

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

136A

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2019

RE: H.B. No. 1153
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred H.B. No. 1153, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REMOTE TESTIMONY IN
LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require each house of the Legislature to establish procedures and necessary information infrastructure for the public to present oral testimony at legislative committee hearings through remote testimony.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, Disability and Communication Access Board, Common Cause Hawaii, Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Honolulu County Republican Party, and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that as an island state, Hawaii's geography and transportation challenges pose particular hardships for residents of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui to actively participate in the legislative process via in-person testimony at committee hearings. Neighbor island residents who



physically attend legislative committee hearings to testify on measures incur significant air travel, lodging, and other transportation costs, and often have to take time off from work. Your Committee recognizes that face-to-face public testimony can have a significant impact on legislators and the media and that enabling the public to provide live, real-time remote testimony will improve citizen participation in and public access to the legislative process. This measure will allow neighbor island residents and other residents who live far from the State Capitol to participate in committee hearings via remote testimony, which will promote equal access to the legislative process and encourage greater civic participation.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Establishing the remote legislative access program within the Legislature's public access program, to be supervised by the joint legislative access committee;
- (2) Specifying requirements that the joint legislative access committee must consider when developing the remote legislative access program and requiring the committee to recommend policies for the program; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1153, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1153, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Government
Operations,

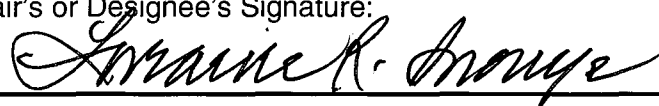


LAURA H. THIELEN, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Government Operations
GVO

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB1153, HD1	Committee Referral: GVO, WAM	Date: 3/12/2019		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
THIELEN, Laura H. (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes