

JAN 17 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the public plays an
2 important role in the legislative process through the testimony
3 they provide. However, the opportunity to provide testimony in
4 person at committee hearings may not be available to all members
5 of the public, especially those who live outside of the urban
6 core of the island of Oahu and on neighbor islands, or those who
7 experience barriers to access due to disabilities.

8 The legislature further finds that as technology evolves,
9 other state governments have implemented remote committee
10 hearings to bridge the distance between testifiers and
11 legislative committees. For example, in 1978 Alaska established
12 a teleconference network and began holding remote hearings for
13 residents. The legislature notes that although the senate began
14 piloting a videoconferencing project in 2014, this technology is
15 limited to use by only a few senate committees. Telephones,
16 however, are available in almost all conference rooms in the
17 house and senate and would provide a meaningful intermediate



1 step to increase the public's ability to testify with respect to
2 legislation.

3 The purpose of this Act is to increase the available
4 methods for the public to provide testimony to the legislature
5 by requiring committees to accept testimony remotely, by
6 telephone, during the committee hearing process.

7 SECTION 2. The legislature shall allow individuals to
8 provide testimony via telephone during the committee hearing
9 process with respect to measures scheduled for public hearing.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2243

Report Title:

Deaf and Blind Task Force; Remote Public Testimony; House and Senate Hearings

Description:

Requires the house and senate to permit remote testimony, via telephone, at public hearings.

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