

HB1595 HD2

Measure Title: RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY.

Report Title: Legislative Testimony; Remote Testimony Task Force; Establishment

Description: Establishes the Remote Testimony Task Force (Task Force) to develop procedures to allow the public to submit testimony remotely via the Internet during legislative proceedings. Requires the Task Force to report to the Legislature prior to the 2017 Regular Session. (HB1595 HD2)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: GVO/EET, WAM

Introducer(s): LOWEN, BELATTI, CREAGAN, CULLEN, DECOITE, EVANS, FUKUMOTO CHANG, ING, JOHANSON, KAWAKAMI, KOBAYASHI, C. LEE, LOPRESTI, LUKE, MATSUMOTO, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, OHNO, RHOADS, SAIKI, SAN BUENAVENTURA, THIELEN, WOODSON, Onishi, Tsuji



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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March 22, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill 1595, HD2 - Relating to Legislative Testimony

The Disability and Communication Access Board supports the intent of House Bill 1595, HD2 - Relating to Legislative Testimony. The purpose of the bill is to establish a Remote Testimony Task Force to develop procedures for the public to testify remotely via the Internet during legislative proceedings and requires a report of findings and recommendations prior to the convening of the 2017 Hawaii State Legislature.

We feel that any discussion to develop procedures to improve interaction and to allow more citizens to testify on legislative matters will increase access for everyone, and should include people with disabilities. House Draft 2 does that by including a representative who who is deaf or visually impaired.

One suggestion for your consideration is on page 2, lines 2 and 3:

Amend the wording to read "...barriers faced by people with hearing or vision disabilities."

This change in language acknowledges the person first and references the disability second, which is currently politically correct terminology when referring to individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



HB1595 HD2
RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

March 22, 2016

1:15 p.m.

Room 414

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HB1595 HD2, which may increase access to the political process for all people of Hawai‘i, by taking a first step towards allowing remote oral testimony on legislative measures.

It is well known that Hawai‘i has historically suffered from general community disengagement from political processes; this is especially evident in data demonstrating low voter turnout. For example, Hawai‘i consistently ranks lower than the national average for voter participation among those eligible to vote in the presidential election.¹ Historical data also reflects the underrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in particular in the polls. Accordingly, during the past two election seasons OHA has implemented a “Hawaiian Voice, Hawaiian Vote: I Mana Ka Leo” campaign to increase Native Hawaiian civic engagement.

During the course of these campaigns, many Native Hawaiians expressed feelings of detachment from policy-making processes, due to geographical distance and frustration at perceived neglect of their community concerns. Those from neighbor islands who do participate in governing processes, including legislative hearings, do so at great personal expense for travel and accommodations. In addition, many kūpuna or ‘ohana may likewise experience substantial difficulty in attending and providing their input at public hearings on matters that affect them. By exploring opportunities for such individuals and other members of the public to offer oral comments from more accessible, decentralized locations, this measure could help to lower the barriers to civic participation that have led to the overall sense of detachment felt by the Native Hawaiian community and general public. Moreover, the resulting increase in Native Hawaiian and public engagement in the legislative process may also reaffirm the significance of community input in our policy-making decisions, and foster the robust legislative discussions that lead to better-informed laws.

Given the potential to greatly bolster participation in Hawai‘i’s legislative process, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** HB1595 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ Editorial Board, *The Worst Voter Turnout in 72 Years*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Nov. 11, 2014, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/opinion/the-worst-voter-turnout-in-72-years.html>.



Senate Government Operations Committee
Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr.

Senate Economic Development, Environment, and Technology Committee
Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Sam Slom

Tuesday 03/22/2016 at 1:15 PM in Room 414
HB 1595 HD2 – Relating to Legislative Testimony

TESTIMONY — SUPPORT
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ihara, Chair, Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and members of the Committees:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1595 which would establish a “Remote Testimony Task Force” to develop procedures for the public to testify at legislative hearings remotely through the internet. **We ask the committee to amend Section 2 and revert the effective date back to “upon approval”— was indicated in the original and HD1 versions of the bill.**

At Common Cause Hawaii, we encourage productive public participation in the political process. Our members and supporters often tell us that being geographically distanced from the Capitol (e.g., neighbor island residents, or even residents who live or work on the other side of Oahu) makes it difficult for them to productively participate in the government. Common Cause Hawaii supports this bill because it takes a step forward toward fostering public participation in the political process.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting HB 1595.**



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, March 22, 2016 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 414

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 1595 HD 2, Relating to Legislative Testimony

Dear Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Ihara, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 1595 HD 2, which creates a Remote Testimony Task Force, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Agricultural issues often disproportionately impact rural neighbor island constituencies as that is where farmers live and operate their farms. However, when legislation impacts their business it is extremely challenging for them to testify at the Legislature. Most rural farmers can't afford to leave their farms for an entire day or have the financial resources to book last minute flights. Once at the Capitol, parking can be a logistical challenge and they must also consistently monitor their parking meter while testifying. If hearings run long, these trips are often in vain since they cannot stay due to their departing flight.

This leads to a situation where representation on agricultural issues can be greatly underrepresented. When legislators need to decide policies and funding priorities, having bona fide farmers explaining their experiences and viewpoints can be the definitive factor.

As videoconferencing technology becomes more sophisticated and is widely used by citizens, it is critical that the legislative process progresses with such technology. This will result in more informed decision making and increased civic engagement through more accurate representation, increased accountability, and greater transparency.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate these committees' efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

PETER L. FRITZ

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E-MAIL: PLFLEGIS@FRITZHQ.COM

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
And
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

Testimony on H.B. 1595 HD2
Hearing: March 22, 2016

Relating to Legislative Testimony

Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Ihara and Slom and members of the Committees, my name is Peter Fritz. I am an individual with a hearing disability. I am testifying **in support** of this bill.

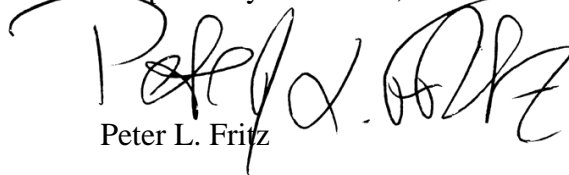
This bill establishes the Remote Testimony Task Force (“Task Force”). The Task Force is to report to the Legislature concerning procedures to permit the public to testify via the Internet during legislative proceedings. I support this bill because it will enable individuals with disabilities to testify at legislative hearings.

To ensure that the report includes findings for all individuals with disabilities, I respectfully suggest that paragraph (b)(9) on page 2 of HB 1595 HD2 be amended to read as follows:

“(9) A representative with knowledge and experience of the barriers faced by individuals with disabilities.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter L. Fritz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: mikegolojuch808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1595 on Mar 22, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2016 6:39:57 PM

HB1595

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for GVO/EET on Mar 22, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: CANtheCANT@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1595 on Mar 22, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 9:12:07 PM

HB1595

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for GVO/EET on Mar 22, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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