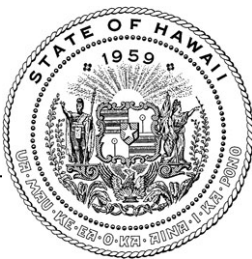


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAND USE COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DANIEL ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

235 S. Beretania Street, RM 406, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804
Email Address: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 587-3822
Fax: (808) 587-3827
Website: luc.hawaii.gov

January 28, 2022

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
House Committee on
Government Reform

Tuesday February 2, 2022
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 309 Virtual Video Conference

In consideration of
HB 1849
RELATING TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Chair McKelvey; Vice Chair Wildberger; and members of the House Committee on Government Reform:

The Land Use Commission supports HB 1849. The proposed bill requires certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

We believe the proposed changes would encourage greater participation by qualified professionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Government Reform
February 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

By
David Lassner, President
University of Hawai'i

HB 1849 – RELATING TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawaii (UH) supports HB 1849, which would redact certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions.

UH strongly opposed legislation in 2014 that made the financial filings of Board of Regents (BOR) members publicly available. For decades prior, Regents had been submitting financial disclosures for the Ethics Commission to monitor and address conflicts of interest.

Four sitting Regents resigned when the Legislature changed the conditions of their public service. They had provided their financial disclosures for Ethics Commission review but were not willing to have their privacy and that of their families compromised.

In the years since, we have seen declining numbers of applications from individuals willing and interested to serve as Regents. While there are multiple factors, we know that for some potential applicants the requirement of submitting financial disclosures for public review is enough to discourage them from considering service as a Regent.

We support HB 1849 in the hopes that it will be a first step forward in increasing the number of candidates for the Board of Regents and all other state boards and commissions.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Videoconference, 9:30 a.m.
Room 309

To: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Government Reform

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 1849

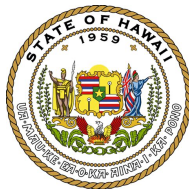
The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 1849. H.B. No. 1849, which requires certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

Currently volunteer members of State boards and commissions must submit financial disclosure statements which are then public record. This measure would allow affected board members to keep the financial information that they are required to submit private from public disclosure. The State has multiple vacancies on boards, many or most of which are unpaid, volunteer positions. While public access to required financial disclosure statements has not

deterred those who have stepped forward to serve, redaction of those required filings for public disclosure might expand the pool of volunteers who are willing to serve.

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 1849.



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Committee: House Committee on Government Reform
Bill Number: H.B. 1849
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2022 9:30 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission **OPPOSING**
H.B. 1849, Relating to State Boards and Commissions

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1849, which would make confidential certain financial information filed by members of high-profile boards and commissions. The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission respectfully *opposes* this measure.

As background, only members to eighteen high-profile boards and commissions, such as the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai‘i Community Development Authority, and the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i, are required to file public financial disclosures. Individuals submitting a filing disclosure do not submit specific dollar values, but rather report value ranges.¹

The Commission supports legislation promoting openness and transparency in government, and respectfully submits this bill moves in the wrong direction. For members of very high-profile boards and commissions, the public would see that an individual received income, held a financial interest in a business entity, or owed money to a creditor, but would have no way of knowing whether the value at stake was \$5,000 or \$5,000,000. Reducing public transparency in this manner weakens public confidence in the actions of these individuals and their respective boards and commissions, which is contrary to the purpose of the state ethics laws.

Moreover, without knowing the amount of a Board or Commission member’s financial interest, a public stakeholder could not reasonably evaluate the potential of a conflict of interest. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 84-14 defines a conflict of interest where official action is taken “directly affecting . . . [a] business or other undertaking in which the employee has a *substantial financial interest* . . .” (Emphasis added). If this measure were to pass, publicly evaluating whether a board member had a “substantial financial interest” could be arduous or impossible.

¹ Reporting ranges are (1) \$1,000 but less than \$10,000; (2) \$10,000 but less than \$25,000; (3) \$50,000 but less than \$100,000; (4) 100,000 but less than \$150,000; (5) \$150 but less than \$250,000; (6) \$500,000 but less than \$750,000; (7) \$750,000 but less than \$1 million; and (8) more than \$1 million. For other types of financial interests such as stocks, bonds, and business ownership, filers can also choose to report the number of shares owned or percentage of their interest.

The Commission recognizes the importance of recruiting and maintaining highly qualified board and commission members. On balance, however, the Commission believes that individuals serving on high-profile boards and commissions ought to file financial disclosure statements that are fully available to the public. This allows members of the public to appropriately evaluate any potential ethical concern and act as necessary. It also helps ensure public confidence that certain high profile boards and commission are acting in the best interest of the State of Hawai'i.

On a more administrative note, the Commission's electronic filing system for financial disclosures would need to be re-programmed to accommodate the changes contemplated by this bill. Our estimated cost for this type of re-programming, using our existing outside vendor, would be approximately \$10,000. Further, it would take approximately three months to program these changes.

If this bill were to be moved forward, the Commission recommends adding an appropriation and making the bill effective for financial disclosures starting on January 1, 2023.

Once again, mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris

Executive Director and General Counsel



1/28/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express HPM Building Supply's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

HPM is proud to be over 100 years old and we have a long tradition in Hawai'i of serving our community. Today we are 100% employee-owned, and have over 450 owner-employees across all 4 major islands. Our guiding philosophy is to help Hawai'i build better and live better by enhancing homes, improving lives, and transforming communities. As such, with the community's best interest at heart, we feel compelled to show our support for items that will make a positive difference in Hawaii.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawai'i, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. It is essential that our Boards and Commissions that have so much influence over Hawaii are filled with qualified candidates and strong leaders. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jason Fujimoto, President & CEO





HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Government Reform

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 2, 2022

H.B. 1849 – RELATING TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 1849 which amends the public financial disclosure requirements for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions.

First and foremost, the amendments proposed in this measure do not eliminate financial disclosure requirements, rather this measure redacts the specific dollar amounts from public view and maintains conflict of interest review. There are more than 170 different boards and commissions that were created to encourage citizens to directly participate in shaping government policy, however, as of June 2021, there are several hundred vacancies reported across the state. We must take steps to increase the pool of qualified candidates willing to voluntarily serve on boards and commissions and amending – but not eliminating – the financial disclosure is one important step that could help.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 1849.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
UHALUMNI.ORG

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Jason Haruki, '00
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contact@UHalumni.org
2440 Campus Road, Unit 307
Honolulu, HI 96822-2234
808-956-2586/1-877-UH-ALUMS

February 2, 2022

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Government Reform
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

HB 1849 RELATING TO STATE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee;

The University of Hawaii Alumni Association strongly **supports HB1849**, which requires the redaction of certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions.

As UHAA board members, we understand the commitment it takes to volunteer and provide services in hopes of advancing the collective good of an institution or agency for the community-at-large. Seeking leaders in the community to nominate to a state board and/or commission is often met with hesitation because of the requirement to disclose one's financial information. Removing this requirement would increase the size and quality of the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions.

Based on data published on boards.hawaii.gov, through June 2022, there are currently 389 vacancies across 176 state boards, commissions, and agencies. For many Hawaii residents, the risk of exposing your personal financial information to the public is not worth the time and energy required to serve on these Boards and Commissions. This has resulted in less community engagement in government and less qualified candidates sitting on these Boards and Commissions.

By removing irrelevant personal information from public disclosure – information that is not relevant to assessing any conflict of a board member - we believe that the state will attract the right individuals who are willing to serve our state on a Board or Commission by giving of their time, skills and wisdom. In its role, the State Ethics Commission would still serve as a watchdog to ensure there are no conflicts of interest.

We respectfully ask for passage of HB1849 and thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

Brandon Kurisu '99
President

The University of Hawai'i Alumni Association (UHAA) represents more than 300,000 alumni who have graduated from the 10 University of Hawai'i system campuses and community-based learning centers across the Hawaiian Islands.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 9:30 am, State Capitol Room 309 & Videoconference
HB 1849

Relating to State Boards and Commissions

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii opposes HB1849.

The League believes that public financial disclosure statements SHOULD be required for uncompensated members of state boards which can authorize private use of public property or spend public funds for private benefit. Because public financial disclosure statements deter potential financial conflicts of interest, we oppose redaction of information required under either §84-17(f) or §84-17(g), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

1/28/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express [COMPANY/INDIVIDUAL]'s support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

I am the owner of several companies in the construction sector, one of them being Seal Masters of Hawaii. I would be thrilled to serve on one of the vacant board seats. However, I am not willing to do so with the current requirements that allow public view of my financials.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Joe Miller
President
Seal Masters of Hawaii



The House Committee on Government Reform
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
9:30 am
VIA Videoconference, Conference Room 309

RE: **HB 1849 Relating to State Boards and Commissions**

Attention: Chair Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair Tina Wildberger and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 1849 Relating to State Boards and Commissions.

As a community, we have witnessed the difficulty to attract and retain community member participation on state boards and commissions. This bill seeks to address that by amending the public financial disclosure requirements for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to fill vacant seats, attract qualified candidates and encourage public service, while still maintaining and recognizing the importance of relevant transparency.

UHPA works directly with the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents and will direct our comments to the importance of recruiting qualified candidates for academia. Currently, the State Constitution (Article X, Section 6) directs the "candidate advisory council" to provide the governor with a list of qualified candidates derived from "pools of qualified candidates". The unfortunate situation of late is that there is barely a pool let alone "pools" of candidates.

We have observed the steady decline in the number of qualified candidates and believe this bill will substantially reengage qualified candidates.

UHPA strongly supports the passage of HB 1849.

Mahalo,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Executive Director



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
FOUNDATION

February 1, 2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony from the University of Hawai'i Foundation in support of HB1849, relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will amend the public financial disclosure requirements for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to fill vacant seats, attract qualified candidates and encourage public service – while still maintaining relevant transparency.

We support this bill because it effectively creates a balanced and conscientious pathway to strengthen the caliber of state boards and commissions with people who can make the most difference. Given the 389 vacancies we currently have on state boards and commissions, and the negative impact these vacancies are making, the time has come to directly address the barriers to participation our top candidates have identified – the need for privacy around their personal assets.

It is very understandable that most community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public. HB1849 contains the transparency we need to identify potential conflicts of interest, while also allowing our boards and commissions to recruit the very best volunteers.

By supporting HB1849, we can remove a barrier to participation and engage the local community leaders with the expertise and insights needed to effectively fulfil a wide range of responsibilities in sectors critical to our state's health and future.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Dolan".

Tim Dolan
University of Hawai'i Vice President of Advancement and UH Foundation CEO

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
9:30 AM
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 1849
RELATING TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Chair McKELVEY, Vice Chair WILDBERGER, and Members of the House Government Reform Committee

Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB 1849, which requires certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy through ethics, accountability, and transparency reforms.

HB 1849 would remove the requirement that financial disclosures be made public for non-paid volunteer members on state boards and commissions. Certain information on the financial disclosure statements would therefore be redacted for non-paid volunteer members on state boards and commissions.

Common Cause Hawaii objects to HB 1849 as it would reduce ethics, accountability, and transparency in the state. The purpose of having public, unredacted financial disclosures is to reveal any conflicts of interest and create accountability and transparency for board member actions. Redaction of financial disclosure information serves no good government purpose, especially when many non-paid volunteer boards hold tremendous power in Hawaii, e.g., Board of Education, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Land Use Commission, Agricultural Development Corporation, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1849, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully asks you to defer HB 1849. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

THE CIVIL BEAT
LAW CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

700 Bishop Street, Suite 1701
Honolulu, HI 96813

Office: (808) 531-4000
Fax: (808) 380-3580
info@civilbeatlawcenter.org

House Committee on Government Reform
Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony Opposing H.B. 1849, Relating to State Boards and Commissions
Hearing: February 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Black. I am the Executive Director of the Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, a nonprofit organization whose primary mission concerns solutions that promote government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **opposing** H.B. 1849.

H.B. 1849 starts from the false premise that qualified individuals are not seeking appointment to seventeen of the most influential boards and commissions in the State of Hawai`i because their financial disclosure statements to the State Ethics Commission would be publicly posted. None of the seventeen relevant boards have more than one vacancy currently.

In contrast, other State boards and commissions – whose members' financial disclosure statements **are not** publicly posted – have multiple long-standing vacancies. There are plenty of qualified individuals in the State of Hawai`i who are not deterred by a requirement to publicly identify their conflicts of interest.

If an individual is not willing to be transparent with the people of Hawai`i concerning the extent to which they have a conflict of interest, that person may not be the best person to **represent the people of Hawai`i** on a civilian oversight board. That principle holds especially true for these seventeen boards and commissions with critical functions concerning land use, energy, housing, and education and whose actions directly or indirectly impact nearly everyone in our community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in opposition to H.B. 1849.

