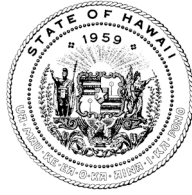


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Written Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

HOUSE BILL NO. 1153 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO REMOTE TESTIMONY IN LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) supports this bill, which requires each house of the Legislature to establish, by rule, procedures for the public to present oral testimony at legislative committee hearings through remote testimony. The bill also requires the joint legislative access committee to seek advice and recommendations from experts with knowledge in remote communication, including the chief information officer of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

I am available to provide expertise to the joint legislative access committee in its remote legislative access program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



LATE

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

February 11, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill 1153, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Remote Testimony in Legislative Hearings

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comments on House Bill 1153, HD1, SD1 Relating to Remote Testimony in Legislative Hearings which requires both chambers of the Legislature to establish rules for livestreaming legislative committee hearings to allow the public to present oral testimony remotely.

This bill would allow more ways for individuals, including individuals with disabilities to be included in the Legislative process. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), livestreaming public hearings and informational briefings need to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Livestreaming will need to include captioning for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. DCAB would be pleased to provide advice and recommendations to the joint legislative access committee on making livestreaming accessible to such persons.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 7, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1153, HD1, SD1 Relating to Remote Testimony in Legislative Hearings

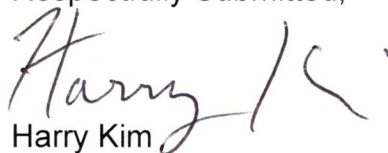
Article I, Section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i provides that "All political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people." In that spirit, and over the course of its history, the Hawai'i State Legislature has been dedicated to assuring citizen participation in its activities and has often been at the forefront of innovations that enhance that participation and make it more effective.

Technology has now reached the point where persons with disabilities, residents of rural Oahu, and neighbor island residents, can be enabled to more fully participate in the legislative process without experiencing inconvenient, expensive and/or time-consuming travel to the Capitol. Exactly how that should be done, without jeopardizing the need for an expeditious legislative process, may require further thought and deliberations, and that is exactly what HB 1153, HD1, SD1 would allow. HB 1153, HD1, SD1 does not presuppose a method, but neither is it just another "study." Truly action oriented, it mandates the outcome that remote testimony shall be allowed, and then leaves it to each house to figure out the details. That is the kind of balance that this Legislature is known for and can be proud of.

An earlier generation of Hawai'i leaders recognized that all residents of the State deserve equal educational opportunities, regardless of where they live. Now today's generation of leaders is better assuring that all have equal access to their government. Thank you for taking this next step.

I hope you will approve HB 1153, HD1, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 3:51:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the passage of HB 1153 HD 1 SD 1. Mahalo for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

February 11, 2020
10:40 AM

TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
RE: Testimony in strong support of HB1153 HD1 SD1

Dear Senators,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i. One of those values is that an open democracy is a necessary component to ensuring a healthy society that is free of oppression.

We appreciate that our state already has in place the Public Access Room, as well as the Capitol website to submit testimony. These resources help guide advocates, both young and old of various levels of experience through the process, and make participating in our democracy a lot more easier. However there is always room to build on our successes in making the system more accountable and easy to approach.

As the measure acknowledges, there are still many groups that face a hard time meaningfully participating in policy making. This includes neighbor islanders who have to worry about the cost of flying over to O'ahu and literally putting their lives on hold for hearings that may take longer than expected to start/finish, residents who live outside of town or O'ahu's urban core, and to those in the disabled community who face an even harder time participating in the process.

There are issues that come up every session that affect these communities. Submitting written comments is very important, but committee meetings are a time when you can go into depth, expand on your testimony, and tell your story. It has the power to change minds. By taking on the creation of a remote access program for the legislative process, we can change the game for these communities. If they aren't able to come to Honolulu, or even instead of coming to Honolulu, they'll be able to participate and give testimony on important legislation from their home islands. We should consider expanding the role of the County's remote testimony sites to

include legislative hearings, as well as put some remote testimony sites on college and university campuses.

Alongside considering the needs and interests of our neighbor island residents, this legislation includes language to make sure that even if you live on O'ahu where the Capitol is, those who live away from the urban core or those who face any barriers due to disabilities, will be considered and represented in this program, expanding the pool of democracy. Making sure these groups are able to participate is seriously important, and will help in bringing more members of the public into the legislative process to be a part of shaping public policy.

