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**House JUD Committee**  
**Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads**

**Tuesday 2/22/11 at 2:00 PM in Room 325**  
**HB 1376 – Relating to Evidence / “Shield Law”**

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1376**, which removes the sunset date for Hawaii’s “shield law.”

This bill would make permanent Hawaii’s shield law, which protects journalists from revealing their confidential sources. The shield law is a critical tool for protecting and promoting a robust news media.

A strong democracy depends on information and knowledge, so that citizens and leaders have the information necessary to make decisions and hold government and other institutions accountable. The news media must have the freedom and protections to ensure they can fulfill their role in collecting and disseminating that information, and especially in investigating controversial issues. By protecting sources who reveal critical information, the shield law is essential to making this work possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**LATE TESTIMONY**