



# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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## OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of  
**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
Director, Office of Planning  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Thursday, March 28, 2013  
9:05 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of  
**HB 632 HD 2 SD 1**  
**RELATING TO OPEN DATA.**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 632 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Open Data, one of the top initiatives of the Office of Information Management and Technology's (OIMT's) comprehensive Business and Information Technology/Information Resource Management (IT/IRM) Transformation Plan.

OP's Statewide GIS Program is responsible under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 225M-2(b)(4) for "collecting, integrating, analyzing, maintaining, and disseminating various forms of data and information, including geospatial data and information..." and to "promote and encourage free and open data sharing among and between all government agencies." As such, OP understands the value of open data and has a long history of promoting and facilitating data sharing with its federal, state, and county partners, and of distributing geospatial data through its website at [hawaii.gov/dbedt/gis/download.html](http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/gis/download.html).

OP applauds the work that OIMT has done to move the open data initiative even further, and supports the codification of the open data initiative as expressed in HB 632 HD 2 SD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
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TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412  
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: March 28, 2013 at 9:05 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 632, H.D. 2, S.D. 1  
Relating to Open Data



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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. While the Office of Information Practices (OIP) supports this bill, it is **concerned that the amendments made in Senate Draft 1 at the request of the Hawaii Bankers Association will have the opposite effect of their intended consequences.** Specifically, OIP is concerned that the amended provision describing what data is appropriate for online disclosure as part of a data set would actually result in requiring online disclosure of anything not protected by law or “proprietary” and instead would create an overly broad mandate to place online information that is not appropriate for disclosure as part of an online data set. **If the discretionary language from House Draft 2 is restored, then OIP supports the bill and asks for a \$65,000 appropriation and an additional full-time staff attorney position to implement the purposes of this bill.**

OIP recognizes that the bill seeks to codify into law the aspirational goals of open data advocates. To ensure that these aspirational goals do not have unintended consequences by creating an overly broad mandate for online posting of data of limited public interest and which is inappropriate for broad online dissemination by its nature, **OIP asks that this Committee restore the language from House Draft 2, from page 5 line 21 to page 6 line 3, which ensured that the standards departments will follow in placing information online include the discretion to not post data that is "inappropriate for disclosure," such as information that is proprietary, confidential, or protected by law or contract.** OIP’s understanding is that the amendment to

this provision made by the previous Senate committees at the request of the Hawaii Bankers' Association was intended to **narrow** the category of information that should be disclosed; however, the **actual effect of the amendment was to broaden the category of information that should be disclosed** by removing agencies' discretion to refrain from releasing online information that is "otherwise inappropriate for disclosure as part of a data set." Such information would include internal operation and work scheduling information that would frustrate departments' management, impinge on privacy and security issues, or have no real value in being released online. Restoring the House Draft 2 language, which acknowledges that proprietary, confidential, and legally protected information is to be protected (as appeared to be the Hawaii Bankers' Association's concern) and also recognizes that there are other sorts of information that are inappropriate for online disclosure, will avoid unintended consequences that may impede the departments' operations.

The substantive amendments contained in House Draft 2 resulted from the cooperation and coordination of various stakeholders in crafting an open data bill that would be workable, while still achieving its aspiration goals. Thus, amendments previously incorporated into House Draft 2 take into account the "mosaic effect" resulting when information posted online can be mashed up with data from many different sources to create a new data set providing extensive personal information about an individual. OIP believes the current Senate Draft 1 appropriately retained these amendments, which take these general security and privacy concerns regarding personally identifiable information into consideration by providing that any data with personally identifiable information not be posted online, unless the disclosure is agreed to by the person or is necessary to the department's mission, as in the case of sex offenders or the names of candidates and lobbyists in Campaign Spending reports. Additionally, in light of departments' experiences with requesters who may try to use the new law simply to harass departments by demanding that specific or multiple data sets be posted online immediately, regardless of the department's workload and staffing, Senate Draft 2 retained language making clear that departments are not required to post data upon demand, although such information may still be generally be available upon request under the UIPA.

OIP is a strong supporter of efforts by the Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT) and the private sector to place public data onto the state's centralized website at [data.hawaii.gov](http://data.hawaii.gov), where it can be open and available to all members of the public to view, visualize, analyze, and perhaps help government

come up with new ideas and solutions. OIP has been actively working with OIMT and is also assisting state and county agencies to adopt open data practices by training them to post data onto data.hawaii.gov. OIP expects that with the Open Data initiative and each launch of new programs under OIMT's ambitious IT transformation plan, OIP will receive new requests for assistance from the public as well as agencies themselves as to whether certain data may be disclosed to the public online or must be kept confidential to protect personal privacy interests and whether the UIPA or Sunshine Law are implicated by the changes.

Therefore, OIP highly appreciates the appropriation provisions in HB 632, HD2 to OIP and DAG to implement the open data efforts and allow for the hiring of open data coordinators, who would help with getting data online and coordinate the UIPA responsibilities for the departments. OIP questions, however, whether \$100,000 will be a sufficient appropriation to DAG to assist the departments in screening specific data sets and implementing the purposes of this bill. For OIP itself, we estimate that we will need a new staff attorney position and \$65,000 for salary, computer and office equipment, licensing costs, and other necessary expenses to implement this bill by training the open data coordinators and providing legal guidance and assistance to OIMT and the departments as to what information is required by law to be publicly available upon request and what might be appropriate for an online data set. **As implementation involves hundreds of thousands of data sets and will be an ongoing expense that will continue throughout the next decade of the state's IT transformation plan, OIP respectfully requests that this Committee incorporate OIP's new position and \$65,000 appropriation into OIP's budget in H.B. 200, H.D 1.**

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [WAM Testimony](#)  
Cc: [simplicitous@gmail.com](mailto:simplicitous@gmail.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB632 on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM  
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 8:47:26 AM

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HB632

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arthur Grau	Applications for Good	Support	No

Comments: March 27, 2013 Senator David Ige, Chair Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Bill No. & Title: HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data Date, Time: Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 a.m. Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 211 Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means: Thank you for taking a moment to review this testimony, As director of Applications for Good, an enterprise dedicated to advancing civic apps for good in Hawaii and abroad, we believe improving data accessibility and integrity in support of public/private collaboration, government transparency and civic engagement, is good for business and good for the public. We strongly support HB632 HD2 SD1. This bill is a cornerstone to Hawaii's IT Transformation Plan. In addition to open data being a key element in a national movement for open government and transparency, it is a fundamental building block for open innovation in a collaborative, citizen-engaging environment here in Hawaii. We were delighted when Gov. Abercrombie said in his State of the State Address that he seeks to "allow state government to operate more transparently and efficiently." And with the endorsement of the Governor, OIMT (Office of Information Management and Technology) launched its Open Data Initiative on June 26, 2012. OIMT has defined the platform and is already working with departments in determining best practices to open more government data for public use. At Applications for Good we believe that setting a standard for open data sets in legislation will help frame future development. Data should be viewed as a product of government's day-to-day activities, ultimately owned by the constituents it serves. We see government agencies are stewards of civic data that should be open and accessible to the public. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.  
Arthur Grau

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani

Thursday 03/28/13 at 09:05AM in Room 211  
HB632 HD2 SD1– Relating to Open Data

### COMMENTS

Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports the intent of HB632 HD2 SD1.** This bill would make certain electronic data sets available to the public.

The “open data” concept applies to data that is already deemed public and made available electronically, such as on a website; it could include department, agency, and legislative data. Under this bill, however, no personally-identifiable information would be posted online unless the affected individual has consented to the posting.

For our state to utilize and leverage websites like Data.Hawaii.Gov and Data.Honolulu.Gov, which are already in place for public access and interaction, we must be open to adopting practices that would make certain data sets are readily available for the public.

There is a growing demand to make Hawaii’s government more open and transparent – from the public, and from within. On June 26, 2012, with Governor Abercrombie’s endorsement, the OIMT (Office of Information Management and Technology) launched its Open Data Initiative.

For more than forty years, Common Cause has advocated for a more “open” and transparent government. Using current available technology coupled with emerging best practices, this bill would improve data accessibility to the public, encouraging citizen analysis of public data, and encourage civic engagement.

**Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of the intent of HB632 HD2 SD1.**

March 26, 2013

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Bill No. & Title: HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data

Date, Time: Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 a.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Peter Kay, CEO of CyberCom, and a serial tech entrepreneur who has started numerous companies in Hawaii, all in the tech industry, over a 30 year period. You might recognize me as “Peter Kay with Your Computer Minute” on the radio. My company is credited with creating the first commercial website in Hawaii, so we are no stranger to innovation and forward thinking. It is important to note I have no direct financial gain or loss from this bill.

CyberCom **strongly supports HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data**. Digital bits are the raw materials of the information economy and Government data is not unlike natural resources like oil and gas. Government data has value and if configured such that it is easily “minable”, you will have enabled value creation through its use. As you know, value creation is the economic foundation on which jobs, prosperity, and increased tax revenue are based on.

Today, too much of this government data is locked away, nearly impossible to access. It is as if we are sitting on a gold mine but no one has the tools to mine the gold. Passing this bill will begin to release the value that until now has been too difficult to access..

From a cost/benefit perspective, it is a win-win from all angles. Open Data enables more efficient intergovernmental data processing reducing their own costs; it reduces data acquisition costs for companies, enabling them to use capital more efficiently; and it will spur the growth of information processing companies, which will create jobs and further innovation. Truly a winning proposition to all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Peter Kay  
CEO  
CyberCom, Inc.



March 26, 2013

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Bill No. & Title: HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data

Date, Time: Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 a.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Burt Lum, Executive Director of Hawaii Open Data, a non-profit dedicated to advancing open data principles in Hawaii and creating collaborative environments that foster civic innovation. Formed in 2012, we focus on improving data accessibility and integrity in support of public/private collaboration, government transparency and civic engagement.

Hawaii Open Data **strongly supports HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data**. This Bill is a cornerstone to Hawaii's IT Transformation Plan. In addition to open data being a key element in a national movement for open government and transparency, it is a fundamental building block for **open innovation** in a collaborative, citizen-engaging environment. Websites like [Data.Hawaii.Gov](http://Data.Hawaii.Gov) and [Data.Honolulu.Gov](http://Data.Honolulu.Gov) are in place for application creation, public access and interaction. It is an opportunity for government to co-create the delivery of services with the community it serves. This process will also fuel economic development in the technology sector.

The State of Hawaii clearly supports making government more open and transparent. Gov. Abercrombie said in his State of the State Address that he seeks to "allow state government to operate more transparently and efficiently." And with the endorsement of the Governor, OIMT (Office of Information Management and Technology) launched its Open Data Initiative on June 26, 2012. OIMT has defined the platform and is already working with departments in determining best practices to open more government data for public use.



In addition, Hawaii Open Data worked closely with the Office of Information Management and Technology and the Office of Information Practices to address their concerns with previous versions of this measure. HOD also concurs with the modifications introduced in the joint hearing of the TEC/JDL committees. Those revisions and clarifications are all reflected in HB632 HD2 SD1.

Hawaii Open Data believes that setting a standard for open data sets in legislation will help frame future development as well as clarify how data is viewed by the government agencies. Data should not be a product to deliver. It's a product of government's day-to-day activities, ultimately owned by the constituents it serves. Government agencies are stewards of civic data.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Burt Lum  
Executive Director

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [todd@hyperspective.com](mailto:todd@hyperspective.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB632 on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 3:32:52 PM

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HB632

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Robertson	Hyperspective Studios, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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March 26, 2013

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Bill No. & Title: HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data

Date, Time: Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 a.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I, Lindsea K. Wilbur, am the current Chair of the Internet Society-Hawai'i Chapter (ISOC-HI). A global organization, the Internet Society's motto is "The Internet is for Everyone." The Hawai'i Chapter shares the mission of the Internet Society to promote a free and open Internet, connect and work with others, and advocate for equal access to the Internet.

Central to our core values, the Internet Society believes that the quality of life for people in all parts of the world is enhanced by their ability to enjoy the benefits of an open and global Internet, and that well-informed individuals and public and private policy makers are the essential foundation of an open and global Internet society.

ISOC-HI, only recently again active, will engage in a wide range of educational activities, advance relevant local issues, promote open Internet and technical development, stimulate recruitment and job market development in local technology industries, provide forums for professional networking and knowledge sharing; and

support the local culture of Hawai'i by forwarding visual, performing, culinary and literary arts through use of the Internet and technology.

**ISOC-HI strongly supports HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data.** This Bill is a cornerstone to Hawaii's IT Transformation Plan. In an effort to provide more efficient services, insure information security, prepare for disaster recovery, websites like Data.Hawaii.Gov and Data.Honolulu.Gov are in place for application creation, public access and interaction.

A more complete picture will give us a clear visualization of the integrated system of our large local government. Through this we will gain access to new information that can help the state govern more efficiently, and better train and educate both public servants and citizens alike through the MyHawaii.gov portal.

The State of Hawaii clearly supports making government more open and transparent. Gov. Abercrombie said in his State of the State Address that he seeks to "allow state government to operate more transparently and efficiently." And with the endorsement of the Governor, OIMT (Office of Information Management and Technology) launched its Open Data Initiative on June 26, 2012. OIMT has defined the platform and is already working with departments in determining best practices to open more government data for public use.

Just like the open standards and unrestrictive International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) that produced the Internet, open data policies must be established before building a truly open government. In supporting the open development of technology, and the collaboration this stimulates, the Internet Society-Hawai'i Chapter strongly supports the Open Data Initiative, IT Transformation Plan, and the nation-wide Open Government Initiative.

These policies will provide the foundation for the future. Setting a standard for open data sets in legislation will help frame future development as well as clarify how data is viewed by the government agencies.

To have citizen centric solutions, there must be engagement. This implies a conversation between individuals that make up the community and the officials that make up government. Fostering dialogue entails building trust on both the side of the government and those who make up the community. Through open, honest dialogue we can learn from each other and build trust. The Open Data Initiative is an important step in building this strong discourse, and a stronger Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the supporting testimony of ISOC-HI on this bill.

Aloha,  
Lindsea K. Wilbur

March 26, 2013

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Bill No. & Title: HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data

Date, Time: Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 a.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I submit the following statement in support of HB632 HD2, Relating to Open Data.

HB632 HD2, Relating to Open Data is a cornerstone to Hawaii's IT Transformation Plan. In addition to open data being a key element in a national movement for open government and transparency, it is a fundamental building block for **open innovation** in a collaborative, citizen-engaging environment. Websites like Data.Hawaii.Gov and Data.Honolulu.Gov are in place for application creation, public access and interaction. It is an opportunity for government to co-create the delivery of services with the community it serves. This process will also fuel economic development in the technology sector.

The State of Hawaii clearly supports making government more open and transparent. Gov. Abercrombie said in his State of the State Address that he seeks to "allow state government to operate more transparently and efficiently." And with the endorsement of the Governor, OIMT (Office of Information Management and Technology) launched its Open Data Initiative on June 26, 2012. OIMT has defined the platform and is already working with departments in determining best practices to open more government data for public use.

In stating my strong support for HB632 HD2, Relating to Open Data, I also appreciate and credit the efforts of the non-profit group Hawaii Open Data and its' executive director Burt Lum. Hawaii Open Data is a non-profit dedicated to advancing open data principles in Hawaii and creating collaborative environments that foster civic innovation. Formed in 2012, Hawaii Open Data focuses on improving data accessibility and integrity in support of public/private collaboration, government transparency and civic engagement.

