seat of government in Honolulu, the State
18 wishes to ensure that the legislative process facilitates the
19 access and uncomplicated participation by all citizens; and
20

21 WHEREAS, while Hawaii's centralized system of state
22 government provides for efficient coordination of government
23 functions and services, especially for a population spread out
24 over separate islands, the system faces challenges relating to
25 accessibility and delivery of government information, services,
26 and proceedings to residents living on the neighbor islands as
27 well as rural Oahu, in part because of the centralized location
28 of the state government in Honolulu's urban core; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a proud history of involving as many
31 people from the public as possible, as is evident from the



1 following brief timeline of key events that helped incorporate
2 more public participation:

- 3
- 4 • April 28-30, 1989: Public dissatisfaction for
5 legislative secrecy surfaces in The Honolulu Advertiser;
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 - 7 • July 1, 1989: Special Legislative Access Committee
8 created by Act 331, Session Laws of Hawaii 1989;
9
 - 10 • 1990 Legislative Session: *Citizens' Guide* published,
11 toll-free 1-800 numbers offered for neighbor islands,
12 legislative testimony accepted by fax, public parking
13 stalls added in Capitol basement, Capitol printshops
14 adopted citizen hours, conference committees ended by
15 midnight, ACCESS computer system and AudioACCESS opened
16 to public, Public Access Room opened in Capitol basement,
17 and public libraries implemented ACCESS availability and
18 offered free fax service for legislative testimony;
19
 - 20 • March 5, 1993: Committee hearing broadcasted on 'Ōlelo
21 for the first time;
22
 - 23 • December 1996: Legislature opened its website;
24
 - 25 • January 21, 1999: Senate started to provide hearing
26 notices by e-mail;
27
 - 28 • 2000 Session: Legislature started to accept e-mail
29 testimony;
30
 - 31 • January 2001: Second full-time, year-round Public Access
32 Room staff position added; and
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 - 34 • 2003 Session: Workshops on neighbor islands organized to
35 help residents become more effective and informed
36 participants in their legislative governance;
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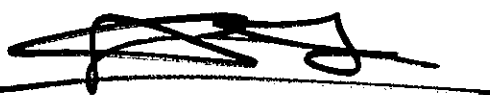

38 now, therefore,



H.R. NO. 243

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2011, that all hearings and floor sessions of the House of
4 Representatives be broadcast through the Internet or public
5 television to increase citizen awareness, participation, and
6 transparency in state affairs beginning with the Regular Session
7 of 2012; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the
11 Senate, the Board of Directors of 'Ōlelo Community Television,
12 and members of the Access Hawaii Committee.
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14
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OFFERED BY: 


Tom Bunn


MAR 16 2011

