

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony on SB 244 – Relating to Open Government

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Kāne and I serve as the chair of the board of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who believe in improving government for every citizen for every service on every island. THG works to ensure that the benefits of the State of Hawai'i's business transformation and information technology modernization initiative ("the transformation") are fully realized. Our members, who are from all corners of the state, are united in the belief that there are opportunities for everyone to support better state government.

We recognize the state Legislature for its pivotal role in this transformation and we support transformation in its many forms – from improvements to the state's information technology infrastructure including more robust cybersecurity; to improvements in the state's business processes including improving access to services, making services more user-friendly, speeding up transactions when residents do business with the state, making state government more transparent, and providing up-to-date and accurate data for better decision-making.

Therefore, we are writing in support of the intent of SB 244, relating to open government. This measure would allow the electronic mailing and posting of meeting notices. It requires the posting of the meeting notice and minutes on the state or appropriate county websites and increases public access to information before a public hearing by a board. We believe that, provided adequate resources are available for implementation, this measure is an important step toward government that is more open, transparent and responsive to citizens which aligns with our goals for the transformation.

We look forward to helping to promote streamlining, integrating and delivering government services that exceed the expectations of the public and the needs of Hawai'i's communities. And we seek opportunities to work together to achieve our state's transformation goals.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for the transformation.