



LATE TESTIMONY

Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Room 016
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Opposition to H.B. 1771, HD1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in **opposition** to H.B. 1771, HD1 which adds to those felonies that may be initiated by information charging.

Information charging authorizes the initiation of felony prosecutions by written information rather than the presentation of evidence and witnesses to a grand jury or judge. The ACLU of Hawaii continues to be opposed to information charging generally because it reduces the safeguards necessary to protect the rights of the accused and may lead to constitutional violations and convictions of innocent persons. Adding to the list of those felonies that may be initiated by information charging would subject a large and ever growing number of people to a potentially unconstitutional government procedure.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawai'i

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org