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SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Tuesday, March 27, 2018 — 2:55 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SR 112, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Study on the Needs and Costs Associated with the Implementation of Audio and Video Technology to Provide Access for All State Residents to Testify In-Person on Legislation

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

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 better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes 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 SR 112, which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study for audio and video testimony, 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 this committee's 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



Senate Committee on Government Operations
Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Russell Ruderman

03/27/2018 2:55 PM Room 224

SCR152 / SR112 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE NEEDS AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR ALL STATE RESIDENTS TO TESTIFY IN-PERSON ON LEGISLATION.

TESTIMONY / SUPPORT
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports SCR152 / SR112 which would request LRB to study the needs and costs associated with the implementation of audio and video technology to provide all state residents with the opportunity to provide oral testimony at all legislative hearings.

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 outside of Honolulu) makes it difficult for them to productively participate in government. Common Cause Hawaii supports this bill because it takes a step forward toward fostering public participation in the political process.

We do note that both chambers of the legislature already have equipment and the capability to use videoconferencing technology to accept oral testimony. We strongly encourage all committees to use the equipment to engage the public now, and begin to work through any “operational and technical issues” there may be, and not wait for the results of this study.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting SCR152 / SR112.**

SR-112

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 2:53:02 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/27/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; the Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Government Operations:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR152 / SR 112** relating to Videoconferencing; Legislative Hearings, Audiovisual technology; and Remote Testimony.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR152 / SR 112** and supports its passage.

SCR152 / SR 112 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requests the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study on the needs and costs associated with the implementation of audio and video technology to provide all state residents with the opportunity to provide oral testimony at all legislative hearings.

Specifically, the Platform of the DPH provides that "We support enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in legislative and administrative sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy. This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels, as well as the funding of the public access room at the legislature." (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 255-258 (2016)).

Given that **SCR152 / SR 112** requests the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study on the needs and costs associated with the implementation of audio and video technology to provide all state residents with the opportunity to provide oral testimony at all legislative hearings, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities of the DPH

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