1/31/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Title Guaranty's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

I am in full support of this legislation. This bill will encourage Hawaii residents to volunteer their time to give back to our community by sitting on State Boards and Commissions. Hawaii has talented individuals who are willing to assist and add value but are not willing to do so if this commitment puts the risk on themselves or their families.

Suppose an individual is asked to volunteer their time and energy on a State Board or Commission, they are also forced to disclose all their sources of income and the amounts to the State of Hawaii Ethics Commission which is then fully available to the public. This information includes their spouse and children. Having this information public puts the risk on that individual and his or her family. Their data could be taken and used against them. A cyber attacker could target the family, resulting in stolen identity or a far worse attack.

Another potential risk is economic profiling where an individual could be viewed and discriminated against based on their income. This could apply to both ends of the economic spectrum and be amplified based on the small intimate community of Hawaii.

For many Hawaii residents, the risk of exposing your personal information to the world is not worth the desire to help the community and this has resulted in less community engagement in government and less talent on Boards and Commissions. It is understood that the State Ethics commission will continue to receive the full financial disclosure with dollar figures but if the dollar amounts are not publicly disclosed the risks of being targeted by a cyber thief is greatly reduced and individuals will be more inclined to join boards/commissions.


During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the

pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Pietsch". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael B. Pietsch
President
Title Guaranty of Hawaii

January 31, 2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

As the Director and CEO of the Honolulu Museum of Art, I have had the privilege to meet and engage with members of our community who are experts in their chosen fields. These individuals, who are passionate advocates for Hawai'i, are eager to give back to the community that they hold so dear and lend their expertise towards bettering our shared environment. One of the many ways these individuals can give back is to serve on the State's voluntary boards and commissions, but unfortunately many of them are unwilling to do so due to the public financial disclosure requirement. I appreciate that public transparency and accountability is important, but redacting the specific dollar figures from the public financial disclosure will make candidates confident that their privacy (and the privacy of their families) will be preserved, and the State Ethics Commission will still receive a full financial disclosure.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Halona Norton-Westbrook
Director and CEO
Honolulu Museum of Art



1/32/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

Due to the nature of my industry and sensitivity of information, as well as for my family's privacy, it is not advisable nor likely that I would be inclined to volunteer for a state board with the current rules.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Lisa A.M. Miller, CPA
Owner, Consultant
Lisa Menor Miller Consulting, LLC



January 31, 2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Hawaiian Host Group's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

There are many state level boards that affect the future of Hawaiian Host Group related to agriculture, tourism, transportation, land use and our university system that need to have the best industry leaders Hawaii has on them. However, many experienced and well-respected leaders simply will not commit to helping due to the required disclosures in Hawaii.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha,

Ed Schultz
President & CEO

Association of Emeritus Regents

James H.Q. Lee, Chair
Andres Albano, Jr. Vice-Chair
J. F. Blanco, Secretary-Treasurer

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1849 RELATING TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

HEARING DATE:

9:30 AM, Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Conference Room 309 & via Videoconference

Submitted by:

ASSOCIATION OF EMERITUS REGENTS
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Committee on Government Reform (GVR)
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Legislature
Thirty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2022

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice-Chair, and members on Committee:

This testimony is being submitted by the Association of Emeritus Regents of the University of Hawaii (AER). The University's Board of Regents (BOR) established the AER on January 13, 1995. Our members include all former University Regents appointed by Governors Ariyoshi, Waihee, Cayetano, Lingle, and Ige.

AER supports HB 1849, which amends the existing financial disclosure statement by redaction of the financial amounts. The passage of HB 1849 will encourage more qualified community-minded citizens to apply for positions on State boards, including the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, without making public the amounts of their financial investments and net worth.

The purpose of submitting the financial disclosure statement is to have board members with interest in matters in which they have a financial interest be disclosed. Such disclosure would require them to do the right thing, which is to abstain from participation in the discussion and the vote in matters in which they have a financial interest. The financial amount is inconsequential. It does not matter whether the board member has a \$1 investment or a \$1 million investment. In either case, the board member should abstain from participating in any discussion or vote on the matter in which the board member has a financial interest. The amount of their investment is irrelevant. Any investment will create an inappropriate appearance of impropriety.

AER asks that the Committee pass HB 1849.

