



## HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Bill Number: HB 135  
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **STRONG SUPPORT** of H.B. 138, Requiring Mandatory Lobbyist Training

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **strongly supports** H.B. 138, which requires mandatory training for all lobbyists who are required to register under the Hawai'i Lobbyists Law, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 97.

Education is one of the core functions of the Commission. In addition to providing ethics training for state elected officials, employees, and members of state boards and commissions, Commission staff conducts annual trainings for registered lobbyists and organizations engaged in lobbying activities at the state level.

This bill would require lobbyists to complete a lobbyists training course prior to registering with the Commission, and repeat the training at least once every two years. Twenty other jurisdictions currently have a similar type of training requirement, including Washington, Oregon, and California.

The measure will help educate organizations and lobbyists about the state lobbyists laws and rules, and ensure greater compliance with the lobbyist registration laws. The Commission strongly believes that a mandatory lobbyist training requirement will help strengthen its overall ability to administer and enforce the state lobbying laws.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 138.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris  
Robert D. Harris  
Executive Director and General Counsel

**HB-138**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:19:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Foley	Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Tarnas and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission), I support HB138 mandating a lobbyist training course for reasons stated in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report to the House of Representatives, specifically found at page 29 of the Report.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama

Thursday, February 2, 2023, 2:00 p.m. and Conference Room 325  
HB138 — Relating to Mandatory Lobbyist Training

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER HB138**

This bill mandates regular and on-going training on lobbying laws and ethics code to ensure all lobbyists are aware of current laws. This will allow lobbyists to be held accountable for proper ethical behavior and will increase the public's confidence in government.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-138**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:14:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Just as members of boards and commissions are required to take courses in the Sunshine Law lobbyist should be required to attend lobbyist training courses. To often we hear about lobbyist flaunting the law, offering gifts, etc. that are not allowed, and just doing what they want. Almost like Congressman George Santos with all his lies, with a new news story breaking almost daily. The lobbyists should be accountable to the state as their actions can well affect legislation. Please pass this needed bill.