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CATHY L. TAKASE
ACTING DIRECTOR

To: House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

From: Cathy L. Takase, Acting Director

Hearing: February 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

Re: Testimony on H.B. 570
Relating to the Commission on Salaries

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 43.

This bill would require the State Salary Commission to conduct a public hearing on Oahu prior to submitting its report to the Legislature.

OIP questions the need for this bill, given that the State Salary Commission is not exempted from the Sunshine Law and thus should already be holding open meetings and accepting public testimony when it convenes. If, however, the intent is to ensure that the proposed report is readily accessible for public review prior to the public meeting at which the Salary Commission adopts it in final form for submission to the legislature, this might be accomplished by simply requiring the commission to list an internet address where the report is accessible in the notice filed pursuant to section 92-7, HRS, six days prior to the public meeting at which the report is expected to be adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HB 450 AND HB 570, BOTH RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON SALARIES

Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Tuesday, February 01, 2011
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Conference Room 309

Testifier: Jean Aoki, LWV Legislative Committee

Chairs Rep. Rhoads and Rep. McKelvey, Vice Chairs Rep. Yamashita and Rep. Choy, members of LAB and ERB,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii would like to comment on both similar bills addressing the Commission on Salaries – HB 450 and HB 570.

We support both bills on their inclusion of public hearings on proposed salary increases for certain members of the executive branch, the legislators and judges and justices. That will address one of the public's concerns as far as the process of determining the justification of such increases is concerned.

HB 570 goes further in specifying that the public hearings shall "be subject to the open meeting and public notice requirements of Chapter 92, and that the commission shall provide public notice, not less than 72 hours prior to the hearing in accordance with section 1 – 28.5 ". We would like to suggest changing the word "may" to "shall" on line 17, on page 2 of HB 570, so that a summary of the comments will be available to all of the legislators.

We feel that this is especially important because the appointing authorities of the commission are only people whose salaries will be set by the commission.

We would like to suggest that hearings be held on all of the counties, but absent that, notification be sent to all of the islands inviting written comments from all.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 450 and HB 570.