Young Progressives Demanding Action **strongly supports** HB1153 HD1 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com
CC: action@ypdahawaii.org



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 11, 2020

H.B. 1153, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO REMOTE
TESTIMONY IN LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1153, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 which establishes the remote legislative access program and requires the House of Representatives and the Senate to establish procedures for the public to present remote oral testimony at legislative committee hearings.

Due to the fast-paced legislative timetable, it is often a severe financial hardship for neighbor island residents to actively participate in our democratic process. For example, when the Legislature was considering the privatization of the Maui Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, employees had to take time off of work, purchase airline tickets – often with only 48-hours notice, and arrange ground transportation to attend and testify in committee hearings. Many of our members chose to expend their valuable time and money to share their expertise and ensure their voices were heard, but we firmly believe many more would have taken advantage of remote testimony technology. We are confident that this same situation is all too familiar for too many neighbor island residents, regardless of the issue at hand. The establishment of a Remote Legislative Access Program ensures equal access to committee hearings no matter where a Hawaii resident resides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1153, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 2:40:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Sheehan	Testifying for Sustainable Action Fund for the Environment/SAFE	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

This is an important bill for all neighbor island residents who wish to contribute to legislative deliberations but lack time and funds to take a day off, fly to Oahu to testify in person. There are many bills for which neighbor island residents are uniquely qualified.

This bill is long overdue and should be passed in this lege sussion.

Mark Sheehan, Ph.D. Haiku, Maui



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 10:40 a.m.
Conference Room 211
HB 1153, HD1, SD1 Relating to Remote Testimony in Legislative Testimony**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the WAM committee:

On behalf of the Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like to offer our comments in support of **HB 1153, HD1, SD1**, which provides greater access to and transparency of the legislative process.

Hawai`i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits. Our mission is to unite and strengthen the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai`i. Our member organizations provide essential services to every community in the state.

As a statewide organization, HANO believes it is important to engage nonprofit organizations and their communities on all islands throughout the state. Legislative modernizations like remote live testimony via tele- or video-conferencing will make the legislative process more accessible to those who live and work on the neighbor islands, and/or who are homebound, and cannot come to the State Capitol in person. We support this effort to improve statewide public participation in our policymaking process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Lisa Maruyama
President and CEO

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:37:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeri Di Pietro	Testifying for Hawai'i SEED	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing HB1153 HD1, SD1.

As a neighbor island resident I understand first hand the we badly need a vehicle to testify remotely. Please support our agility as neighboring islanders to testify on bills that are important to us. It is burdensome to request a significant amount of time off work, and in some cases, organize child care. It should not require expending a huge monetary cost, and often at such short notice.

Please support neighbor island testifying and HB1153.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jeri Di Pietro

Hawai'i SEED

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

10:40 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

HB 1153, HD1, SD1**RELATING TO REMOTE TESTIMONY IN LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS.**

Chair DELA CRUZ, Vice Chair KEITH-AGARAN, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1153, HD1, SD1, which will (1) establish a remote legislative access program within the legislature's public access program, to be supervised by the joint legislative access committee and (2) 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.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization focused on upholding the core values of American democracy through increasing civic engagement and breaking down the barriers to participation in our government. HB 1153, HD1, SD1 will assist with increasing civic engagement and breaking down the barriers to participation in our government by permitting people who live outside of the Oahu urban core, live on neighbor islands, experience access obstacles due to disabilities, are homebound, etc. to participate more easily in the State legislative process.

Several states have pioneered remote committee hearings – Alaska and Nevada. Michigan and the Virginia Senate also hold occasional remote hearings by request of a committee chair and for issues especially relevant to residents outside the capital city. Colorado conducted a pilot remote testimony project, which started in 2016. The Nebraska Legislature partnered with Nebraska Educational TV in 2015 to offer videoconferencing at more than a dozen sites that use the technology for distance learning. Even the Hawaii State Legislature has provided remote testimony as a pilot project in certain committees.

According to the 2018 State of Hawaii Data Book, Hawaii has a total population of just over 1.4 million people. City and County of Honolulu has a population of slightly over 990,000. Hawaii County has a population of under 200,000 people. Maui County has a population of over 164,000. Kauai County has a population of over 71,000. Thus, approximately 435,000 people live in Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Counties, which is about one-third (1/3) of the State.

