

TO: Committee on Legislative Management
Hearing: March 11, 2011 @ 2:30 p.m.
HR63 Establishing Policies for the Legislative Broadcast Program's
Cablecasts and Webcasts of House of Representatives Proceedings

FROM: Patricia Mau-Shimizu
House Clerk



Chair Yamashita and Committee Members:

As the Clerk of the House I am submitting comments in support of this measure, which sets forth the parameters for the taping, production and public broadcasting of selected House committee hearings and briefings, and selected Chamber proceedings.

Similar resolutions have been adopted by the House each year for the administration of the House broadcast program. The major change from last year's resolution to this year's resolution is the inclusion of webcasting of House programming, and webcast indexing and archiving services.

BACKGROUND

By way of a brief background, each year in the Legislative Appropriations Bill an appropriation of \$175,000 is included for the Legislative Broadcast Program. This amount is shared equally between the House and the Senate [\$87,500].

The House and Senate, acting jointly, follow State Procurement procedures and issue a joint Request for Proposals [RFP] to retain the services of an independent contractor for production and taping services financed through the \$175,000 appropriation shared equally. Production and taping services are in essence, privatized.

The contractor jointly selected then takes direction from each Chamber as to which hearings, briefings or official events, such as Opening Day and the Medal of Honor Ceremony, should be taped for public broadcast purposes. The contractor utilizes hardware provide to the Legislature by Olelo. The contractor

has 2 taping units available for his use, so in theory the contractor can tape 4 events a day—2 in the morning [1 House and 1 Senate] and 2 [1 House and 1 Senate] in the afternoon.

In addition to taping services, the contractor is required to: (1) engage the services of a closed captioner to accommodate the State's hearing impaired community; and (2) transmit programming to Olelo for "live" and rebroadcast purposes on the dedicated public access channels [49-53].

The current \$175,000 appropriation and the 2 taping units available cannot at this time accommodate the production and taping of all House and Senate activities and the production and taping of Chamber plenary session on a daily basis.

CONCLUSION

Passage of this resolution is important to establish the parameters of the House legislative broadcast program.



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House LMG Committee
Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair James Tokioka

Friday 3/11/11 at 2:30 PM in Room 423
HR 63—Legislative Broadcasts

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii would like to submit comments on HR63, which establishes policies for the legislative broadcast program for the House of Representatives.

We applaud the legislature for providing television broadcasts and webcasts of the legislative floor sessions and committee hearings. Television and web coverage is extremely valuable to the public and helps make the legislature more accessible for citizens. Especially for those who are at work, in school, or on the neighbor islands, these broadcasts are the only opportunity for people to watch what is happening at the legislature.

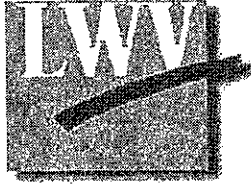
We urge the Committee to consider changes to the section on Page 3 titled “(3) Programming Content.” With regard to the selection of content, we request the Committee adopt a policy that programming selection be done with public interest criteria in mind. For example, the Senate’s broadcast policies include the following language:

“All public committee hearings, legislative sessions, and other legislative proceedings shall be authorized for programming and selected by the Public Access Room Coordinator based upon the criteria of public interest and newsworthiness, as may be measured by column-inches in statewide newspapers and minutes of television news coverage.”

Such a policy would have prevented the unfortunate situation on the opening day of the 2011 legislative session, when the House did not broadcast the discussion and floor vote on the selection of House Speaker. This was shocking, since the decision about who would become Speaker was very important to the public and had been newsworthy for months. To ensure future programming in the public interest, we urge the Committee to adopt language like the paragraph above.

In addition, we also urge the Committee to pursue web streaming of all content already available. Currently, there seems to be video or audio of every committee hearing available on the Capitol’s internal system. However, it is not available to the public. In the year 2011, there must be a simple and cost-effective way to stream that video/audio on the Internet, so that the public can access it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HR 63 ESTABLISHING POLICIES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE
BROADCAST PROGRAM'S CABLECASTS AND WEBCASTS OF HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES' PROCEEDINGS.

House Committee on Legislative Management
Friday, March 11, 2011
2:30 pm
Conference Room 423

Testifier: JoAnn Maruoka

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Legislative Management Committee members,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of HR 63 to establish policies for the cablecasts and webcasts of House of Representatives' proceedings. To that end, we strongly recommend that you include having the director of the Public Access Room (PAR) make the broadcast selections of House hearings and floor sessions.

We find great value in airing legislative proceedings. Not everyone can get to the Capitol, or sit for hours in hearing rooms and chambers. Airing the proceedings gives the people front row seats in their own homes.

Because funding is not available for complete coverage, selection of the proceedings to be aired is all-important and should be made with both the importance of the issues and the greatest level of public interest in mind. The PAR Director is the contract administrator for the broadcast project and, in administering the facility, keeps abreast of the issues before the Legislature. It is sound and prudent to have the PAR Director make the broadcast selections. We wholeheartedly support this, and request that you include it in these policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 63.