



To: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Ige, Chair

Date: February 24, 2012, Conference Room 211, 9:00 a.m.

Re: **SB2233 SD1 – RELATING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION**

Chair Ige, and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP **opposes** SB2233 SD1 which allows government agencies to disseminate publications of notice electronically, in a daily or weekly publication of statewide circulation, or in a daily or weekly publication in the affected county.

Currently public notice is required in daily or weekly newspapers. This bill allows electronic or online public notice, and makes public notice optional in daily or weekly newspapers.

We acknowledge that there is a possible cost savings if public notice can be provided online or electronically; and that the Hawaii state public library system can be setup for the computer literate, without computers, to access public notices. However, our concern is that people who are not computer literate would not be able to access public notice information. This is particularly true of many seniors, disabled, and disadvantaged groups who still rely on newspapers for vital information and would miss public notices if not published in newspapers.

While online use is gaining ground, we know from our own membership that printed material remains their top preference. Until it is clear consumers more readily access public information online we believe that public notification needs to be published in daily or weekly newspapers. Public interest is best served by assuring that public information is easily accessible and we ask that the public notice requirement remain as-is.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.