Testifying before the State Legislature is a particularly effective form of advocacy. However, for people living in Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Counties, this may be cost prohibitive and logistically impossible with arranging time off from work and/or for childcare / family-care to fly to Oahu for a hearing on very short notice. Thus, one-third (1/3) of our population, our citizenry living with disabilities, and people fighting Oahu's traffic are shutout and should not be shutout of the Hawaii legislative process.

Further, air travel to and from Oahu is particularly detrimental to our environment, given greenhouse gas emissions associated with the aviation industry. Thus, remote testimony should be encouraged and promoted, lest we forget that Hawaii has a carbon neutral goal by 2045, pursuant to HRS § 225P-5 (2018).

When people know what their government is doing and can observe their government in action, then this is a functioning democracy. When people are able to communicate with their elected officials to make their voices heard, then this is a representative democracy. As Abraham Lincoln said, “[G]overnment of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1153, HD1, SD1, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee members to pass HB 1153, HD1, SD1 out of your Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support HB 1153, HD1, SD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 7:53:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce corker	Testifying for Rancho Aloha Kona Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sen. Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1153 and urge the Committee to pass this measure.

The current arrangements for presenting live testimony to legislative committee hearings disenfranchises neighbor island residents. Why is Hawaii not doing what Alaska does by making remote testimony available to its citizens? The question is whether Oahu legislators are willing to give neighbor residents something close to fair and equal access to the legislative process.

I am a coffee farmer in Kona in Hawaii County. Hawaii coffee farmers have many important issues before the legislature. However, for those of us farmers on the neighbor islands we are faced with short notice of hearings, expensive air fares (if seats are available), and loss of a day's work on the farm--all for what is often as little as 2 minutes of live testimony--and with as many as 6 separate hearings on bills as they make their way through the legislative process.

When there is readily available technology to create a fairer system, why has the legislature been reluctant to act?

Please pass HB 1153--and bring fairness to neighbor island citizens.

Thank you,

Bruce Corker, Rancho Aloha, Holualoa, Hawaii County

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:57:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Shimei	Testifying for Indivisible Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

In SUPPORT

Hawaii, like many states, faces challenges in making state government accessible and responsive to all its residents. We need to use every tool available to facilitate communications with all constituents. Feeling excluded or ignored drives the public to discount the government or refuse to participate altogether. We need to restore confidence in government by boosting participation and transparency. This is a good start toward making our government truly a government of all the people.



Kona-Kohala

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 10, 2020

RE: HB1153 HDI SD1 RELATING TO REMOTE TESTIMONY IN LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and the Committee on Ways and Means,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce supports HB1153 HDI SD1 RELATING TO REMOTE TESTIMONY IN LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS that establishes a remote legislative access program to be supervised by a joint legislative access committee.

Since 1968, our organization has provided leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i. Each year, we produce a legislative agenda and advocate at the state legislature on behalf of our members and the West Hawai'i business community. We regularly send written testimony on the issues that we are tracking. It's very difficult for us to attend hearings in person due to the time and cost associated. We would, however, be able to participate in remote access and feel HB1153 is an important bill that would greatly increase state-wide participation in the legislative process.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization with nearly 500 member businesses that represent a wide range of industries in the private, non-profit and public sectors in the Kona and Kohala districts on the West side of the island of Hawai'i. Our members range in size from small businesses with less than 10 employees to large corporations with over 1000 employees. The result of our work is a community of choice as reflected in our quality of life, business and individual opportunity, and respect for our cultural and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Wendy J. Laros

Executive Director, Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

February 10, 2020

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Conference Room 211
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 1153, Relating to Remote Testimony in Legislative Hearings

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

My name is Christine Sakuda, serving as the executive director of THG. Our non-profit organization represents a coalition of organizations and individuals who believe in a delivery-driven government that enables people, communities and businesses to thrive.

Transform Hawai'i Government (THG) strongly supports House Bill 1153, relating to remote testimony in legislative hearings, which establishes the remote legislative access program, to be supervised by the joint legislative access committee.

Enabling remote testimony is compatible with our mission to advocate for an accessible government through the modernization of core state services. THG supports and promotes an informed and engaged general public, through civic engagement, which HB 1153 bridges the physical gap that can hinder those unable to afford the cost of air travel and other transportation expenses to participate in the state legislative process.

