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Hawaii Chapter SPJ testimony  
SB 1437

**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

We hope you will discard this bill.

We appreciate your time in hearing our opposition to this bill.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stirling Morita". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stirling Morita  
President  
Hawaii Chapter SPJ



**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

P.O. Box 3141  
Honolulu, HI 96802  
Feb. 16, 2011

Josh Green, chairman  
Senate Health Committee  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill 1437 Related to the Uniform Information Practices Act

Sen. Green and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists thanks you for the opportunity to testify against SB 1437.

Consumer confidence in business has long been buoyed by the availability of complaints to government agencies. It also provides a window for the public to view whether government is doing its job of protecting it from unscrupulous operators.

We believe this is an important issue for consumers. How many times have people heard the complaint: If we had only known about this business operator, we wouldn't have hired him or her.

This measure appears to do what last year's failed bill tried to do: Cut off the public from seeing consumer complaints. In our view, Gov. Linda Lingle was justified in vetoing that bill.

As you well know, this bill would affect all consumer complaints, not just those at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. We ask whether you have a sense of the across-the-board impact if this measure becomes law?

If you pass this bill, openness in government goes out the window along with a basis for consumer confidence in business.