1/31/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

I currently serve on two non-profit boards and on the board of a publicly traded company federally regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). While the SEC disclosure requirements are rigorous, I do not believe they are as stringent as the ones currently in place for unpaid, volunteer positions with the State of Hawaii boards and commissions. Further, it is also my understanding that these volunteer disclosure requirements are the same or even greater than the disclosures required by state legislators such as yourselves. This is not reasonable as those that serve on these boards are not elected positions with the power to legislate.

Should this bill pass, I feel the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than the specific dollar amounts.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Josh Feldman
President & CEO
Tori Richard, Ltd.

February 1, 2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Central Pacific Bank's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

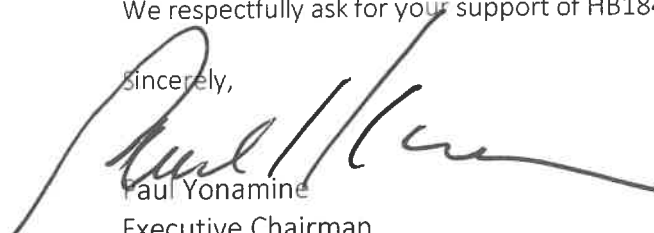
As the Executive Chairman of Central Pacific Bank, I am responsible for over 900 employees, their families and 10's of thousands of our customers. It is critical that boards and commissions important to keep and further enhance our collective lifestyle are comprised of the very best talents in our community.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,


Paul Yonamine
Executive Chairman

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 7:44:25 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Best	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would reduce ethics, transparency and accountability. Counter productive in a democracy

1/31/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Robert Kurisu's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

As a young professional and active community volunteer serving on private boards and committees, serving on public boards and commissions is an act of civic engagement myself and many of my peers would naturally aspire to do. However, current public disclosure requirements are overreaching and inappropriate from a personal and professional perspective. I fully support continued disclosure and checks for conflicts of interest for sake of fairness and maintaining integrity of public service, however, HB1849 makes the adjustments needed to allow professionals with experience, skills and passion needed on public boards and commissions to best serve the community.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kurisu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Kurisu

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 9:21:45 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kauanoë Batangan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1849 because this bill reduces transparency and accountability. Volunteer boards and commissions hold tremendous power and financial statements shine a light on conflicts of interest.

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:39:11 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sean Tadaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 5:22:43 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why in the world would anyone be advocating for less disclosure? Acceptance to be on a board or commission means one cannot hide his or her participation.

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:41:53 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Huynh Eller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support and oppose HB 1849 as it would reduce ethics, accountability, and transparency in the state.

The purpose of having public, unredacted financial disclosures is to reveal any conflicts of interest and create accountability and transparency for board member actions.

Redaction of such information serves no good government purpose, especially when many non-paid volunteer boards hold tremendous power in Hawaii.

1/31/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of HB1849.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public.

I fully support the requirement for financial disclosures to verify any conflicts of interest. Those conflicts can be verified or checked by a state regulatory agency. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves. Should this bill pass, I feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Chad Sakumoto

Chief Investment Officer

J. Kadowaki, Inc.

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:59:35 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jon Whittington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Our goal is to encourage Hawaii residents to volunteer their time to give back to our community by sitting on State Boards and Commissions. Hawaii has talented individuals who are willing to assist and add value but are not willing to do so if this commitment puts the risk on themselves or their families.
- Suppose an individual is asked to volunteer their time and energy on a State Board or Commission, they are also forced to disclose all their sources of income and the amounts to the State of Hawaii Ethics Commission which is then fully available to the public. This information includes their spouse and children. Having this information public puts the risk on that individual and his or her family. Their data could be taken and used against them. A cyber attacker could target the family, resulting in stolen identity or a far worse attack.
- Another potential risk is economic profiling where an individual could be viewed and discriminated against based on their income. This could apply to both ends of the economic spectrum and be amplified based on the small intimate community of Hawaii.
- For many Hawaii residents, the risk of exposing your personal information to the world is not worth the desire to help the community and this has resulted in less community engagement in government and less talent on Boards and Commissions. It is understood that the State Ethics commission will continue to receive the full financial disclosure with dollar figures but if the dollar amounts are not publicly disclosed the risks of being targeted by a cyber thief is greatly reduced and individuals will be more inclined to join boards/commissions.

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:27:50 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

we need more transparency, not more opaqueness. if people, no matter how qualified, do not want to reveal the finances, then they should not serve. period.

at a time of increased scrutiny of elected and appointed officials (i.e., recent federal indictments of Honolulu officials Amemiya, Sword, and Wong), more should be revealed, not less. The indictments will be continuing. Grand jurors are being sought for at least one new federal panel.

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:23:30 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jason Thune	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals who are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jason Thune

1/28/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

Having served myself on city volunteer boards and commissions over the years, this measure is very important to ensure that we have the best and brightest volunteering on these important commissions.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Nathan Okubo

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:27:22 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is John Morgan. I am the president of Kualoa Ranch. I strongly support HB 1849 and SB 123, which redact the specific financial disclose requirements for members of public boards and commissions.

I was asked to serve and subsequently was on the Board of Land and Natural resources for 4 years. I was honored to help the State in this capacity, took it seriously and felt like i contributed significantly.

If the financial disclosure rule was in place when i was asked, i would not have been willing to serve. i have nothing to hide, but i don't want my financial status open for the world to see.

The existing mechanisms in place for disclosing conflits of interest are suffient. Please support this bill.

mahalo

John

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:07:05 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jared Watumull	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express [COMPANY/INDIVIDUAL]’s support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

People want to help out but don’t want all their information to be put out to the public.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jared Watumull

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:44:10 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chuck Bergson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committte,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Pacific Media Group's and my (Chuck Bergson) individual support of HB 1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

I have served on a number of boards and have resigned from all of them largely due to the financial disclosure requirements. I believe HB 1849 provides the language that gives enough information without individuals being required to provide private information to the general public.

Should this bill pass, I would consider serving on a community Board or Commission again in the future.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha,

Chuck Bergson

President/CEO

Pacific Media Group, Inc.

HB-1849

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:17:05 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephen Ueda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Financial information is very personal. Please keep financial data redacted.

HB-1849

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:19:08 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sterling Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Though I quibble with the wording of Section I, especially the notion that those with privacy concerns are "most qualified to serve," I support the overall premise.

Simply: the current disclosure rules limit the number of people willing to serve on volunteer boards and commissions. Because these boards and commissions are critical to the functioning of our democratic government, we must ensure that our talent pool is as wide and deep as possible.

Government is in a war for talent. This bill makes it easier to attract people to public service, and I support it.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER

LATE



ALOHA STADIUM

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

ROSS I. YAMASAKI
CHAIRMAN, STADIUM AUTHORITY

RYAN G. ANDREWS
DEPUTY MANAGER

TESTIMONY
OF
RYAN G. ANDREWS, ACTING MANAGER
ALOHA STADIUM
STADIUM AUTHORITY
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM

FEBRUARY 2, 2022, 9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

H.B. 1849

RELATING TO THE STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 1849.

As the Stadium Authority board moves forward with two major projects (real estate development and a full stadium buildout) that are envisioned to create a vibrant and robust entertainment district; it is imperative that each board member have the necessary skillset to effectively guide both major projects through fruition.

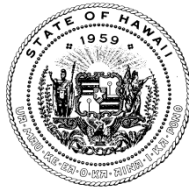
Approval of this measure provides some level of privacy and assurance to highly qualified individuals interested in filling a board seat that certain personal financial compensation information, while being public record, would be redacted.

The Stadium Authority Board is tasked with providing direction and making decisions that have broad reaching and longstanding impact to the future of the State of Hawaii. This responsibility makes the filling of board seats with highly qualified members an even more sensitive and critical challenge. The Stadium Authority is currently challenged with filling two (2) vacant board positions and will be facing two (2) additional vacancies in July 2022.

We ask for your support in approving this measure that will provide some level of privacy to applicants interested in filling Stadium Board seats. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of HB 1849.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LATE



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASH
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 2, 2022
9:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 1849
RELATING TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMITSSIONS**

House Committee on Government Reform

The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B.1849 which requires certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

This redaction may encourage more volunteers and increase the pool of qualified individuals that would be willing to participate in state boards and commissions, thus filling many of the vacancies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

RE: House Bill 1849 – RELATING TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Hearing date: February 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the House Committee on Government Reform:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of Young Brothers ("YB") offering **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1849 – Relating to State Boards and Commissions.

This measure would require the redaction of certain information reported on financial disclosure statements by non-paid volunteer members of state boards, commissions, and certain agencies.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

Thank you for your service to the State of Hawaii, and for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Kris Nakagawa
Vice President, External and Legal Affairs



LATE

1/28/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Mana Up's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

Mana Up is an accelerator and venture fund for Hawai'i-based products growing to markets globally, with the mission to increase economic opportunity and jobs for the people of Hawai'i. Since launching Mana Up in 2018, my cofounder Brittany Heyd and I have helped 63 local companies graduate from our six-month accelerator program that provides expansion opportunities and helps solve business challenges – and we continue to support and collaborate with these local businesses as needed. There are a number of vacancies on state boards & commissions, so approvals that impact our local businesses including the ones we work with, can't get done. We are in support of this bill because we would like to see state boards filled with more qualified and talented individuals who can quickly approve decisions that will help our business community thrive.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain

financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Meli James
Cofounder, Mana Up

1/28/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express HVCA's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

The Hawaii Venture Capital Association (HVCA) is a local nonprofit that stands as a nexus for entrepreneurs, capital foundation, and networking opportunities in Hawaii. Our organization helps to foster entrepreneurship through education and exposure to key members in our business community in order to support our islands' emerging entrepreneurs, all while sustaining a vibrant and successful business community. Currently, our state is facing a number of vacancies on state boards & commissions, so decisions that impact our local businesses including the ones we work with and support, are unable to be approved. We strongly support this bill because we would like to see state boards recruit more volunteers who are highly qualified to efficiently approve decisions that will help our business community and therefore, grow our local economy.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meli James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meli James
President, HVCA

LATE

1/28/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Jason Haruki's support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Jason H. Haruki
Senior Vice President
First Hawaiian Bank

LATE

HB-1849

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:23:52 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christy Cowser	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

HDOT support staff on HB1849

LATE

HB-1849

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:37:22 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Qualified volunteers for Boards and Commissions need to be encouraged to serve with preservation of their personal information.

This bill will redact from the public part of the financial disclosure without compromising disclosure of conflicts of interest. The State Ethics commission will continue to receive a full financial disclosure with specific dollar amounts.

Please vote to pass this bill.

Thank you.

James Tam

1/28/2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1849

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of HB1849 relating to State Boards and Commissions, which will require certain information on the financial disclosure statements deemed to be public records for non-paid volunteer members of state boards and commissions to be redacted.

During this critical time of uncertainty in Hawaii, finding qualified candidates who are willing to volunteer their service is essential to the health of our community. Community members who are most qualified to serve are often not willing to pursue a seat on these boards and commissions because of the requirement that financial disclosures are public. Based on data published through June 2021, the state currently has 389 vacancies and the pool of qualified individuals that are willing to serve has reduced and continues to experience reductions. Understandably, community members value their privacy and do not wish to have their personal financial data shared with the public.

Should this bill pass, we feel strongly that the pool of candidates for these state boards and commissions will increase in size and quality. This bill does not eliminate the requirement of financial disclosure or checking of conflicts of interest. This bill only seeks to redact certain financial information from public view. Ultimately, sources of income and business affiliations are more valuable in uncovering potential conflicts than dollar values by themselves.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB1849. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Nakamura
Corporate Controller & Treasurer
Island Holdings, Inc.

LATE

HB-1849

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:35:47 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emily Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

As you know, Hawaii is currently facing critical issues. We have numerous voluntary boards and commissions involved in tackling them. To ensure strong leadership on these voluntary boards and commissions – and to reduce the significant number of current vacancies – we need to revisit the relatively recent requirement of specific public financial disclosures and the risk such specific public disclosure poses to individual privacy and security, which disincentives many qualified individuals from serving on these voluntary boards and commissions.

My understanding is that these bills propose redacting the specific dollar figures from the public part of the financial disclosure; however, conflicts of interest would still be identified through disclosing the source of the compensation. The dollar amounts serve little public interest and only discourage qualified candidates from applying. Also publicly disclosing such specific financial information can make candidates easy targets for online criminals. The State Ethics commission would continue to receive a full financial disclosure with specific dollar amounts. This seems like a very reasonable compromise to me, for voluntary boards and commissions, balancing public interest and individual privacy concerns, all for the greater good of having more qualified individuals being willing to serve on these voluntary boards and commissions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter of leadership for our community, and for all that you do for our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Porter

Chief Operating Officer, MacNaughton