We commend the legislature's past accomplishments of establishing an open government through state programs like access to live hearings and archives of online hearings, as well as the continuous support of the award-winning ehawaii.org website.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Sakuda
Executive Director
Transform Hawai'i Government
email: csakuda@TransformHawaiiGov.org

LATE

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:21:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharlene Chun Lum	Testifying for Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Shar Chun-Lum, and I am a member of Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui. I have spent many hours providing testimony in person at the City Council to get our points across, not only for issues at Ala Moana, but other issues that affect me as a taxpayer.

I have seen the value of being there in person to testify versus submitted good testimony. For example, questions can be asked of the testifier during the meetings. Testifiers often have more to add after others have voiced similar opinions.

I believe that the action called for in HB1153 HD1 SD1 is necessary to provide fair representation for the taxpayers of our State. It is an unfair financial and physical burden to require Neighbor island residents to fly to O`ahu to be able to present their concerns on issues that affect them.

With the advances in technology, it seems way past time to implement this service. When I worked on a Federal Grant from 2007 to 2011, we sometimes used video conferencing to hold meetings for stakeholders statewide. That continued when I worked for a nonprofit that served Hawaiians to improve their health outcomes. We were able to have many participants online, "face to face" to share ideas and gain a better understanding of the problems.

Please pass this bill which will create the means to increase the participation of constituents from the entire state. It will provide the legislators with so much more valuable input as they adopt policies that will affect the people of Hawai`i.

Mahalo nui loa.



Environmental Caucus The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

LATE

February 11, 2020

Re: **HB1153 HD1 SD1**

RELATING TO REMOTE TESTIMONY IN LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS.

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HB1153 HD1 SD1 which establishes a remote legislative access program, specifies requirements for developing the program, and appropriates funds.

It is the right of all citizens to participate in their representation in a Democratic government. However, taking the time and money to travel to the Capitol to testify is a privilege that many do not have. They may be working multiple jobs, taking care of children, elders, or sick family, or simply not have the time off or luxury of a flexible work schedule. Remote testimony encourages a wider demographic of participants and promotes greater diversity among the voices heard at that capitol.

Furthermore, it is in all of our best interests to reduce carbon emissions and part of the State's own goals. If the state truly wishes to reduce carbon emissions, there must be a decrease in air and gas vehicle travel. Establishing a remote testimony process is a direct action to reduce carbon emissions from travel, especially if the process allows people to testify from their own personal electronic device in their home or office.

Lastly, it would help the neighbor island legislators themselves foster a greater relationship with their communities while they're away during the legislative session. People want to see their representatives in action and know that their vote has counted toward building a good and representative government.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lana Olson
Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:43:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Koba-Burd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a neighbor island resident, I strongly support this bill.

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:45:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Burdt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:08:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please! I Am critically ill but wish to participate!

cannot travel from outer Island.

Mahalo!

we have had this at our Hawai'i county offices for years!!!

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:08:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Hawai'i County is doing it...so can you!

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 8:34:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katy Benjamin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Because of the unique nature of governing across bodies of water, it only makes sense to allow remote testimony. I cannot tell you how much income I have wasted to fly to Honolulu from Hilo to testify on bills, or how many more opportunities where voices are silenced by not being able to attend in person to testify. We are all human beings. No matter how impassioned and eloquent one's writing may be, it is nothing compared to seeing and hearing that person's voice. As law makers, you have busy days, but please do not for a second think that time management is a good reason to not make time and space to hear your constituents. Folks with disabilities, folks who cannot afford to travel or take off work, folks who have young children, or are caretaking their parents, all of these people deserves equally the opportunity to address their representatives.

With that, I support this bill.

Katy Benjamin

Hilo, Hawai`i

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 9:54:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hattie Gerrish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:58:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Several states have pioneered remote committee hearings – Alaska and Nevada. Michigan and the Virginia Senate also hold occasional remote hearings by request of a committee chair and for issues especially relevant to residents outside the capital city. Colorado conducted a pilot remote testimony project, which started in 2016. The Nebraska Legislature partnered with Nebraska Educational TV in 2015 to offer videoconferencing at more than a dozen sites that use the technology for distance learning. Even the Hawaii State Legislature has provided remote testimony as a pilot project in certain committees.

According to the 2018 State of Hawaii Data Book, Hawaii has a total population of just over 1.4 million people. City and County of Honolulu has a population of slightly over 990,000. Hawaii County has a population of under 200,000 people. Maui County has a population of over 164,000. Kauai County has a population of over 71,000. Thus, approximately 435,000 people live in Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Counties, which is about one-third (1/3) of the State.

Testifying before the State Legislature is a particularly effective form of advocacy. However, for people living in Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Counties, this may be cost prohibitive and logistically impossible with arranging time off from work and/or for childcare / family-care to fly to Oahu for a hearing on very short notice. Thus, one-third (1/3) of our population, our citizenry living with disabilities, and people fighting Oahu's traffic are shutout and should not be shutout of the Hawaii legislative process.

Further, air travel to and from Oahu is particularly detrimental to our environment, given greenhouse gas emissions associated with the aviation industry. Thus, remote testimony should be encouraged and promoted, lest we forget that Hawaii has a carbon neutral goal by 2045, pursuant to HRS § 225P-5 (2018).

When people know what their government is doing and can observe their government in action, then this is a functioning democracy. When people are able to communicate with their elected officials to make their voices heard, then this is a representative democracy. As Abraham Lincoln said, “[G]overnment of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

We support HB 1153, HD1, SD1, and we respectfully urge the Committee members to pass HB 1153, HD1, SD1 out of your Committee.

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:23:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
clare loprinzi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is essential if outer islands are important to those who decide on laws , you the reps and senators. keoluolu pass this bill

me kahaahaa, clare loprinzi

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:58:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH ANN IGNACIO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill so that citizens on the neighbor islands can submit testimony live for all the House and Senate hearings.

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:13:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support all measures that will increase public participation in the workings of government and the legislative process.

lynne matusow

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 12:11:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with CommonCause Hawaii comments.

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 4:53:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing HB1153 HD1 SD1. As a neighboring island resident I understand first hand how badly we need this measure. Please support our ability as neighboring islanders to testify on bills that matter to us without having to request off work, organize child care, expend huge cost and at often such short notice. Please support neighbor island testifying and HB1153.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Fern A Holland

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 6:01:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:30:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

During the Big Wind challenge, residents of LÄ• naâ€i had to rely on grant funds and private donations to have their voices heard at relevant legislative hearings. It was frustrating, expensive and often (due to flight and meeting schedules) called for residents to take a full day off from work. Allowing for remote testimony will level the playing field for neighbor island residents.

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 2:56:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support HB1153 HD1 SD1. This bill would

- Establish a remote legislative program within the legislature's public access program
- Require the Senate and House to establish procedures, rules and infrastructure for the public to present oral testimony at legislative committee hearings through remote testimony

Neighbor Island folks have been asking for a way to testify that does not require their presence at the Capitol. They have been asking for over 20 years. The population of the Neighbor Islands represents over a third of Hawaii's population.

It's about time that Neighbor Islanders have a chance to testify remotely. It is only fair.

Please pass HB1153 HD1 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 7:25:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Withington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. For too long we have been playing on an unfair ballpark. Those of us on the neighbor islands can not participate in legislature the same way folks on Oahu can. This gives us a start to better participate.

Be fair, Mote Yes.

Toni Withington, Hawi, North Kohala

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 6:24:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

One-third of our population cannot testify i person, yet they need to be heard so our democracy can function in Hawaii.

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:21:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucia You	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:35:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1153. Citizens of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai face steep logistical and financial barriers to testifying before the State Legislature. Because of these obstacles, a significant portion of the population (about one third) are effectively denied the right to verbally express support of, or opposition to legislation. The technical means of allowing citizens to testify remotely have existed for decades and are currently used during Hawaii County Council meetings. Certainly the State Legislature could, and should do the same.

LATE

HB-1153-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:11:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a very concerned Citizen on the Island of Hawai'i, I think it only fair that I be able to testify in person without a day of lost wages and spending about \$250 to get to my legislators and let them know my input on critical bills that affect my life, my work, my family & those I care about. We are Hawai'i. I am proud to be born in this Great State, but we are a state of several islands & we have to represent every citizen equally.

Mahalo nui for supporting the means for every concerned citizen to have their right to be heard,

Reverend April Lee

Hawi, HI