

SB 250

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To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: **Cathy L. Takase**, Acting Director

Date: February 3, 2011, 9:00a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

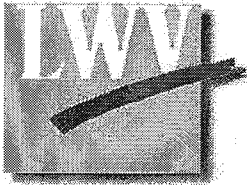
Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 250
Relating to the Commission on Salaries

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 250.

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 SB 250 RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON SALARIES

Committee on Ways and Means
Date: Thursday, February 3, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211

Testifier: Jean Aoki, LWV Legislative Committee

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, members of Committee on Ways and Means,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of SB 250 relating to the Commission on Salaries but would like to see some amendments to this bill.

We applaud SB 250 on its 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 250 commendably specifies 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 SB 250, 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 which does not suggest strongly that it would be an entirely disinterested group of people.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on SB 250.