



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

March 29, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 / Senate Resolution 55 –
Committing to Provide Greater Public Access to the Legislative Process
by Adopting Rules to Allow for Virtual Testimony, Hearings Recordings, and
Internet Broadcasts of Hearings Beyond Periods of Catastrophic Events**

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 and Senate Resolution 55. Remote testimony is a valuable option for all neighbor islands residents, especially those with disabilities who face additional barriers to interisland travel. It also benefits anyone with a medical condition that puts them at an elevated risk of contracting an airborne disease such as COVID-19.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirby L. Shaw".

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



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
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 29, 2022

**S.C.R. 60/S.R. 55 - PROVIDING GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS BY ADOPTING RULES TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL
TESTIMONY, HEARING RECORDINGS, AND INTERNET BROADCASTS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.C.R. 60 and S.R. 55 which expresses the Legislature's commitment to providing greater public access to the legislative process by adopting rules to allow for virtual testimony and recorded and broadcasted hearings.

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has fundamentally changed how we can and should operate. We have long supported measures and resolutions that increase the public's access to the legislative process and are pleased that the Legislature was able to pivot quickly to allow for virtual testifying and broadcasted 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 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 continuation of virtual testifying and broadcasting hearings will ensure equal access to committee hearings no matter where a Hawaii resident resides.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 5:32:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of our members who live throughout Hawai'i Nei and on the mainland, we urge the Legislature to continue remote access to the democratic process. Those who live far from the Capitol should be able to have their voices heard without the expense and inconvenience of appearing in person. This aspect of technology can provide great power to many more than ever before. Mahalo.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 9:30 am, State Capitol Room 016 & Videoconference
SCR 60 & SR 55

COMMITTING TO PROVIDE GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS BY
ADOPTING RULES TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL TESTIMONY, HEARING RECORDINGS, AND INTERNET
BROADCASTS OF HEARINGS BEYOND PERIODS OF CATASTROPHIC EVENTS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SCR 60 and SR 55. Internet broadcast, virtual testimony, and on-demand video-recordings should be routine requirements for future legislative hearings. What began as an experiment during a pandemic has evolved and made Hawaii's legislative process accessible to everyone with internet access. You did good and we really appreciate it!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 4:20:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SCR60. Being able to testify remotely and listen into important meetings from the comfort and safety of our homes has been a silver lining during the past 2 years of the pandemic. It's very expensive and takes hours out of a busy day to travel to Honolulu from outlying islands for 3 minutes of testimony.

Please make sure this valuable open access to our Hawai'i State governing stays permanent. It's the right thing to do and it reduces the carbon footprint for testimony from outlying islands.

Mahalo,

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 1:32:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please continue virtual testimony for all Hawaiian residents. To travel to Oahu is too expensive between flights, accomodation and transportation. It will also ensure more participation in our legislative process.

Mahalo

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 8:07:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Midori Marcia Sue Trent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SR55 to enable continued remote testimony, hearing recordings and internet broadcast. My interaction has become limited to computer access due to age, health and availability of transportation. Thank you for your consideration.

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 12:57:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

During the pandemic, virtual legislative testimony, recorded legislative hearings, and internet broadcasts of legislative hearings permitted legislators to continue safely and remotely. This virtual testimony also allowed the public to participate.

The public also appreciated being able to review recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings when not able to watch the proceedings live. Archiving the hearings, sessions, and informational briefings has been critical to legislative transparency and accountability.

I support each house of the Legislature continuing to provide greater public access to the legislative process for the people of Hawaii “by adopting rules allowing virtual testimony, recorded hearings, and hearings broadcasted via the Internet, consistent with those that were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, be continued as a regular practice.”

It is also suggested that the resolution be clarified to ensure that the recorded hearings, sessions, and informational briefings must be archived for later and/or repeat viewing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this resolution.

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 9:09:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toni Withington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. As a community activist in North Kohala on Hawaii Island, I think this bill levels the playing field for all of us on the Neighbor Islands and rural Oahu.

Toni Withington -- Hawi, Hawaii

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 10:58:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meizhu Lui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear representatives -

for ALL of Hawaii! Citizens like me who live on Hawaii Island have not had the same access to the right to testify on bills affecting us, as do those who live on Oahu. This creates an obstacle to our fair representation. SR 55 alleviates this situation by - at last - by allowing us to testify virtually and to get needed information through the internet. We cannot be expected to shoulder the greater burden of the expense, trouble, and time it takes to get to Honolulu to testify in person.

Thank you for your commitment to the equal opportunity for all voters to participate in Hawaii's democratic process.

Meizhu Lui, Papaaloa, Hawaii Island

SR-55

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:57:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It is a shame that it took until 2020 and grappling with a pandemic to adopt such common sense measures in the IT age. It would be nothing less than anti-democratic to reverse course now. I live in Kaimuki and largely support this measure for our other islands' residents, but many people on Oahu would also benefit from being able to testify virtually and remain civically engaged through technology, including the physically impaired, those without cars, or even those with busy schedules such as yourselves. Paired with digital equity initiatives, this resolution supports the voice of the people. Thank you for passing it.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos