



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

Tuesday 1/31/12 at 2:00PM in Room 325
HB 2304 – Reapportionment Commission / Sunshine

TESTIMONY
Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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

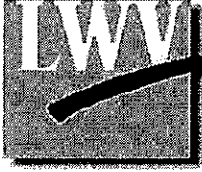
Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 2304, which requires members of the Reapportionment Commission to receive sunshine law training and requires the public hearings to be broadcast and archived.

Given the significance of this once-per-decade process and its impact on representation in government, every effort should be made to ensure the process is done correctly and transparently.

During the 2011 process, there was considerable concern among observers regarding whether the Reapportionment Commission was properly following the sunshine law. Some citizens felt that the public was missing out on the opportunity to hear many critical substantive discussions, contrary to the spirit of the sunshine law. Training may not entirely solve these problems, but it would be a step in the right direction.

Regarding broadcasting and archiving, this new requirement can go further than just the major public hearings. We would suggest the bill be amended to extend this requirement to all of the Commission's regular meetings. During the 2011 process, many (but not all) of the Commission's meetings were covered by 'Olelo for television and internet. Broadcasting and archiving will allow everyone – including neighbor islanders, working people, and others who cannot attend in person – an opportunity to watch these important proceedings.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HB 2304 RELATING TO REAPPORTIONMENT

Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

2:00 p.m. Conf. Room 325

Testimony by Janet Mason, Vice President, LWV of Hawaii
Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports efforts to make sure that members of the Reapportionment Commission are well-informed about Chapter 92, and follow this law while conducting all Commission proceedings.

Conducting the people's business in public is the overall intent of chapter 92, and the League believes the Reapportionment Commission is subject to the provisions of this chapter. However, we note there are already many opportunities for Commission appointees to receive training regarding the provisions of the Act.

The League of Women Voters strongly supports the idea that each public hearing be broadcast live and archived on the internet for public access. Like the Advisory Councils for each island, such broadcasts promote public scrutiny of the reapportionment process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.