

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1618

Honolulu, Hawaii

April 10, 2015

RE: S.B. No. 475
S.D. 1
H.D. 2

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred S.B. No. 475, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OPEN GOVERNMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to update and enhance the State's public meeting law to include the use of technology by, among other things:

- (1) Adding emergency meetings to the public meeting notice requirements and requiring that emergency agendas and filings be electronically posted;
- (2) Requiring boards to post a notice of meeting on the electronic calendar on the State's internet website or the appropriate county's internet website no less than six calendar days in advance of the meeting, in addition to filing the notice with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor or the appropriate County Clerk's office;
- (3) Establishing time-stamped agenda procedures for determining whether a notice was timely posted for public meeting purposes;

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- (4) Specifying that persons requesting notification of a meeting shall be able to receive the notification by the means of their choosing;
- (5) Establishing procedures allowing for public access to "board packet" materials disseminated to the board at a noticed meeting;
- (6) Requiring that meeting minutes be made available on the appropriate board or governmental website; and
- (7) Specifying that members of the public may record a public meeting via any means of audio or visual recordation.

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, and a concerned individual supported this measure. The Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority opposed this measure. The Office of Information Practices and the Land Use Commission provided comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2030, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 475, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 475, S.D. 1, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Finance,



SYLVIA LUKE, Chair



