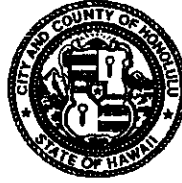


POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE EY-NTK

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 862, Relating to the Ethics Commission

I am Lester Hite, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department supports House Bill No. 862, Relating to the Ethics Commission. This bill requires that the state ethics commission retain public officials' financial records for an additional ten years. White collar investigations are time consuming, and this will allow investigators additional time to obtain the records needed to complete their investigations.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to support House Bill No. 862, Relating to the Ethics Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lester Hite in cursive.

LESTER HITE, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Louis M. Kealoaha in cursive.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



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February 2, 2011

TO: Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii
Barbara Polk, Legislative Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 862 RELATING TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii support this bill requiring the Ethics Commission to retain records in electronic form for ten years.

Previously, it wasn't feasible to keep records for long periods of time, given the space such records would take up—even in electronic form. However, improved data compression and storage systems now make it feasible.

There are several reasons for retaining them: Questions sometimes arise years after an event. Researchers attempting to build a history of prior decision making may need access to such records. Researchers looking at changing patterns over time or considering the need for changes in ethics law may need the evidence contained in past records.

We urge your support for this bill.



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

Friday 2/4/11 at 2:00PM in Room 325
HB 862 – Relating to the Ethics Commission

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 862, which would require the Ethics Commission to retain financial disclosure and gift disclosure records for an additional ten years in electronic form.

In light of the increasing dollar amounts flowing from many interests via campaign funds, lobbying expenses, and gifts, it is important to update our ethics laws to keep up with the times. Some of these interests play influential roles in politics and policymaking in Hawaii for many years and even decades. This bill is necessary to improve records retention for important ethics documents, and fortunately it is easy to implement given the simplicity and low cost of retaining records in electronic form.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.