



## 'ĀINA HAINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

c/o 'Āina Haina Library, 5246 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Honolulu, HI 96821  
ainahainaassoc@gmail.com; www.ainahaina.org

Jeanne Ohta, President • Melia Lane-Kanahale, Vice-President • Art Mori, Treasurer • Kathy Takemoto, Secretary • Directors At Large: Jeff Carlson, Wayson Chow, Patricia Moore, Marie Riley

---

### LATE TESTIMONY

February 6, 2017

To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, President  
'Āina Haina Community Association

RE: SB 245 Relating to Government Records  
Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Room 016

Position: Support

The Board of Directors of the 'Āina Haina Community Association write in support of SB 245 Relating to Government Records which would create a statutory requirement that government agencies exercise reasonable care in maintaining government records that are open to public inspection.

Government agencies need to be held accountable for the maintenance of documents. We believe further that a breach of this responsibility must have a remedy. As a community group, access to all relevant documents are necessary to our ability to be informed and to take action on a variety of community concerns. Our ability to advocate on behalf of ourselves and our community is hampered when we do not have access to documents and therefore information that we should have access to.

While in most cases, government agencies have provided us access to documents, we have also learned by experience that there are problems with the maintenance these documents. As an example, we made numerous requests for a file from a city agency. These requests were made over several months and the file was never provided. We received the following reasons: "the file was missing," "the file must have been misplaced," "the file is lost;" and the most concerning reason: "the file never existed." Since we requested the file by its number, we are puzzled as to why a number was given to a non-existent file.

It's these kind of situations that are of concern and why we ask that government agencies be given the responsibility of exercising reasonable care in the maintenance of all government records under its control that are required to be made available for public inspections.

We respectfully request that the committee pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.