According to Mr. Lum, Hawaii Open Data believes that setting a standard for open data sets in

legislation will help frame future development as well as clarify how data is viewed by the government agencies. Data should not be a product to deliver. It's a product of government's day-to-day activities, ultimately owned by the constituents it serves. Government agencies are stewards of civic data.

Sincerely,  
Mark L. Nakagawa  
Kaneohe, HI

March 26, 2013

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 am  
State Capitol, Room 211  
Re: HB632 HD2, SD1 Relating to Open Data

Chair David Y. Ige, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Michael Casey - a parent, homeowner, taxpayer and resident of both the City & County of Honolulu and the State of Hawai`i. For many years I have worked in Hawai`i's non-profit and government sectors, managing direct service, educational and research projects that have depended on the availability of quality data from a variety of sources.

I am writing, therefore to strongly support HB632 HD2, SD1, Relating to Open Data. This measure requires executive departments, boards, commissions, and agencies to make data available to the public, absolves the State for liability for deficiencies or incomplete data, and requires the CIO to enact rules to address making data sets available to the public.

I believe that this bill will provide the foundation for transparency in government, encourage productive civic engagement, and provide additional incentives for the development of technology and educational initiatives throughout Hawai`i.

Other legislative bodies have already passed similar legislation and implemented administrative rules. Earlier this month, the well-established open data portal "data.gov" listed 39 US States, 30 US cities & counties, 41 countries and 132 international regional organizations that have already established open data websites.

The people who worked to draft, review and amend the current legislation were able to build upon this vast knowledge base, and Hawai`i will benefit from an immediate network of like-minded individuals and organizations throughout the US and the world.

But more importantly, this legislation will pave the way for the work of skilled and committed people right here in Hawai`i who are ready to build, refine and promote the use of this data to improve the lives of Hawai`i residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

March 26, 2013

Ryan Kawaiiani Ozawa  
95-595 Kanamee St., #326  
Mililani, HI 96789-1431  
(808) 372-3372

Dear Senator David Y. Ige, Chair; Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair; honored Senators of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing to express **my support for House Bill 632**, HD2, SD1 (SSCR1020), relating to Open Data.

I have been an advocate for open data policies and practices since studying and practicing journalism at the University of Hawaii, then as an independent publisher and blogger. I set up the Hawaii Open Data Project in 2011, then co-founded the non-profit Hawaii Open Data with Burt Lum and Jared Kuroiwa the following year to formally advance the open data movement in the islands.

Our state's technological infrastructure is three decades behind the times, and has garnered national attention for its outdated systems and practices. And yet, with both internal and community support for early open data initiatives, **Hawaii has also distinguished itself for its innovation and forward-thinking vision**. To date, a lot of data has been made available, and a lot of projects are being built upon it. The state should be commended for that progress, but HB632 adds more focus, and more internal guidance, to take things to the next level.

There is clear momentum toward open data throughout the U.S. and internationally. Free access to information leads to a more informed and engaged populace, and a more transparent and accountable government. It also allows citizens to **better understand their communities, make better decisions, and even build new tools and find new business opportunities**.

As a geek, I am perhaps most excited by the potential of open data



to fuel real innovation at every level, from big data firms to afterschool app developers. As a would-be journalist, I am resolute in ensuring meaningful access to government information. Which is, really, our information.

Government does what it can to modernize and put information and services online, but in the hands of the whole community, I know incredible things can happen. HB632 is only an early step in realizing this potential, but it is an important one. I believe relatively modest funding request will provide the **Office of Information Practices** -- which already serves an important function within the state government -- the resources it needs to help departments navigate these new waters of open data.

Thank you for your consideration.

Malama pono,

Ryan Ozawa  
HawaiiWeblog.com

March 26, 2013

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Bill No. & Title: HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data

Date, Time: Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 a.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Scott Robertson, and I am a professor of Computer and Information Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. My area of expertise is digital government. I am writing to voice strong support for HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data.

The open data movement is indeed an international initiative to create transparency in government through the establishment of open data repositories that enable citizens to access important information through innovative applications and visualizations. It is well established that such practices enhance citizen involvement and debate. It is also the right thing to do with public data which, after all, belongs to citizens.

The Governor has placed himself on the side of government transparency. The federal government has also enacted open government directives that allow citizens unparalleled access to important government information.

Open government practices allow for the creation of applications by engaged developers, and for the creation of innovative journalistic and educational visualizations and interactive applications, that give citizens both information and services that the government may not have the time, money, or interest in producing.

Finally, Hawaii is a recognized leader in e-government. I have been to many conferences both on the mainland and in other countries to discuss what is happening with digital government in Hawaii. At this point, all levels of government are cooperating in bringing our local and state government into the digital era. We have a very healthy technology community with a dedicated core of civic-minded developers and thought leaders. Let's make sure this continues.

There is only one reason to oppose open government, and that is to keep secrets or maintain power through data monopolization. Healthy democracies should not be engaged in such things. Open data builds trust in government, which is all too often lacking among citizens. Please keep the trust with voters and your constituents by supporting open data in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Robertson  
Associate Professor  
Computer and Information Sciences  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

March 27, 2013

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Bill No. & Title: HB632 HD2 SD1, Relating to Open Data

Date, Time: Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:05 a.m.  
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Tara Coomans, immediate past President of Social Media Club Hawaii and a founding member of Hawaii Innovation Alliance (HIA) and a Code for America Brigade member. I am also a communicator and an engaged citizen.

**I strongly support HB632 HD2, Relating to Open Data.** Due to a growing technology community, combined with Hawaii's IT Transformation Plan, now is the time for Open Data to become part of the government-citizenry collaboration. Open Data not only seeds our technology community it also enables the entire community to understand complex information in easier to understand and accessible formats. In my personal experience, the ways in which the current Open Data sets have been utilized by our engaged technology community have been inspiring and fascinating. Even as an informed, engaged citizen, I have found that apps and sites created using Open Data have only served to enable me to better understand my community. It's also enabled me to better explain complex ideas, numbers or concepts to others. A more informed citizenry is a more politically engaged citizenry. We have the potential to engage a growing segment of the community as well as the youth with the Open Data sets.

Further, by passing the Open Data bill, the state is enabling transparency and educating its citizens with the data which belongs to the citizens. As Burt Lum often says, “government is the steward of the data that belongs to the citizenry.” By enabling data to become available to the people and our growing technology community, our state has the opportunity to be one of the first to embrace a new era of collaboration between governments and citizens, in which services are provided better, information is better understood and the citizen takes part in solutions which better their communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Tara Coomans

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [terrilanichong@gmail.com](mailto:terrilanichong@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB632 on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2013 9:28:06 PM

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HB632

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terrilani Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am fully in support of this bill and urge the Ways and Means Committee to fund it.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tabraham08@gmail.com](mailto:tabraham08@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB632 on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 4:05:23 PM

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HB632

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TROY LOPAKA ABRAHAM	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support urgent passage of this bill to open ALL government data to public as everybody deserves to know what been hidden from us far too long.

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [w.joy.hee@gmail.com](mailto:w.joy.hee@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB632 on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 3:56:15 PM

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HB632

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2013 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wynn Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Open Data, so I support this bill. Open data is a key element in a national movement for open government and transparency. It is a fundamental building block for open innovation in a collaborative environment that welcomes citizen participation. Websites like Data.Hawaii.Gov and Data.Honolulu.Gov are in place for public access and interaction. It is an opportunity for government to co-create the delivery of services with the community it serves. This process will also fuel economic development in the technology sector. The State of Hawaii clearly supports making government more open and transparent. With the endorsement of the Governor, OIMT (Office of Information Management and Technology) launched its Open Data Initiative on June 26, 2012. OIMT has defined the platform and is already working with departments in determining best practices to open more government data for public use.

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