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Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, vice Chair

### **Testimony in Support of H.B. 1812 H.D. 1, Relating to Law Enforcement**

Hearing: March 18, 2014, 3 PM, Conference Room 224

Chair and Members of the Committee

Media Council Hawaii (MCH) joins with other community organizations and individuals that are seeking to end secrecy regarding police disciplinary suspensions.

I should preface these remarks with the fact that MCH has the highest regard for the men and women who serve the public as police officers. We also believe that "democracy dies behind closed doors" and that this is nowhere more true than when the misuse of police power and violation of the public trust are kept secret.

The changes sought in the current law have been crafted with regard to both individual privacy, as well as the public's right to know.

I have a somewhat personal view of these matters, since my first job out of law school was as Senior Civil Service Examiner in charge of the Cleveland Ohio Safety Department. I can assure you that police misconduct can be truly frightening. Accountability to the public should be of paramount concern.

I urge this committee to take favorable action on this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.