

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2023

RE: S.B. No. 613

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred S.B. No. 613 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE ACCESS THROUGH REMOTE TESTIMONY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require each house of the Legislature to establish by its rules, procedures that enable the Legislature to use remote testimony at legislative committee hearings, enable the public to present oral testimony at legislative committee hearings through remote testimony, and accommodate persons with disabilities through remote testimony; and
- (2) Define "remote testimony".

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that the emergence of the coronavirus disease 2019 and temporary rules enabled the public to participate in the legislative process via live, real-time remote testimony, thus circumventing geographic challenges specific to the State.



Expanded public access through the use of technology also provides persons with disabilities another means of accessibility to participation in policy processes. Therefore, your Committee finds that remote testimony should be made permanent.

Your Committee also finds that allowing remote testimony has proven to be an immeasurable asset in allowing members of the public from the neighbor islands to participate through in-person testimony and to engage committee members in questions and answers without the burden of lost time and expense in having to travel to the Hawaii State Capitol to be able to testify in person.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 613 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Government
Operations,

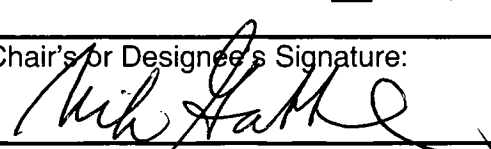


ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Government Operations
GVO

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 613	Committee Referral: GVO, JDC/WAM	Date: 2-2-23.		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
TOTAL	4	—	—	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes